

Bethel College Mennonite Church  
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WORLDWIDE



On Sunday, Sept. 25th, 56 BCMC participants gathered to walk in the annual Newton CROP Walk at First Christian Church. CROP Walks are held in 1600 communities in the United States annually, raising money to fight hunger in local communities and around the world. In Newton's 2011 CROP Walk, there were 134 walkers who raised \$15,600 to fight hunger. BCMC walkers totaled 56, generating over \$6,800 (44% of the total!!) BCMC mentor and mentee pairs and other BCMC members are shown here with Maddox Crabtree holding the Golden Shoe Award - an award given for raising the most money by the day of the walk. Participants enjoyed a beautiful day, along with kettle corn and great fellowship.  
 ~ Elaine Prouty, BCMC CROP Representative

## OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Worship schedule** (Check weekly bulletins and church web site, [bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net](http://bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net), for updates)  
 Worship 9:30 am — Fellowship time 10:30 am—Christian education 10:50 am

### October 2011

- 2 **World Communion Sunday** — Worship with Communion, time with children and meditation by guest speaker Luke Gascho, and music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Choir.
- 9 **10:00 a.m. — Fall Festival Sunday** — Worship with prelude by student musicians and anthems by the Bethel College Concert Choir, and sermon by Dale Schrag. (No Sunday school on Fall Festival Sunday)
- 16 Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir. Adult Sunday school elective with Kim Mueller and Dwight Platt  
**3:30 p.m.** Fourth in the series of recitals celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Moeller organ at BCMC with organist Shirley Sprunger King
- 23 Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Chancel Bells
- 30 Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir  
**4:00 p.m.** Peacemaking story session in Fellowship Hall

### November 2011

- 6 **Stewardship Sunday** — Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Bells  
**Daylight savings time ends — Be sure to “fall back” — set your clocks back one hour**
- 13 Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Junior Choir
- 20 Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Youth Bells
- 27 **First Sunday of Advent** — Worship with Communion; sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir



# KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

October — November 2011/5:5



## A PROVIDENTIAL CALL



### Patty Shelly's reflections as a member of Mennonite Church USA's Executive Board

When Patty went to Jerusalem through Mennonite Central Committee, 1996-2000, she missed the emerging transformation of the former Mennonite Church and General Conference Mennonite Church into Mennonite Church USA. Although no stranger to wider church leadership (having served on the Western District Conference Executive Committee and as its moderator in the 1990's), she came home to culture shock and felt disconnected from the new denomination. "I remember picking up the MC USA Equipping packet in 2004, laying it aside, figuring that the only way to learn about this new denomination was to get involved." Within several weeks, the Gifts Discernment Committee representative from MC USA called for an appointment and asked if she would consider service on the Executive Board of MC USA. Without hesitation, she said "yes" to this providential call. She began her first term at Charlotte 2005. Her service will end at Phoenix 2013.

**Greatest learnings:** "I have learned how painfully diverse the church is. This is both a gift and a curse! I have learned to know Mennonite Church USA better, to love it in my heart—not just in my head. It has been significant to have a sustained experience of working in a culturally diverse group. The Executive Board has been intentional in its anti-racist commitment and each meeting has a closing thoughtful reflection on how that meeting went beyond tokenism and built relationships."

**Difficult learnings:** "The tough stuff has to do with structural and organizational issues. What is the role of the denomination in regard to agencies, area conferences? We're not there yet—there's much more to do. Also, what's good for the whole church? As a member of the Executive Board, I pay attention to the whole denomination not just my personal perspectives. That means issues like the building project in Elkhart, the site selection of Phoenix for 2013, the human sexuality divisions, questions about Israel/Palestine have been painful. I have not been silenced; my voice has been heard. But my advocacy is tempered by caring for the whole. I've had difficult conversations with friends and colleagues. When should the Executive Board give assent to what the majority of the church wants? When should it speak prophetically, leading before the majority votes?"

