

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

November— December 2015 9:5



First 50th



It was 50 years ago in early October

that an Evangelism Workshop was held conjointly by the First, Faith, and Bethel College Mennonite Churches. This workshop, attended by 48 people inspired action and led to the development of the organization that today is known as Community Playschool, Inc. Follow up meetings and leg-work took place in the following six months as volunteers planned for and recruited families who might be in need of a nursery school one morning a week. Classes began in May of 1966 at First Mennonite Church with six to nine children and 10 volunteers. A mother's meeting was held every month.

In the fall of 1966, the school went to two mornings a week serving 14 children. In 1968 a governing board was formed, a director was hired, the school moved to Bethel College Mennonite Church and expanded to four mornings a week. The mother's group became very active and had several garage sales, the proceeds of which were donated for play equipment for the school. Later a playground

adjacent to the church was fenced in and equipped. The capacity of the school grew to 60 at one point and has been stable at 40 for about 10 years. Grace Hill Mennonite, First Presbyterian, and Shalom Mennonite Churches joined Bethel College, First, and Faith Mennonite Churches as sponsors. Family activities several times each year replaced the earlier mother's meetings. Although various changes have taken place throughout the years, the underlying philosophy has remained the same: to express Christian faith and action without sectarian indoctrination.

Another constant has been that teachers for the school have always been volunteers from the sponsoring churches and the community. Leadership for the program has come from a paid director or co-directors but the teaching staff has remained entirely volunteer all of these years. For the last school year alone, that reflected almost 1500 actual face to face volunteer hours with the children. Add to that another 85 administrative volunteer hours put in by the teachers for training and the board members for meetings and activities and the econom-



Playschool children listen to a story told by Clifford, The Big Red Dog, a.k.a .Ruth Obold!



Play School children do some wonderful painting

ic impact is over \$32,000! The budget for the school has remained under \$20,000.

Today, Community Playschool has the capacity to serve 40 children a school year as a preschool licensed by the State of Kansas. The list of regulations has grown over the years and the school has adapted to each one as it is added. Curriculum is based on developmentally appropriate activities focusing on the whole child. It is as important to nurture the social emotional growth of the children as it is the cognitive. This has been the philosophy from the beginning.

We plan to spend the year in celebration! We are grateful to the concerned church members 50 years ago who took the time and effort to focus on a segment of the population often neglected. Watch future issues of this newsletter for stories of relationships, commitments, and perseverance in order to get a picture of the real history of Community Playschool. ~ Compiled by Jeanette Leary, Community Playschool director; from Community Playschool records

Peace Sunday— September 20, 2015

September was Peace Month with each Sunday the biblical text informing a contemporary peace issue. Members of the Witness Commission, Lois Preheim, chair, Margaret Goering, Charles Graber, Dwight Platt and Valetta Seymour helped plan the worship services during September. During this month also, the digital illustration *Peace and Reconciliation* by Robert Reiger was placed in the Gathering Place. About *Peace and Reconciliation*, Bob writes: "The dove and olive branch motif is rooted in the eighth chapter

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of Genesis. The sign to Noah that the flood waters were subsiding was the return to the ark of a dove with an olive leaf in its beak. This signified that peace was again restored between God and humanity.

In this visual interpretation of the dove's return in the Genesis account an olive branch with numerous leaves is used, and multiple images of a dove could suggest a dove in motion, underscoring the urgency of the message for our time.

Within the Christian tradition the dove and olive branch have signified peace and reconciliation. Mennonite Church USA has adopted that motif as its official symbol."

On Peace Sunday, Dwight Platt gave the following prayer:

"Please join me in a spirit of prayer.

God, Loving Spirit.

We are in need of help. You have called us to be People of Peace and yet we live in a culture of war in which the competition of national interests and ideologies results in endless war and violence; and suffering for millions of refugees as they flee their homelands to escape the violence. We are now at war with Islamic terrorists, people we do not know and do not understand. Some of them have done bad things. But beheading a person pales in comparison to incinerating cities with atomic bombs, a crime to which we have never owned up. Yes, God, each of us is both a bad guy and a good guy. And every person is an individual that is loved by you.

