

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

October — November 2012 6:5



Living Stones: Gratitude for the Past, Building for the Future

Living Stones



The Living Stones fund drive is off to a great start. Members of the BCMC Board, former members of the Long Range Planning Team, members of the Implementation Task Force and Living Stones visitation volunteers are among the first invited to make commitments.

Twenty two visitation volunteers and couples are beginning to make contact with other BCMC members and active worshippers to invite them to participate in conversations about the Living Stones plan and our 2013 annual budget. During the visits par-

ticipants will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts and reflections on Living Stones in their lives, and also how they might contribute to the Living Stones plan and the on going work of our church. BCMC members and wider fellowship members who live outside the Newton and North Newton area will also be contacted and invited to participate. This may include phone contacts, letters and emails. We value your connection to our church and welcome your support.

“We are looking forward to these visits,” said Steve and Jeanette Stucky, visitation volunteers. “It will give us the chance to get to know some of our church members better and to hear about people and events in their lives that have been helpful and important to them in their Christian journey.” “We liked the personal visit,” reported Ron and Carol Peters, “and welcome the opportunity to join others by giving to our church budget and to the Living Stones Plan.”

Including funds received and a number of intent-to-give forms returned to date

we already have over \$300,000. That is a great start on reaching our goal of \$1,250,000.

It is very important that we have as many members as possible participate in the Living Stones conversation process. While a primary goal of these visits is to have a personal conversation about financial support for our church, the most interesting and exciting part of the visits I have done so far is to hear people share their stories about Living Stones. Stories about people and events in their lives that reveal God’s work among us. Clearly our efforts and contributions are important. But let’s also name and acknowledge the fact that the Lord has been and continues to be at work here in our church and in our lives. May God bless our conversations about Living Stones. *Dick Koontz, Chair, Living Stones Imple-*



Covered in Prayers

Editor’s Note: This is excerpted from the winter 2010 issue of the Bethel College *Church Relations Update* by Dale Schrag

Of the myriad memorable stories in Kathleen Norris’ *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, one of my favorites

concerns a young seminary student who asks an Orthodox theologian, “What am I to do . . . when I have difficulty affirming parts of the Creed—like the Virgin Birth?” The theologian replies, “You just say it. Particularly when you have difficulty believing it. You just keep saying it. It will come to you eventually.” Raising his voice, the student protested, “How can I with integrity affirm a creed in which I do not believe?” The priest replied, “It’s not your creed, it’s our creed [meaning the Creed of the entire Christian church] . . . Eventually it may come to you . . . for some, it takes longer than for others.” [p. 65]

I’ve thought of this story a number of times this past semester. Once it was when I came to realize how important our weekly structured prayer time had become for me. Our structured prayer time takes place on Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m. It is directed by Ruth R. Harder and Nathan Koontz. It is based on *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book*. The session lasts for a half hour; we do some singing; offer general prayers of thanksgiving; read some scripture; and offer

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prayers of intercession, for family, for community, for church, and for the world. We close with the Lord's Prayer and pass the peace of Christ to each person present. (Oh, and we also drink fresh coffee and eat fresh baked goods prepared by members of Bethel College Mennonite Church.)

I confess that for a long, long time I was not much of a fan of these kinds of public prayer events. It has something to do with my understanding of Matthew 6:6; it has something to do with a feeling that if one is only praying silently, one is not quite participating appropriately; but then when one prays aloud, one wonders if it's only being done out of a sense of obligation—everyone else is doing it, so you'd better do it too.

I don't know exactly when the transformation occurred, but I know that it did. This half hour has become one of my most important moments of the week. I can't imagine missing it. I can lead out in prayer if I am so moved, or stay silent for the entire time, and I never struggle with feeling inauthentic or pressured in any way. I pass the peace of Christ to persons with whom I am not particularly close in any way other than the fact that we are both consistent participants in the structured prayer time, but I do so with great depth of feeling. It helps me understand how it was that the earliest Christian church could evidence remarkable diversity--aristocrats and slaves, men and women, Jews and Gentiles; and how it was that outsiders could nevertheless look upon this disparate group and say, "see how they love each other." And the transformation? To paraphrase the Orthodox theologian Norris quotes, "You just keep [doing] it. It will come to you eventually."



Ilene Schmidt is pictured here at the Agape Center in the Richert House where Structured Prayer time is held.



Happy 80th Birthday Vera Prouty!