Patty's commitment to service continues at BCMC with leadership of the Witness Commission, marks her professional teaching career at Bethel College, extends to her ministry of music and preaching in many congregations, and now includes her leadership on the MC USA Executive Board. Listen for her laughter. There is joy! ~ Dorothy Nickel Friesen

## LIBRARY ON THE MOVE!

The three rooms of the library still comprise the space for the 3,914 books currently in our BCMC library. However **all** the books were moved during a major project this summer. Library Committee members, spouses, children and friends moved books, shelves, painted, spliced carpet, etc. to provide a new look for the library. One door that had been closed for more than 25 years was opened after a book case was removed. Now three doors invite people to enter and improve the flow of traffic. One room has the books for children and Junior Youth. The middle room has the computer work station, check-out desk, recent acquisitions, Bible reference books and adult fiction. The third room which is a meeting room and Sunday school classroom has the oversized books, biographies and non-fiction books. A computer system to catalog new books has been used since 1998. All the books in the library are listed on the computer. The card catalogs are no longer used. The Library Committee plans this fall to have tours and special times to use the computer to locate books. We want to serve all age groups at BCMC. You just may win a door prize! ~ Library Committee



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## THE CARING FUND



CHRISTIANS  
Caring for each other

“The Caring Fund is an above-budget benevolent fund administered by the Deacon Commission for the purpose of assisting our congregation’s members and community persons in need.” These words introduce the Policies and Practices statement adopted by the Deacons during the last year.

Because of the need to be sensitive to person’s need for privacy the confidential nature of this fund means that there is limited information about its use made known to the congregation.

Balancing that is a legitimate need for accountability of how these funds are managed and shared.

To that end the Deacons worked to develop guidelines how these funds would be used in ways that further the mission and service goals of the congregation. Copies of these guidelines are available through the church office.

The first use of these funds is through grants that are made to BCMC members. “We seek to respond to the physical, spiritual, emotional, and financial needs of members, particularly in situations where financial assistance will offer redemptive and life giving support.” Approximately half of the annual funds are used for member’s support.

The other half is used to respond to non-BCMC members in the extended community. These are provided to persons in need of rental assistance, utilities, food, etc. They are made only through referrals from community agencies such as Salvation Army and Mid-CAP (Mid-Kansas Community Action Program) and limited to \$100.00 annually for any person.

In recent months the Deacons responded to a request from one of our own members to assist a person in the community with a special need. In that case a pastor and deacon made a home visit to assess ways to be helpful. An additional matching sum was requested and approved through Everence Sharing Funds. Marvin Holck very helpfully assists the Deacons in making such requests.

Another special request came to our congregation through another congregation in the Western District Conference to assist them in providing equipment to a blind student from Africa who is returning to his native country to teach in a school for the blind. We made a small grant because it came through a partner congregation.

Contributions to the Caring fund come through special opportunities for the congregation to give at Thanksgiving and through an offering at the annual Maundy Thursday service. Because this is an above budget item, contributions are welcomed at other times as well, either from members or through grants from Sunday School classes.

Through August 11, 2011 grants have been made this year through the Caring Fund of BCMC to the total of \$8,122.32. The Deacons thank the congregation for your generosity and trust in supporting people through this time of financial recession, when so many persons experience difficulty in meeting basic and essential needs. ~ *John Esau*



Deacon Commission members: Ruthann Dirks, David Habegger, Marion Deckert, Lotti Boschmann, John Esau, Margaret Hiebert

## WITH OUR MEMBERS

**Births:** Congratulations to Joel and Crystal (and Collin) Gaeddert on the birth of baby boy, Brett Isaac Gaeddert, August 20 in Newton, KS.

**Anniversary:** Congratulations to wider fellowship members Ivan and Anna Regier of Madrid, NE, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 23.