In our current world society, military power is used to ensure dominance and the accumulation of economic power. Our nation with predominant military power and military bases around the

world has become a dominating force resented by many. For instance, we in the United States with more than 7000 nuclear weapons forbid Iran from possessing nuclear weapons. That must cause resentment! God, we as Peace People need to speak to our American Empire, to our fellow citizens and to the world culture, but how? Silence in this situation would be a sin for we reap the benefits of this domination.

In our current world society of war, parochial national interest and security and our own individual interests motivate our actions and policies as nations and individuals, but Christ told us that we must love both enemies and friends, be concerned for the interests of all, for the common good of the human family. In our current society, using military power to gain dominance and competition to gain economic power are the main means of success but in a culture of peace, cooperation to solve world problems would be the priority. In our current society, justice is usually "an eye for an eye," military strikes for governments or groups that harm us, punishment for wrongdoing, a continuing cycle of physical violence but in a culture of peace, justice involves reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness, breaking the cycle of violence. God, help us to speak effectively so that we can begin to effect change in our society.

There are signs of hope that need to be encouraged. The beginnings of reconciliation with Cuba after decades of hostility and reliance on talking and negotia-

tion with Iran rather than military strikes are recent events. We pray for Your Servant, Pope Francis, that he may have strength to continue to speak out on many of these issues.

We lift up in prayer the leaders of nations and groups around the world, Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin, Bashar al-Assad, the leaders of ISIS, Hamas and Hizbollah, the leaders of Iran, and all other leaders. Help all of us recognize that we are one human family. Although these leaders will continue to have differences, help them replace threats and physical violence with negotiations and understanding, arrogance and exceptionalism with humility, political domination and economic competition with cooperation, narrow national interests with interests of the whole world so that peace may grow and violence may diminish. Convict them with the necessity to relieve the suffering of the myriad refugees.

We lift up in prayer the Members of Congress and the leaders in state governments. Help them to tone down the competing ideologies and party interests so that they can govern for the common good of all Americans. Convict them to change policies and relieve injustice caused by mass incarceration.

We pray for our community and for our congregation. Help us to become a more caring community. Help us to listen to and respect those with whom we disagree and to offer consolation and support to those who are having difficulties.

Finally, God, we thank you for this world, rich and varied beyond our comprehension. For instance

there is not just one kind of grasshopper in the fields of our world but thousands of species of grasshoppers each with its own place in nature. Help us to appreciate this diversity in nature and also to appreciate the richness of our human society with its diversity of cultural patterns, religious traditions and economic systems. We can learn so much from each other.

God, give us strength to work with you in establishing Your Empire of Love and Peace. Amen"

~ *printed with permission from Dwight Platt*

Pastoral Search Committee Report

Have you ever wondered what a pastoral search committee does? You probably imagine the members spending time poring over résumés, checking references, and interviewing candidates. That does happen eventually, but not initially. The protocol for pastoral searches in MCUSA requires that a congregation provide a Congregational Information Form (CIF), and it requires pastors to prepare a Ministerial Leadership Inventory (MLI). When the CIF is completed, the conference minister sends it to interested pastors, and to pastors in whom the BCMC search committee has expressed interest. The goal, of course, is to find an appropriate match between the CIF and the MLI—is there theological compatibility? A good match in terms of the Twenty Pastoral Tasks priorities? Etc.

Your search committee is currently hard at work completing the CIF. One of its elements is the Twenty Pastoral Tasks assessment. Thanks

to all of you who completed the survey, that task is virtually complete. Other elements include statistics (e.g., number of members, age distribution of membership, etc.). That part of the CIF has also been completed. What's left is the interpretive section. Six questions, questions like "What is the vision for your church? What is your view of the pastor's role? Is there openness to new ideas and ways of doing things? What changes or trends do you envision for the congregation over the next five years?"

Answering those questions is an awesome responsibility. Accurate answers are essential to ensuring a good fit between pastor and congregation. Winsome answers may be critical in enticing the right candidate to consider seriously the position. Finally, who are we, as a search committee, to speak for the whole church? Fortunately, we are not alone. We have a wonderful CIF that was prepared just two years ago when we were able to call, thankfully, John Tyson as associate pastor for faith formation. We have the church's vision statement (although the Church Board is committed to a revision of that statement). We have the Church Board, which will review and sign off on the CIF before it is sent to our conference minister liaison, Clarence Rempel. And, we have your good wishes and sincere prayers on our behalf.