Elvera Prouty was born to George and Helen (Richert) Abrahams on October 9,

1932, in Goessel, Kansas. She was the youngest of three, following brother Bill, deceased, and sister Grace Schroeder of our congregation. The family attended Goessel Mennonite Church where Vera was baptized by Rev. P. P. Buller at age 15. Music in church and school were very important and Vera played the piano by ear from the age of four, playing hymns she heard in church since her family did not own a radio. She also enjoyed the variety of instruments in their home; a piano, two organs, a guitar, an auto harp, a harmonica, and a clarinet. It was easy to keep Vera from being bored while surrounded with all of

Every Friday, the prayer group prays with shawls donated to us by Hand 'n Heart ministry of Newton. The group first discerns who might be the recipient of the shawl, and then during their prayer time, they pass the shawls around the circle, allowing each person to hold the shawl for a short time. Finally, the group signs a card with these words on it: *May God's grace be upon this shawl, warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May this mantle be a*

Special thanks to the following BCMC members who provide baked goods for the structured prayer time: Louise Thieszen, Helen Pauls, Lois Brubacher, Diana Graber, Ben Lichti, Dianne Epp, Ilene Schmidt, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Bonnie Krehbiel.

safe haven—a sacred place of security and well-being—sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed Be! Pictured here are two of our prayer shawl recipients, Bethel College President, Perry White, together with his wife, Dalene.



these 'toys.' The family's large farm house had about ten rooms and a favorite Aunt Elizabeth also made her home with them. Vera says, "Besides from following Grace around, I had this dear friend Esther." She tells how as children they had many weddings made out of hollyhocks for the bridal party. "We could have been wedding coordinators, but she married a minister and I married a farmer!" They have remained close friends to this day. Vera's early school years were at Gordon Grade School, then Goessel High School, and a short time at Bethel College. She worked at the Kansas State Bank in Newton for seven years. A happy and very busy time in Vera's life came about with her marriage to Clyde Prouty in 1958, as well as with the births of five children; Bill, Cindy, Terry, Joan, and Hank. Hank and wife Elaine

with their son Austin also attend BCMC. Over the years Vera has enjoyed the activities of eleven grandchildren as well as sewing, baking, cooking, drawing, gardening, and raising her children on the farm. A highlight for the family was a yearly trip to Colorado. Psalm 23 and Romans 8:35-39 are among favorite Scriptures, which include the passage; "I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, not things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord." She names, "You'll never walk alone," "Take Thou my hand O Father," "O have you not heard of that beautiful stream," and "My God and I," as hymns near to her heart. As you step into your 80th year, Vera, my prayer is for a growing awareness of God's love-filled presence near you and with those you love.
~ Susan Wheeler

Happy 80th Birthday Metta Lieb!



Metta was the fourth and last child born to Peter and Mary (Dirks) Janzen. Her

birth on October 16, 1932, was in Upland, California, where the hospital was located but the family lived in Ontario, California. Peter and Mary had immigrated from the Ukraine only eight years prior. Metta attended school in Ontario, and the same week of her high school graduation the family moved to Ritzville, Washington. They attended the First Mennonite in Upland, then Menno Mennonite in Ritzville. A significant and tragic event for the family was the death of firstborn Margaret at age 16 from kidney disease. Younger siblings Heinz, Herbert, and Metta grieved this loss along with their parents. Metta attended Junior College in Freeman, South Dakota, for one year and then transferred to Bethel College where her mother's hard work cooking for a harvest crew could cover only one quarter's tuition. Metta's first job, she claims "a disaster" was for a dry cleaning establishment, but her second job as Deputy County Treasurer in Ritzville she held successfully for 3 1/2 years. Her training in using a ten key adding machine would prove valuable later in life as well. Metta had a year of voluntary service with Mennonite Central Committee, serving as a secretary for J. N. Byler and Delmar Stahley in Akron,

Pennsylvania, as well as spending six months in the unit house in Denver, Colorado. She stayed in Denver to work at Colorado General Hospital in medical records. Then returning to southern California she found a job in the accounting department of the Sunkist Orange Juice factory where her ten key adding machine experience paid off. She met and married dairy man, Kenneth Lieb. They then lived on a cattle ranch in the northern Sierras until his untimely death from emphysema in 1974. Son Peter had been born in 1963. Peter developed mental illness when he was 17. Metta believes their moving to Newton, where he received excellent care at Prairie View was certainly God's will and an answer to prayer. Peter now lives independently with the help of a Prairie View support team. Upon looking for a church, Metta said, "Bethel College Church grabbed me right away." She has always considered any church family as extended family but especially so here because there were a few familiar faces of folks she had first met in Freeman.