### Membership Changes:

Barry and Brenda Bartel have requested transferring their membership from BCMC to Glennon Heights Mennonite Church in Lakewood, CO

### New Members transferred their membership to BCMC on August 21, 2011:

- Ron and LaVonne Sawatzky transferred from Hively Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana
- Charles and Diana Graber transferred from Faith Mennonite Church, Newton
- Esther and Nathan Koontz transferred from Faith Mennonite Church, Newton (pictured with their children Anne Marie, John Mark and Simon Tanner)



The Sawatzkys



The Grabers



The Koontzs

## Obituaries Continued

### N. Paul Stucky—March 23, 1919-September 21, 2011

N. Paul Stucky, 92, passed away Sept. 21, 2011. He was born on March 23, 1919, to Rachel and Naphthali Stucky at their farm southwest of Moundridge. At age 15, he joined the Eden Mennonite Church near Moundridge. Throughout his life, he worshiped with various denominations based on his physical location and projects, knowing he served the same God. He graduated from Bethel College, and also from the University of Arizona, where he received an advanced degree in physics. During the military draft of World War II, he spent 52 months in Civilian Public Service. That experience included projects in six different camps and a two-year assignment in Puerto Rico with the Mennonite Central Committee. The MCC project brought medical care to the people of the mountainous interior of Puerto Rico and resulted in the formation of the Aibonito Hospital that has grown and still is in service more than 50 years later. As a Ham radio operator, he was a lifetime member of the American Radio Relay League and received a lot of joy from making communication contacts around the world. His equipment was donated to Kansas Wesleyan University. He also was an avid rock and fossil collector. In 1948, he married Lidia Ruth Pagán and taught physics at Bethel College. He interrupted his teaching career to be a research scientist for Honeywell in Minneapolis and returned to Kansas in 1958 to resume his teaching career at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. Five children — Rachel, Helen, Rebecca Mae (deceased in infancy), Edna and Mark — blessed their 19-year marriage.

He married Elizabeth Buller Niles, and they later divorced. He married Beth Stuart Nelson, and their 16-year union was blessed with sharing seven children and 15 grandchildren in Minnesota and Kansas, and numerous mission trips. They parted ways, and Beth is deceased. Neva Belle Adamson blessed his life with love and undying devotion to him and his family. They enjoyed family, nature, traveling, genealogy and nurturing their Christian faith in their 11 years of marriage. They have been residents of Kidron Bethel Village Retirement Center since 2007 and members of the Bethel College Mennonite Church since 1999. In keeping with his Christian life and honoring his beliefs in education, research and social service, he donated his body to Science Care to be used for organ donations and research. A celebration of life will be at the Bethel College Mennonite Church at a later date, with interment of remains at the Hopefield Cemetery.

## PASTOR'S CORNER—HEIDI REGIER KREIDER

Last spring, the BCMC Long Range Planning Team received a letter from a church member, expressing hope that our priorities for the future would give a central place to peace and justice. The letter encouraged teaching about peace, and telling the stories of draft-resistance and conscientious objection to war over the past century. The Long Range Planning Team registered this important concern, and passed the letter, with its helpful ideas, on to pastoral staff. As we pastors envisioned worship themes for the year ahead, we wondered: How might we refresh and deepen our understanding of peacemaking, and give testimony to our peace tradition in ways that are relevant for new generations of peacemakers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

To help think about this, we invited the Seekers Sunday School class together with several youth and young adults to consider some questions: *How were stories about peace or pacifism passed down to you as a child? What people or events impacted how you think about Christian peace witness? What are your current questions about peacemaking?* Participants in the discussion told about their own or others’ experiences of non-registration for the draft or alternative service, wrestling with questions of non-violence during or after military service, the complexity of sending relief aid to “enemy” nations where people suffered as the result of bombing by the United States, tensions around patriotic symbolism in the local community, war-tax resistance, and more. The group wondered, if the American Mennonite peace tradition is defined primarily by conscientious objection and draft resistance, what does it mean to be peacemakers now, when there is no military draft? Current issues, for example, may include gun laws, the death penalty, domestic violence, media violence, post-traumatic stress and suicide of veterans, military recruitment. We were reminded that Mennonites are not the only peacemakers and we need to work toward more ecumenical and inter-faith peace efforts; and that peacemaking can lead to burnout if it is not spiritually grounded.