Keep them coming! ~ Dale Schrag, for the Lead Pastoral Search Committee



It's Nearly Pony Express Time

Stewardship Sunday is November 8 and the beginning of BCMC's annual Pony Express, a financial commitment process for preparing the 2016 budget. This year's theme is *Giving from the Heart* based on Mark 12:38-44. Captains appointed by the Finance Committee will pick up packets of commitment materials at the end of the worship service to distribute to BCMC members and regular attenders in local neighborhoods. (Materials are mailed to non-resident/ inactive members). Join the Pony Express by prayerfully anticipating your intentions to give for 2016, filling out a form when materials arrive at your home, and returning the form according to the directions in the packet. The Pony Express concludes on Nov. 22, when captains return packets during worship. **If for some reason you do not receive a packet, and want to participate, please ask the church office to add you to the list!**

~ Richard Friesen, church treasurer



A recent report from Janet Stucky in Benin

I did ask for an extension since I have just recently received funds and have started my projects. At the present time, I am trying to coordinate all three. We are cleaning the construction of the two buildings where we will do our flour project. We have gone to the market to purchase some of our

supplies.

I have also been working on a booklet that I was asked to write of the main ideas of the classes we have given. This is at a professional level at the request of the director of the hospital who would like the medical staff to have the information to use to teach patients. I will also use this to give to the trainers that we will train to teach others in their villages. This has been quite a huge production to make attractive and to include the foods that are used in Benin. Of course, the booklet is also in French.

I will begin an intense month of training and travel with my colleague. He has organized six main areas in Benin where we will travel to train trainers in nutrition. Some of these areas will have representatives from up to 100 villages! The biggest challenge is that we have to turn people away because of our own funds. So, I am delighted things have come together and that MMN has granted me an extension. I will likely be out of touch for most of October as the areas we will travel to will be more remote without email access. I ask for your prayers for safety and also that we will be effective with the people that we will interact. When we return in November, we will continue with the flour project and also have other teaching opportunities around Cotonou. With gratefulness for your support, Janet

News from Western District Conference

The WDC End Death Penalty Task Force has been

voted by the KCADP (Kansas Coalition to End the Death Penalty) Board of Directors as their Champion Group of the Year for 2015. This honor will be given at the KCADP Champions for Change dinner on November 7 in Topeka, in conjunction with their Abolition Conference that day.

From BCMC, Duane Friesen and John Tyson are on the End Death Penalty Task Force. Peter Goerzen (campus pastor at Bethel College) is the chair of the task force. John plans to attend the dinner in Topeka.

For more information on WDC End Death Penalty Task Force, contact one of the task force members or see the WDC website at <http://mennowdc.org/committees-task-forces/> (scroll down to see who all is on the task force and some related links). For more information on KCADP see <http://ksabolition.org/uncategorized/2015-annual-conference>.

~ information provided by Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister

Western District Conference Annual Assembly, was held Oct. 30-31 at Bethel College. Heidi Regier Kreider the new Conference Minister, as well as the Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Ervin Stutzman, preached at the worship services.

~ Lois Goertzen

Second Annual Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale

Fair trade handiwork will once again be offered for sale at the Second Annual Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale beginning November 27. This year the Festival sale will be held at Peace Connec-

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tions, 612 N. Main Street in downtown Newton. With the exception of Sunday, Nov. 29, the Festival Sale will be open from Friday, November 27 through Saturday, December 5 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Available this year will be a variety of handicrafts from Ten Thousand Villages artisans with items from other Fair Trade vendors, including coffee and chocolate, expanding the selection of gift possibilities. New items will be on display daily so come early and shop often for unique handmade gifts supporting artisans from third world countries. ~ Dianne Epp



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES.

**Happy 12th Birthday
Caleb Koontz!**



It was a pleasure to sit down with Caleb Koontz on the occasion of his upcoming 12th birthday on November 13. Caleb is currently a sixth grade student at Santa Fe Middle School and a member of the Junior High Club at BCMC!