As Metta reflects upon her life, she says that she is pleased that her son, Peter, has developed into a fine young man. She remembers the joy of learning to fly an airplane. She is deeply grateful for Dr. Vernon Yoder who helped her deal with symptoms of depression with four years of psychotherapy. "He gave me the tools for coping. One way was by learning to walk, pray, and forgive." Metta loves to sing. She has "always" sung in a choir and still enjoys her part at BCMC. Her favorite hymn is, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," and the words of Proverbs 3:5-6 speak of how she has placed

her trust in God's leading. Metta, thank you for sharing such a significant part of your eighty years of life with us at BCMC! I pray that God in grace bless you fully.

~ Susan Wheeler

Happy 80th Birthday Louise Thieszen!



Pelee Island is only nine miles long and four miles wide, but is the largest island in

Lake Erie, in Ontario, Canada, south of Leamington and just 22 miles from Sandusky, Ohio. It was on Pelee Island that Louise Thieszen was born on October 16, 1932, to Anna (Toews) and Jacob Dick, who had been youth when their immigrant parents came from Russia in 1924 and settled on the island to work the tobacco fields on shares (which provided more income than working as laborers). Louise's family moved to mainland Ontario when she was five, and she grew up on a farm as the second oldest of six children. They attended United Mennonite Church in Leamington, and later the North Leamington United Mennonite Church in the country, where Louise got early teaching experience by leading Sunday school. She spoke German at church and at home, and English at school and with her siblings. Louise attended a one-room country school for eight grades, graduated from Essex High School in 1951, and studied at London Normal School to be a teacher. She began her first teaching job with 28 students in a one-

room country school.

After several years she went to Bethel College, where she graduated in 1961 with a BA degree Social Science, and met Carl Thieszen on a blind date. They were married in 1962, and established their home in Ransom, Kansas. In 1966 Louise and Carl grieved the loss of their first child, Roger, who was stillborn. Later they rejoiced in the arrivals of infants Robert and Carol through adoption, and the birth of daughter Sharon. The family moved to Little River, Kansas, and Louise served as a substitute teacher and a para-educator in special education with elementary and high school students.

Louise and Carl moved to Newton in 1991 following retirement, and they joined BCMC where Louise was invited to be part of the quilting group. She has enriched our community with her gifts of organization and encouragement through leadership in the BCMC Women's Fellowship, volunteering at Ten Thousand Villages, knitting baby caps for Newton Medical Center, and with Carl volunteering at Harvey County Homeless Shelter and with the M-2 visitation program at Hutchinson Correctional Center. Louise is grateful for their three grandchildren with whom they stay in close touch

In the rifted Rock I'm resting is a meaningful hymn to Louise, reflecting her trust in God whose faithfulness has guided her extended family from its history of persecution in Russia and immigration to Canada, through the transitions, losses and joys of life until now. May God richly bless you, Louise, as you celebrate 80 years of life!

~ Heidi Regier Kreider

Happy 80th Birthday Frank Midkiff!



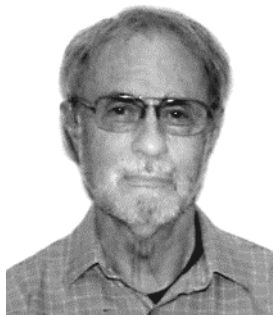
October 24, 1932, a baby boy christened Franklin Roosevelt joined the

Midkiff family after four siblings in Diamond, West Virginia. Unfortunately, his father, a railroad train engineer, died when Frank was 14, which aided Frank's development of a strong work ethic "out of necessity." Frank walked a five mile paper route of 180 customers from age 11 through his first year of college, rising at 4:30 a.m. weekday mornings, and visiting every home over the weekend to collect! A positive aspect, he adds, was that this interface with adults gave him needed connections for summer jobs at Union Carbide. Only Frank and another sibling graduated High School and he was the only one to attend college. Frank earned a BS degree in petroleum engineering from the School of Mines at West Virginia University. His mother gave him a suitcase and he hitchhiked to El Dorado, Kansas, for field work with the Magnolia Petroleum Company. This was a most advantageous risk as here he also met Emmalyne Schmidt when he and a buddy with a convertible (who happened to be a high school friend of Emmy's), "picked up these girls." Frank left El Dorado for a military commitment, but after two years of communication he and Emmy were married in