With these thoughts in mind, we planned a special focus on peace at BCMC during this Fall. In September, the Witness Commission assisted in preparing several worship services and a Sunday school elective observing the anniversary of 9/11, and peacemaking in relationship with those of other faiths. A worship series on the Sundays October 9 to 30 entitled *Passing the Peace, or A Passing Peace?* will reflect on foundations for peacemaking, share peace testimonies, and explore how we can embody God’s peace in relevant ways in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During October and November, senior high youth sessions will focus on peace history and stories from our peace tradition. And we thank the BCMC Library Committee, which has joined the effort by selecting peace-related books for display - check them out!

This is only one step in the continuing journey of being a peace church – but we hope that it will be an opportunity to give testimony, learn from one another, and refresh our commitment to be people of God’s shalom.



Members of the Long Range Planning Team—Front to back Heidi Regier Kreider, Harold Thieszen, Jenni Koontz, George Leary, Adam Robb



**Alice Lucille Hostetler Loewen Kreider—March 3, 1920-August 14, 2011**

Alice Lucille Hostetler Loewen Kreider passed away on August 14, 2011. She was born on March 3, 1920 to Lester and Charity (Steiner) Hostetler and raised on a farm in Sugarcreek, OH where she attended a one-room schoolhouse through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The family then moved to Upland, CA where she completed her high school education and attended Chaffey Jr. College. In 1941 Alice finished her college education with a BA in Music at Bethel College, North Newton, KS. Alice went on to earn her Master of Music in Organ Performance from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. While at Bethel College she met her first husband, Esko W. Loewen whom she married on September 18, 1943. The early part of their marriage was spent in Lancaster, PA and Lincoln, NE while Esko was in Civilian Public Service. In 1946, Esko began seminary in Chicago, IL where their first child, Margret joined the family. Following seminary the family moved to Topeka, IN in 1948, where Alice was the minister's wife and choir director at the Topeka Mennonite Church. Two more children, Theodore and Kathryn, were added to the family. After five years in Indiana, the family moved to Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 1953. Alice and Esko served as host and hostess for the Mennonite Central Committee House in Amsterdam. In the spring of 1956, the family moved to Hillsboro, KS where Esko was pastor of the Johannestahl Mennonite Church and Alice directed church choirs and give private piano lessons. When the children all began attending school, Alice began teaching organ at Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS and Bethel College. The next family move was to North Newton where Esko became Dean of Students and Alice taught organ at Bethel and Hesston Colleges. She became church organist at St. Matthews' Episcopal Church and later First Presbyterian Church. Alice started the student chapter of the American Guild of Organists which became the longest lasting student guild in the United States. Alice was asked to start the Music Library at Bethel College when a large volume of music was gifted to the college. She did so after attending library courses at the University of Texas, Denton, TX.

Once the children were adults, Esko and Alice moved to Souderton, PA in 1975 where they worked as a team at the Souderton Mennonite Church: Esko as pastor and Alice as church musician. Following Esko's second heart attack, the couple moved back to North Newton. Esko's passing in 1981 left her a widow for five years. During this time Alice became organist at the First Methodist Church, Newton, KS and set up the Medical Library at Bethel Deaconess Hospital. She also taught organ at Kansas Wesleyan, Salina, KS and Sterling College, Sterling, KS.