Caleb is a writer and a thinker. His favorite subjects

in school are literature, grammar, and writing. Over the last several years, he's consumed several recent book series, including *Alex Rider*, *The Hunger Games*, and *Divergent*. At school, he is currently enjoying studying ancient civilizations. He'd even like to travel to Greece someday or "somewhere in Europe with cool old stuff like ruins!"

Caleb leads an active life. He plays baseball, basketball, golf, and swims. He also manages to make time for piano and orchestra, although he says, "sometimes I don't feel like going, but I make it fun anyway."

When he has time to relax, Caleb enjoys spending time with the family dog, Fozzie, a golden doodle. Caleb also likes to unwind with some video games. But, for Caleb, video games are more than just a hobby. In fact, he would like to pursue a career in the field of new technology when he grows up. His career, however, will have to wait until his playing days are over: "I want to be some kind of athlete first."

When asked about his favorite food, Caleb did not hesitate: "I love me some pasta." Pizza isn't bad either, he added. I agreed heartily.

Caleb enjoys many different aspects of church at BCMC. But his favorite thing about church might surprise you: "I like that it's quiet." He explained a little further, "I like to be with God and pray. That's easier when it's quiet." Caleb quickly reported that Junior High is pretty fun, too.

We all wish you a happy birthday, Caleb!
~ John Tyson

**Happy 80th Birthday
Emerson Wiens!**



Born December 29, 1935 in the nearby community of Hillsboro, Emerson Wiens was baptized by immersion in a farm pond at age twelve. Baptism marked not only his early commitment to the local Mennonite Brethren church, but also to a lifetime of faithful seeking.

Hillsboro remained home for Emerson during his teenage years. In high school, Emerson enjoyed studying, but loved playing football. "I thoroughly enjoyed tackling people," he says with a semi-sarcastic grin. In fact, he still attends football games at Newton High School. Soon after his playing days came to an end, Emerson married LaWanda J. Schmidt. They moved to Denver, where Emerson became a mechanical engineer during a term of 1W service.

Upon returning to Kansas, Emerson eventually enrolled at Bethel College. "Bethel College was a life-changer to me," says Emerson. "It opened my mind. My favorite course was Introduction to Philosophy with E. G. Kaufman." As his academic interests widened, Emerson became a student in the department for Industrial Arts. Following graduation, he taught multiple sub-

jects in local public schools for several years. He developed a life-long passion for students and teaching during this time. "Teaching students has been part of my salvation. I've always enjoyed teaching." Eventually, Emerson's growing passion for teaching would lead him back to Bethel College – this time as a teacher of Industrial Arts.

Over the course of his teaching days at Bethel College, Emerson attained a PhD in Vocational and Technical Education from the University of Illinois. Emerson left Bethel College to teach at Illinois State University in 1988, and remained on faculty until 2000. Over the course of his time in Illinois, Emerson's teaching specialties came to include technology and sociology. He also learned to adapt to bigger class sizes. He enjoyed these newfound challenges.

Emerson and LaWanda have three children: Mark, Kenton, and Renée. These days, they enjoy spending time with their three grandsons and four granddaughters. Trips to national parks such as Yellowstone, Black Hills, and Mount Rushmore became great family memories for Emerson and LaWanda over the years. A trip to Jerusalem, however, in 1996 is the highlight of their traveling experiences.

BCMC became a church home for Emerson and Lawanda in 1965. They are currently members of the Sojourner's Sunday school class. For Emerson, BCMC has always been a place "open to discussing controversial issues" and, as a self-described seeker, this has made him feel at home in the congregation. An important highlight of his time at BCMC has been helping the congregation practice creation care and quality stewardship.