Burns, Kansas., Sept. 21, 1957. Happily, they celebrated a 55th anniversary this year. Three children, one girl and two boys, were raised while this little family moved around the country, living in eight states for Frank's work "in the oil patch." Frank shared that he had been raised and baptized Southern Baptist. However, as a teen he found himself more at peace with Episcopal theology. He and Emmy remained Episcopalians for 42 years. He took a role as Licensed Lay Reader and could also deliver the cup at Eucharist. In his profession, Frank was involved in the drilling, completing, and producing of oil and natural gas wells. They were 1,200 feet shallow wells to one 20,000 feet deep. He was involved with the drilling of vertical wells but now with new innovation, horizontal wells are being drilled. He worked with five companies over 42 years and was never unemployed. Books by Daniel Yergin, *The Prize*, about the first 140 years of the oil industry, and *The Quest*, exploring alternative energy and where we are headed, he highly recommends. When Frank and Emmy moved to North Newton upon retirement, they found another church home at BCMC. From his commitments a deep love for God, the church, and for family, as well as for the opportunities a good education afford, are readily apparent. Frank expressed his desire, "to stay close to the children," and also, "to help his nine grandchildren get a good education." May God bless you, Frank, in this 80th year, as you celebrate with family and give thanks to God for abundant mercies.

~ Susan Wheeler

Happy 80th Birthday Harvey Hiebert!



Harvey Hiebert was born on November 16, 1932, to Marie

(Penner) and John Hiebert in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, and grew up with siblings Ken and John. Their father died tragically in a gas-station explosion fire when Harvey was only 3 ½ years old. He remembers difficult years as his mother worked while raising three sons, with the support of Harvey's uncle (his father's brother) who was co-owner of the gas station. Their family went to Bethel Mennonite Church. Harvey attended local schools, graduating from Mountain Lake High School in 1950 and going on to study music at Bethel College until the draft came. At Bethel, he met Alison Deckert and they were married in 1957, following his alternative service as a printer at Mennonite Central Committee in Akron, Pennsylvania, and her voluntary service in Newfoundland. They returned to Bethel College for Harvey to complete his BA degree in music, and then moved to Indiana University where Harvey studied music literature and earned a master's degree in library science. Harvey worked for three years at the library at the University of Kansas, and then 32 years as associate and head librarian at Bluffton College in Ohio. He retired in 1997, and he and Alison moved back to North Newton where they built a home and joined BCMC. At

the church, Harvey has been an active Chancel Choir member and member of the Social Committee. He and Alison enjoy opportunities to gather with their daughters Jennifer and Greta and families.

Intriguing themes run through Harvey's life: His work experiences have included detassling in DeKalb seed corn fields in his youth, working at Mennonite Press during college, driving wheat trucks, a dump truck, and even the Mennonite Central Committee semi-truck on the Pennsylvania turnpike. His interest in nature is shared by Alison in a common love for gardening, bird-watching, wildflowers and landscapes. He has enjoyed photography since high school. And his passion for music was expressed early in life by playing baritone horn in 6th grade and continued with church, school and community choirs, singing in Mozart's *Magic Flute* and meeting composer John Cage at Bethel College, serving on the board and designing programs for Newton Mid Kansas Orchestra, and enjoying a vast and growing collection of music recordings. In musical terms, Harvey describes the "Old Testament" as Bach's *Well Tempered Clavier*, and the "New Testament" as Beethoven's sonatas. He recently enjoyed the music of The Steel Wheels and other acoustic musicians at the Walnut Valley Festival at Winfield. In the midst of his eclectic musical interests, Harvey notes appreciation for the combination of tune and text in the hymn "When in our music God is glorified" (HWB 541), anything by English composer Ralph Vaughn Williams, and the harmonies of J. Randall Zercher in the hymn "I bind

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Harv Hiebert contd.

my heart this tide” (HWB 411). As Harvey celebrates his 80th birthday, we pray for health and joy for him, and give thanks for the creative and varied gifts expressed through his life.

~ Heidi Regier Kreider

Happy 12th Birthday Katherine Lamp!