On June 17, 1986, Alice married her second husband, Gerald Kreider and moved to Goshen, IN. They were active members of the Goshen Mennonite Church where Alice shared organist responsibilities. In 1999, Gerald and Alice moved to the Kidron-Bethel Community in North Newton and returned to her home congregation, Bethel College Mennonite Church. Gerald passed away on December 27, 2009. Survivors include her three children: Margret Loewen (Grabber) Gaeddert (Allen), Newton; Ted Loewen (Fran), Reedley, CA; Kathryn Simmons (Steve) Lee's Summit, MO; six step-children: Carl Kreider (Nadya) Goshen, IN; Jean Reichenbach (Randy) Harrisonburg, WV; Richard Kreider (Linda), Wolcottville, IN; Ellen Kreider and David Wirick, Columbus, OH; James Kreider and Denise Pettengill, Lawrence, KS; Kathryn Kreider and Dan Coronado, Houston Lake, MO; brother Hugh Hostetler (Harriet), Surfside, SC; sister Dorothy Dyck, Kennett Square, PA; sister-in-law Tess Loewen, Athens, GA; brother and sister-in-law Robert and Lois Kreider, North Newton, KS, four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, many step-grandchildren and great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.



**Edna Marie Ensz Goossen—September 24, 1919-September 19, 2011**

Edna Marie Goossen, 91, died Monday, September 19, 2011 at Kidron Bethel Health Care in North Newton, Kansas. She was born September 24, 1919 in Plymouth, Nebraska, to Bernhard M. and Margaret (Jantzen) Ensz. She was a retired teacher, a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and a friend and mentor to many. Edna was educated in Beatrice, Nebraska schools and began her teaching career in a one-room school in rural Nebraska during the Great Depression; eventually she completed her bachelor's degree in education. On August 19, 1943 she married Henry W. Goossen, a Mennonite ministerial student from her home congregation. Over the course of their sixty-six years of marriage, Henry served churches throughout Kansas, and Edna taught in public schools. From 1966 to 1968, they served with Mennonite Central Committee in South Korea. At the time of their retirement, they moved to North Newton and joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church.

Edna had many interests, including reading, traveling, gardening, entertaining, and doing word and jigsaw puzzles. As a result of nearly three decades of elementary-school teaching, she enjoyed encounters with former students and took great interest in maintaining relationships across the communities where she had lived and served. She loved celebrations and delighted in gathering family and friends for holidays, birthdays, and special occasions.

She is survived by her children Sharon and husband Bob Bartel of McPherson, LaVonne and husband Ron Sawatzky of North Newton, Duane and wife Rachel Waltner Goossen of Topeka; grandchildren Shaun and wife Deb Bartel, Sheri and husband Alan Lepard, Shannon Bartel, Sheldon and wife Spring Bartel, Ben Goossen, and Elsa Goossen; and great-grandchildren Sarah Bartel, Megan Bartel, Nick Lepard, Marcus Lepard, Haylen Bartel, and Jaxson Bartel; as well as sister Helen Entz. Edna's husband Henry, as well as her parents, brother Robert Ensz, and sister Amy Regier preceded her in death.

**O CHRISTMAS TREE!**



In 1970, my parents, Lloyd and Marlene Schroeder, planted 1,000 Scotch pine seedlings and started a business they would later name Pine Creek Farm. Since their marriage in 1950, they had raised wheat, soybeans and milo in addition to managing a poultry operation on their farm located one mile west and two miles south of Goessel. Christmas trees were a diversification of their farm business; at the peak in their 35 years of business, they grew approximately 10,000 trees on 12 acres. In addition to trees, they sold wreaths, bags of fresh greens and other Christmas treats like fresh pecans and peppernuts. From the late 1970s until she died in 2007, my

mother featured a different design of hand-painted and dated ornaments each year.