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Emerson is highly industrious heading into his 80th birthday. He has published several books in his lifetime and he continues to write in the present - and he still manages to find time for wood-working. After years of teaching, writing, and reading, Emerson remains on a journey to seek deeper understanding. He still, as he always has, invites others to join him on the way.
~ John Tyson

Sunday School Outing
Thirteen members of the Sojourner SS class took a road trip to Kansas City recently, and visited the Rainbow Mennonite Church for their Sunday morning service. Former BCMC pastor Ruth Harder was at the pulpit and presented a sermon on one of the parables. Following the service and a coffee time in fellowship hall where we met some former BCMC members, Sojourners members, Ruth and Jesse and a few other Rainbow members who are related to Sojourner class members had a noon meal at a local barbecue restaurant. Richard, Janet and Natasha VanDyke who arranged for the morning on the KC side and helped make it a surprise to Ruth and Jesse also joined us for the meal. After a time of visiting and pictures, we boarded our 13-passenger rented van and arrived back at our cars in North Newton around 4:45. A good break for the trip home was an ice cream stop in Emporia. We might all agree that we wish more members of our class could have taken the trip, as it was a delightful time spent together. Thanks to Alma Shelly for the idea, and for

With BCMC Members and Friends

Susan and Keith Rhoades who did much of the legwork to help make it happen.
~ Lois Goertzen



Thanks, Mennoscah supporters
Recently Camp Mennoscah sent a thank you to those from our church or closely associated with our church for helping out with summer camps. Congratulations and our thanks for doing this – Michael Claassen, Maggie Dungan, Ben Kreider, Cris Nelson, Adam Robb, Jill Robb, Sarah Turner, Kaitlin Schmidt and Kevin Neufeld
~ Lois Goertzen



Thank you for another successful year of supporting the local CROP Walk! BCMC had 26 people complete the walk, and raised a total of \$4,930.86. Thank you for your generous support!
~ Amy Tyson, BCMC CROP coordinator

Congratulations to Mark Kreider who was the recipient of a \$1000 national scholarship from Everence. Mark, son of Heidi Regier Kreider and David Kreider, is a student at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana. ~ Marlene Faul, BCMC Everence Advocate



“Julia Child” (a.k.a. Ken Rodgers) prepares gourmet food for the BCMC Women’s Fellowship meeting at the church on Tuesday evening, September 16. Here “Julia” says: “Flat bread?? Are we Mennonites or Midianites?”



Congratulations to John Gaeddert
This year at Bethel’s Fall Fest was the 35th year John Gaeddert has had his marvelous artwork on display. His plan is for it to be his last year. Over the years he has created many meaningful pieces of wooden art for display and purchase at this event. Congratulations, John! You have provided many homes treasured items

to be enjoyed for years to come. You are a generous and very talented artist in the truest sense of

the word.
~ Lois Goertzen





From a Sept. 28 Ben Kreider Blog—S.A.L.T. Honduras: I am living with a wonderful family,

connected to a local Mennonite church. My Honduran family consists of Herman and Miriam, Andrea (19), Hermes Jr. (16), and Sofia (10). They all know English quite well but do a great job of talking in Spanish to help me out. This family is a wonderful resource in language learning, adjusting to a new city, and a place of support and rest after tiring days at work.

I've gotten a good orientation to the organization CASM (Comision Accion Social Menonita). This first week I met with my boss, the director of the Sula Region, Cesar Carcamo. Although CASM works around Honduras on a wide variety of projects, in San Pedro Sula their work focuses specifically on the *bordos* (the marginalized communities on the edges of the rivers that cross San Pedro Sula). CASM has projects in the *bordos* working on community organizing, activities for children, youth, and families related to peace, nonviolence, and human rights, a program related to gardens, another assisting horse-drawn carts that many folks use, another organizing around education and health. I am still seeing exactly where I will be plugging in but it was very worthwhile this week to get a broad overview of CASM's work. I've had a lot of fun opportunities to socialize and learn other places too: Helping with a massive chicken barbecue fundraiser at church, going to the birthday party of the MCC reps, playing soccer with some guys from church,

etc. All great times to meet new folks, practice Spanish, generally eat good food, and build connections. Today I leave for La Ceiba to meet with the other MCCers from around Honduras for a team retreat! *Edited by Monica Lichti—see Ben's blog for more details.*

<https://benjaminskreider.wordpress.com>



Emily Harder reports from Mennonite Voluntary Service in

Washington D.C. Her MVS unit life and her work placement are going very well. - Her supervisors at WATER are great people, and Emily says they are very supportive and caring of their community and volunteers.