Happy belated birthday to Katherine Lamp, who turned 12

old on July 24! Katherine, who feels lucky to be a “Millennial baby,” is the sister to Elizabeth and the oldest daughter of parents, Ken and Annette Lamp. She attends Hesston middle school and her favorite subject to study in school is science. Katherine likes books like *The Hunger Games*, her favorite movie is *Toy Story 3*, and her favorite genre of music is “Pop.” Katherine is a spirited Kansas University basketball fan—you’ll often see her wearing KU colors, even on Sunday mornings. She has been to two KU games, including the 2012 Elite Eight game in St. Louis. Recently, she stood in line at Anderson Bookstore in order to get an autograph from former KU player, Sherron Collins. When Katherine isn’t cheering for KU basketball, she likes to golf and she looks forward to the upcoming track season. Katherine also likes to quilt and in just two years, she has finished six pieces! (Pictured here is Katherine

after finishing 3rd place in a quilting competition at the Kansas State Fair.) Katherine is the proud owner of 56 pets: 50 chickens, two dogs and four cats, including a favorite cat named Playfull. She is quick to point out that she will be 14 in just two years, which means she’ll hopefully get her driver’s learner permit. This day can’t come soon enough because waiting for her, is a 1961 Buick Electra 225, nicknamed “The Bullet.” Of course, as she puts it, “The car is older than my parents so it needs a lot of work!”

Katherine likes coming to BCMC, where she has been involved in Menno Ringers, Junior Choir, Junior high club, Venture Club and Cherub choir. One of the best parts of coming to BCMC is that she gets to meet new people. Katherine, you are an important part of our BCMC community. You are creative, energetic and bright. You will certainly go places in life! Whether you become a teacher, realtor, professional golf player, or full-time quilter, we hope that you will keep learning about God, experiencing God’s love in your life and contributing your gifts to the larger community. Oh, and next time you go to Legoland, can I come? And don’t forget to wear your seatbelt when you start driving “Bullet!” ~ Ruth R. Harder



Congratulations for your good work!

Congratulations to Katherine Lamp and Elizabeth Lamp for winning big at the most recent county and state fairs. These budding young quilters made names for themselves at the Harvey County Fair, Katherine taking Grand Champion honors on her entry, and Elizabeth and Katherine each winning blue ribbons on their entries. At the Kansas State Fair Elizabeth took first and Katherine 3rd on their respective entries.

Congratulations to Jonathan Baloo on his photographs printed in a recent Newton Kansan. The subjects on these NHS soccer related photos feature church youth Mark Kreider and Nat Dick. Janet Voth said Jonathan takes hundreds of photos, and many of them great quality.

How wonderful that these young people from BC Church are honored for their talents in these ways. (See photos on the hall church bulletin board.) ~ Lois Goertzen



Elizabeth ↑ with her quilt

Katherine and her quilt ←

With Our Members

Marriages:

Kate Brubacher and Grayson Murphy, September 22, 2012 at BCMC

Book Signings:

- ◆ **Keith Sprunger’s new history of Bethel College** goes on sale Mon., Oct. 8, in Thresher Bookstore with a book-signing from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Sat., Oct. 13, in Schultz Student Center.
- ◆ **Glen Ediger will sign copies of his new book, *Leave No Threshing Stone Unturned*, Sat., Oct. 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2:30-4:30 p.m., in Kauffman Museum.**
- ◆ **Emerson Wiens** will have a presentation for his memoir-based book, *Mad Bulls, Skinny Dipping, and God* at Pages Bookstore, 7 p.m. Thursday, October 18. A book signing will follow at a later date. He will tell about the book and read several excerpts. His poetry book, *Coming to Terms*, may be available as well.

From Bogotá, Colombia



To: Bethel College Mennonite Church September 23, 2012

From: Nathan Toews – MCC Psychosocial Support Worker
Re: Update on Working with Mennonite Central Committee in Colombia

Greetings from Bogotá, Colombia! Two months have passed since I arrived in Bogotá to begin my three-year term with MCC. Much of my time has been spent reconnecting with different church communities I got to know during

Continued next page

my internship last spring. The churches here are involved in exciting and necessary work that includes a variety of initiatives such as peace education, safe spaces for people in vulnerable situations, food kitchens for youth, and connecting refugees across borders. This last week was particularly exciting as many Anabaptist churches hosted activities in celebration of International Peace Day on September 21. A small group of us facilitated peace workshops in a variety of primary and secondary schools in a marginalized sector of Bogotá. Our time with the students sparked exciting discussions about how peace is a process that people can build together in their communities.