My parents always said the best part of the Christmas tree business was connecting with the customers during the selling season. My dad told me recently that when they first started planting trees, they did not foresee how important the customer interaction would become. People buying Christmas trees are generally in a festive mood and for many, this is an important part of their holiday celebration. Often a caravan of cars with several generations of one family will drive onto the yard. Some customers come once or twice but many come year after year. "This is our fifteenth straight year" or "we've been doing this for . . . I don't know how many years," are commonly expressed refrains. A Christmas tree business is a unique combination of tradition and innovation. It is tradition that draws people to the farm but like all businesses, Pine Creek Farm needs to constantly adjust and introduce new elements in order to survive. Although they worked closely together as a team, my mother and father each had their own specialties. It was my father who would come up with more new ideas that he had clearly been thinking about for a while. First, to plant the trees in a then unused pasture, and then later planting alongside the creek where it was not practical to grow other crops. I'm sure it was my father's idea to display pre-cut trees in a long barn once filled with cages of chickens. It is now a perfect setting to display trees in rows, inside and out of the sun, where customers can view them. And the smell of fresh Christmas greens in a former chicken barn is great!

I had helped my parents with the farm for many years and after we were married, Wynn also started helping on weekends in November and December. Having a Christmas business makes the holiday season more than a little frantic at times. I still remember my parents rushing on a Thursday night each early December to make the Bethel College Christmas banquet, one of the few seasonal programs they were able to attend. But there is something special about the business that gets in your blood and prompted Wynn and me to continue after my parents were not able to. In the spring, we plant seedlings in the fresh and cool air. Like all growing things, the trees need their own tending, such as mowing, spraying and shearing. In the autumn, we get ready for our kind of "harvest." Traditions don't just keep happening on their own. Wynn and I are pleased to keep Pine Creek Farm in business and grateful for the good things my parents made happen. ~ Ardie Goering

Leadership Retreat



Worship Center

Photos from the BCMC Leadership Retreat — August 20, 2011 held at Dyck Arboreteum, Hesston



Group discussion with the BCMC Long Term Planning Committee— Going clockwise (starting with Heidi Regier Kreider at about 10 o'clock) followed by Adam Robb, Jenni Koontz, George Leary and Harold Thieszen

Jim Robb and Dick Koontz in foreground; Darlene Dick and Don Kaufman in background



## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY LEROY FRANZ!



At Grace Hospital in Hutchinson, Kansas, on October 31, 1931, LeRoy K. was born to John J. and Sara Siemens Franz. He was their first born, and a “special child,” due to injury at birth that left him partially paralyzed and legally blind. The following year in December Delton was born, and sister Eldine (Franz Harder) joined the family when LeRoy was five. Brother Delton found himself watching out for LeRoy, always taking him to Sunday School and making sure he was safe and cared for. Although LeRoy was handicapped and did not walk until he was three, he was able to make good use of his sharp mind and compassionate heart. His feelings are strong for those less fortunate. He has an incredible memory for details, especially about family members, birthdays, and events long past. He can recall good times on the family

farm; helping to carry milk to the outdoor kitchen for separating, keeping the cream and eggs in the cool basement, gathering wood for the fire under the rendering kettle when hogs were butchered. There are also fond memories of the blue Model A as well as a Plymouth, and of road trips, especially one to the Black Hills of South Dakota. His smile was bright as he shared memories of another very special trip when he was able to fly to visit Delton in Washington D.C. As a youth, LeRoy enjoyed fellowship at the Buhler Mennonite Church and was baptized by Rev. Harold Thieszen. A blessing throughout his life has been his love of music and musical talent. He can play the French Harp beautifully. On his chord organ he can play (with his good hand) any hymn he’s ever heard by memory. During the adult years, after his mother lost her battle with cancer, LeRoy’s father drove him back and forth to Northview Opportunity in Newton. Later he lived in Newton at various homes until a group of Northview boys moved into Leisy House at Bethel College. His final move was to Bethesda Home in Goessel (26 years ago!). He enjoyed passing out the mail and knew every resident by name. In more recent years he has found pleasure in watching all the remodeling, attending weekly men’s coffee, and in the variety of music and other programs. He always anticipates and appreciates the DVD from Bethel College Mennonite Church. He hears from Buhler Mennonite Church, too, and loves visits from his pastors. LeRoy, as you celebrate your special 80th birthday with loving family and friends, we pray for the joy of the Lord to continue as your inner strength. You are an inspiration! ~ Susan Wheeler and Eldine Franz Harder

## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY VERNETTE REGIER!