From Emily's Blog:

"WATER was started 30 years ago when Mary and Diann (my bosses) wanted to create a network of feminist theologians, students, activists, and religious leaders. Over the years, WATER has evolved to include a quarterly newsletter, a website, a huge resource library with online database, monthly contemplative prayer meditation sessions, monthly teleconferences with various feminist theologians, and of course a social media presence. My job at the office is basically whatever Mary and Diann need me to do. Most of the work I've been doing has been prep-work and follow-up for the monthly programs WATER does, so contacting those who have registered for the events, contacting the presenters, then sending out audio, notes, and thanks you's once the event is over. Since

WATER is a non-profit, I've also been learning how to track and record donations and follow-up for donors." Emily's blog: <http://littleharderbigcity.blogspot.com/>

- Emily is enjoying DC!
~ *Contributions from Cliff Dick, edited by Lois Goertzen and Monica Lichti*

Wynn Couple Celebrate

Claude and Darlene

Wynn, who have attended BC church for more than two years, recently celebrated special milestones in their lives. Darlene's 80th birthday was the end of August, and Claude's in September. Their 60th wedding anniversary was celebrated recently on the BC campus with their three children and other family members and friends present. This was an early celebration as their anniversary date is in November. The Wynns have lived in Newton for about two and one half years. Originally they lived in Valley Center, and since that time a number of other places before coming "back home". They attended Lorraine Avenue Church in Wichita for some time. They find BC church to be a very welcoming church and have found good friends here, so if you haven't met them, I encourage you to make it a point to greet and welcome them.

~ *Lois Goertzen*

Women & Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah September 11-13.

The theme of this year's retreat was "Joy! It's More Than a Detergent!" The speaker was Nadine Friesen, chaplain for independent living at Schowalter Villa. In her three lectures, she defined Joy as "the well-being of the soul" rather than being happy. Nadine peppered us with Q2P's

(questions to ponder) such as "What determines if you are joyful?", "Is God enough?", "Are there things or people who have the power to make us joyful?", "What have I set in front of the Lord?", "Can there be real joy without sorrow?", "Joy is the result of trust", "How shall I nurture and share the joy?", and "How do we get to that comfort level with Jesus?". She closed by saying that we each express JOY in our own unique way, so the "bubbles" don't all match, but they all sparkle.

Saturday morning there was a choice of four activity groups to join, and Saturday afternoon each person could attend two out of ten interesting seminars offered. There was joyful singing led by Kay Schroeder of First Mennonite, Newton, and lots of break times for conversation or visiting the Faith and Life Bookstore. The fantastic fall weather completed a joyful weekend. BCMC was responsible for the Saturday evening meal for 120 people. Cooking had its own challenges with 10 special dietary needs plus vegetarian meals. Marlene Faul took the responsibility of planning and fixing the meal and Women's Fellowship Board Members provided 12 dozen cookies. Frank and Helen Nachtigal provided transportation hauling food and helping get the food ready for the buffet line. Others from BCMC that were at the retreat in addition to Marlene, Carol Peters, and Frank and Helen were Jeanette Stucky, Barb Koontz, and Alice Suderman.

~ *Information provided by Carol Peters and Marlene Faul (edited by Lois Goertzen)*

Obituaries



Mary Esther (Graber) Loganbill
Sept. 21, 1929—
Aug. 28, 2015

Mary Esther was born to Herman R. and Selma Louise (Voran) Graber in Newton. She was a life-long member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church and was active in the life of the congregation. She also served on commissions for the wider Mennonite Church USA, served many volunteer hours for the Mennonite Central Committee's Et Cetera Shop in Newton. The immediate family was so thankful that we were able to hold a memorial service for Mom with Dad at his hospital bedside on August 30.

Lanoy E. Loganbill
July 12, 1930—Sept. 5,
2015

Lanoy was born to Jesse and Eva (Becker) Loganbill in Lawrence, KS. He was baptized in the First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, Ohio, and thereafter was a member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church. After beginning his career work as an electrician at Graber's Hardware, he started and then operated his own firm, Loganbill Electric, until his retirement.

A memorial service for Mary Esther and Lanoy was held at BCMC on September 19.



Spotlight On Youth

Students from the Junior High and Senior High youth groups enjoying an evening at the Buhler Corn Maze.