Vernette (Teichroew) Regier was born November 15, 1931, in Mountain Lake, MN, to Abram and Susie (Voshage) Teichroew. Along with her sisters, Velma and Elaine, Vernette grew up on a farm two miles north of Mountain Lake, attending grade school and high school at the Mountain Lake public school graduating in 1949. Extra-curricular activities included playing the clarinet and participating in choir and other singing groups. After high school graduation, Vernette attended Mankato State Teacher’s College (now Mankato State University) for one year before coming to Bethel College and earning a 60 hour teaching certificate. She then taught at Sedgwick, KS, for one year before getting married to her high school friend, Robert W. Regier, in June 1952 at First Mennonite Church in Mountain Lake. A year later, Bob and Vernette served a term of voluntary service at Mennonite Central Committee in Akron, PA, from May 1953 to June 1955. Then, from 1955-1957, Bob and Vernette lived in Chicago, IL. In Chicago, Vernette took classes at Roosevelt University and worked various stints at

Scripture Press, Santa Fe Dining Car Department, and with Andrew Shelly at Mennonite Biblical Seminary. In 1957, Bob and Vernette returned to the Newton area, where Vernette worked with the Board of Missions office and continued coursework at Bethel. In August of 1963, Bob and Vernette, along with their daughter, Karen Sue, and son, Steven James, moved to Urbana, IL, where Bob completed a Master of Fine Arts Degree and Vernette did steno work in the Education Department. Bob and Vernette eventually returned to North Newton and Bethel College in 1965, but not before welcoming son, Timothy Mark, into the family. Upon their return to North Newton in 1965, Vernette was church secretary for BCMC, as well as a student at Bethel College. She completed her college degree in fall 1967. Following her graduation from Bethel, she taught in the Newton Public Schools for 26 years, 13 years in the second grade classroom and 13 years as a reading specialist, retiring in 1993. She earned a Master of Education degree at Wichita State University in August 1975. In her retirement years, Vernette has volunteered in a variety of ways including serving on the Community Playschool Board for 10 years. Currently, she volunteers at Kauffman Museum, Etcetera Shop, and is active in the Friends of the Newton Public Library. She enjoys reading, traveling, putting together family history albums, and keeping in touch with her four grandchildren. For Vernette, “Holy God, we praise thy name,” is a hymn that feels affirming in both music and words. Therefore, as you turn 80, Vernette, may you set your heart on the infinite and everlasting domain of God and “own the mystery,” as the hymnist suggests. May blessings abound! ~ Ruth R. Harder

## Welcome back Bethel College students!



Pictures from the BCMC Dessert Reception welcoming students back to Bethel College — August 28 — on the BCMC front lawn

## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY ALICE SUDERMAN!



On November 19, 1931, Alice was born to Harry and Adeline Boese Kaufman on the family farm near Marion, SD. She was delivered by her great-uncle, one of the few Mennonite physicians in the area. She grew up with five siblings, doing chores on the farm, and riding to a one-room school in a buggy pulled by a Shetland pony. Alice was baptized at the Salem Mennonite Church when she was 16 years old, and graduated from Freeman Academy, where she and John Suderman met. They both attended Freeman Junior Academy, and were married in 1953. Alice attended Goshen College for one year, and then graduated from Valparaiso University with an English major. Alice’s vocation as a teacher began with two years of teaching in a one room country school. Later her teaching was intertwined with raising three children (Carole, Mark and Brian). Her work has included teaching teen patients at a mental health hospital, completing a master’s degree in teaching at Mankato State University, and teaching high school in Mountain Lake, MN, Swift Current Bible Institute in Manitoba, and