Painting the Youth Room—
 The Senior High youth group is giving the room a new look!



Pastor's Corner— Dorothy Nickel Friesen

Guest register gleanings by Dorothy Nickel

Friesen, Interim Pastor

Why do we pass the registers during worship?

This is a simple act of hospitality. We can greet each other by name, welcome guests and visitors, and we are reminded of the community of faith that gathers for worship. However, this fall, we are also using the registers as a way to be better informed about BCMC attendance patterns.

*We had **479 different individuals** attend BCMC and sign the guest register from August 16 – September 27 (7 weeks). We know that the attendance numbers are higher—some Sundays we had over 300 people in attendance but only 250 signed the registers. So the 479 is a conservative number.

*Of the 479 registrations, 144 attended only once; 43 attended twice, 58 attended three times, 59 attended four times, 78 attended five times, 55 attended six times and 42 attended (and signed) all seven Sundays. Needless to say, frequency of attendance is a factor when considering how information is shared, how community is established and maintained, how folks perceive worship when preachers, musicians, hymns and children's conversations vary considerably.

*Of the 479 registrations, 366 said they were "regular attendees or members of the congregation"; 79 said they were "visitors", and 42 said they were "college students".

What implications are there for the Pastoral Search Committee?

*Average attendance numbers are important but they do not tell the whole story about how many people actually consider BCMC their church home. Often, consultants double average attendance figures to say that pastoral load (marriages, funerals, crises ministry, follow-up, etc.) is double the attendance average. For these seven weeks, BCMC's average attendance was 278. So the pastoral load would be 556.

*Please sign the guest registers. All visitors who supply information receive a follow-up card and new North Newton residents receive a visit. (Thank you Hospitality Commission and Helen Nachtigal).



The Sunflower Trio

(Rebecca Schloneger, Matt Schloneger, Ken Rodgers) will present a concert of music composed by J. Harold Moyer on Sunday, November 29 at 3:00 p.m. in the BCMC sanctuary. A free-will offering for the Living Stones/Organ Fund will be received. Following the concert, CDs of the Moyer music performed by the Sunflower Trio will be for sale. Plan now to include this special event.

Return service requested

Worship schedule (Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org, for updates and details on worship and other events) Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

November 1—All Saints Sunday

Worship with sermon by Jeff Gundy, Menno Simons lecturer; music by the Chancel Choir

November 8—Stewardship Sunday

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by the Junior Choir and Cherub Choir

November 15—Stewardship Sunday

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by the Rosewood Winds

November 22—Worship with sermon by Fr. Michael Driscoll, Professor of Liturgical Studies, Notre Dame; music by the Chancel Choir

The Advent theme the Worship Commission is using this year comes from Mennonite Church USA materials and suggestions for congregations. "Freedom Bound" has two meanings (at least): we are bound or surrounded by freedom and we are moving toward freedom or greater freedom. Each Sunday will feature reflections on those things that bind us and each Sunday will have a movement toward new freedom--or becoming "unbound".

November 29—First Sunday of Advent—Freedom

Bound: Justice—Texts: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; I Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; communion will be served; music by the Chancel Bells

December 6—Second Sunday of Advent—Freedom Bound:

Mercy—Texts: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6, Philippians 1:3-11

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Choir

December 13—Third Sunday of Advent—Freedom Bound:

Trust—Texts: Isaiah 12:1-6; Zephaniah, 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18; Philippians 4:4-7

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Bells

December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent—Freedom Bound:

Love—Texts: Psalm 80:1-7; Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-56; Hebrews 10:5-10

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by Junior Choir and Menno Ringers

December 24: Christmas Eve:

7:00 p.m. —Program planned by the Faith Formation Commission

11:00 p.m.—Lessons and Carols planned by the Worship Commission with the Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells

December 27—Christmas Sunday—Freedom Bound: The

path of service—Texts: Psalm 148; I Samuel 1:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; Hymn/Carol sing—Worship will start at 10 a.m.— No Sunday school this Sunday

The congregation is invited to join the children in collecting items for Refugee Kits for Mennonite Central Committee during Advent. The children will bring “soap for Syria” as their offering during Advent. Details will be in the bulletin.