Iowa Mennonite School in Kalona, IA. Throughout her life, Alice has been active in education in the church, as well as involvements beyond the local congregation. She served 12 years on the board of Commission on Education (of the former General Conference Mennonite Church), 3 years on the General Board of the GCMC, and 6 years on the General Council of the Mennonite World Conference. In addition to many trips to Kansas for meetings, Alice has traveled to Brazil, Paraguay, countries in Europe, Ukraine, Syria, Jordan, and Mexico, to name a few! Alice and John moved to North Newton in 1998, and she enjoys volunteering at Kauffman Museum. At BCMC, Alice teaches Sunday school, has served on Church Board and various committees and commissions, and sings in choir. In the spirit of one of Alice’s favorite hymns, “In the bulb there is a flower,” we celebrate God’s gift of life - especially with Alice on her birthday! ~ Heidi Regier Kreider

## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY HELEN BARGEN!



Helen was born to John and Susie Bartel on November 26, 1931, and grew up on a farm southeast of Hillsboro as the youngest of five children. She attended Gnadenu School, and Hillsboro High School where she graduated in 1949. She was baptized in 1946 at First Mennonite Church in Hillsboro. Helen met Eldon Barga during summer camp at Camp Wood, and they were married in 1951. Several months later, Eldon had to serve several months in federal prison in Missouri for refusing to register for the draft. Helen supported him in his convictions, though the geographical separation in their first year of marriage was difficult.

Two children - Jan and Dale - joined the family; and work and volunteer activities took Helen and Eldon to a variety of locations: Carson City, Nevada; Hagerstown, MD (where they did voluntary service at Brook Lane Farm); Camp Friedenswald in Michigan; Cachipay, Colombia; Wadsworth and Avon Lake, OH; and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN. In 1982 the Bargas returned to Newton, where Helen served as

supervisor of housekeeping at Prairie View for over 11 years before retiring, and then volunteered at Commission on Overseas Mission (with the former General Conference Mennonite Church).

Following Eldon’s death in 2007, Helen has continued to live in the home that she and Eldon built in 1983. Her hobbies have included sewing, making Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, vegetable and flower gardening. Helen enjoys traveling, playing games and puzzles, and keeping in touch with her children and four grandchildren. Highlights of her experience at BCMC have been participating in Women’s Fellowship, meaningful worship, and many friendships. And it has certainly been a highlight for BCMC to have Helen as part of our congregation! Happy birthday, Helen! (see the article in the August/September issue of Kaleidoscope about Helen’s recent trip back to Colombia) ~ Heidi Regier Kreider

## BOIL AND BUBBLE—A NEW BOOK BY JAMES YODER

Kansas author James D. Yoder's new historical novel, *Boil and Bubble: The Amazon Women of Kansas* has its setting in The Little Balkans coal fields of Kansas in the year, 1921. Here Milan and Danika Cratnick eke out a bare existence. Injury and death are everyday experiences. Their beloved union leader, Alec Howat, is caught between union executive John L. Lewis's bullying, and Governor Henry Allen's "Slave Law," which prohibits miners from striking. Danika and Neda join the horde of women, led by Mary Skubitz, on a three-day protest march, making history that reaches *The New York Times*. With the American flag before them and their prayers to St. Barbara, the over 6,000 "Amazon Women of Kansas," begin the battle. Who will win? The Amazon Women who empty the mines of illegal miners (scabs) or Governor Allen, who sends in 2,000 troops to subdue the women? This is a novel of suspense, conflict, and soul-searching for a way forward, when all doors seem closed, and the heart longs for life and freedom. The book, published by Infinity Publishing, may be ordered at 1-877-BUY BOOK or at [www.buybooksontheweb.com](http://www.buybooksontheweb.com); also from Yoder's website, [www.YoderBooks.com](http://www.YoderBooks.com); phone: (316-327-4053). or email at [james@yoderbooks.com](mailto:james@yoderbooks.com). Jim will be signing his book, "Boil and Bubble," at Faith and Life Bookstore in Newton on the morning of October 22.