As with many MCC workers I am assigned to work with an MCC partner organization called the Church Coordination for Psychosocial Action. The acronym in Spanish is CEAS (Coordinación Eclesial para la Acción Psicosocial). You can visit an online description of their work at <http://healingtrauma.pdd.mcc.org/resources/church-based>. CEAS is an initiative of the Mennonite Church, Mennonite Brethren, and Brethren in Christ Churches in Colombia with the goal of supporting churches in psychosocial and pastoral work. As a result of the decades long armed conflict in Colombia, many churches receive people who have been displaced from their homes and have lost family members due to the violence. People come to the cities looking for new opportunities of work and safety. Unfortunately they have few resources or connections and find themselves victim to the vulnerabilities of urban poverty.

While churches do not have a lot of resources and are

not set up to provide substantial economic support, CEAS recognizes that churches do provide spiritual support and an accepting community. While this might not seem like much if economic necessities are not easily available, I have been surprised at how animated people become when they find a place where they are accepted and are able to build community and a social network. I am learning not to underestimate the power of community in the face of destitute times.

My role with CEAS involves learning and evaluating how churches can be supported as they provide psychosocial accompaniment for people who have been affected by the armed conflict. Towards this end I am in the process of designing evaluation tools and initiatives with the goal of understanding the impact of what churches are already doing and what more they could do to attend to victims of the armed conflict. Earlier this month I held three focus group discussions with three different churches that were part of an interview project I conducted last spring. Hearing directly from members of the church communities helps CEAS better understand the variety of dynamics involved in working with people in such vulnerable situations.

Please keep the people of Colombia in your prayers as the country continues to live through tumultuous times. As some of you might have heard, the Colombian government is planning to enter into peace talks with the guerrilla group, FARC, in early October. While many people are hopeful for this process they are also afraid of its failure and an uncertain future. Thank you and God bless you all, *Nathan Toews*

The Catacombs Sunday School Class

As with other classes at BC Church, the Catacombs Sunday school class has gone through a number of changes – name, meeting location, and leadership. Starting with 1970 this group of attendees were called Young Adults and met in the Fine Arts Center Gallery Lounge on the Bethel College Campus. From 1976 – 1979 the meeting place was Bob and Vernetta Regier's home. Then in 1980 and following years, their new name was Home Fellowship Class, meeting at Howard and Marie Snider's home; followed by meeting in various other homes. Relocating in the church in 1987 through 1990, the class with various contact persons, met in room B-5 in the lower level of the church (more commonly known as the quilting room). Continuing in 1991 until the present time, they are known as the Catacombs class – the name a suggestion of one class member after a trip to Rome and visiting the catacombs there, and also catacombs referring to them meeting in the basement.

The class continues to meet in B-5 today, with various contact persons through the years. Membership has remained pretty constant with some additions, and some members leaving for various reasons. Class discussions have varied, occasionally reviewing books, engaging in

Bible study, and having some outside presenters as well as class members leading discussions on various subjects. Socials are not as frequent in most recent years, but one tradition that has remained is a Good Friday breakfast at Harvey County West Park. These gatherings were previously held at various camp sites at the park, and most recently in their new shelter. One activity they participate in every Sunday is at the end of the class period is to stack their chairs to make the room available for the Monday quilters.

Current membership includes Ethel Abrahams, Kenneth Deckert, Marion Deckert, Stan and Florine Eitzen, Dianne Epp, John and Bernice Esau, Lester Ewy and Elvera Voth, Barbara Friesen, David Habegger, Harvey Hiebert, John Hiebert, Walt and Mary Ann Jost, Harry Neufeld, Helen Pauls, Marles and Norma Preheim, Bob and Vernetta Regier, Bob and Betty Schmidt, Griselda Shelly, Howard and Marie Snider, Keith and Aldine Sprunger, Vel Teichroew, Harold and Esther Thieszen and Lenore Waltner. It is my hope that this class will experience many more years of enjoyable time together.

~ Lois Goertzen

(Information for this article was acquired through an interview with Bob and Vernetta Regier with the membership list furnished by the church office.)



The Good Friday breakfast at Harvey County West Park

October-November 2012

Ready for a Good Read?



If you've never been to Book ReViews at 707 North Main, now is the time to do so. One would think one was walking into a Barnes & Noble, with books clearly divided into topic sections, and easy chairs where one can sit and peruse books of interest. Another plus when going into this book store is you will not only find a book you cannot live without, but you have a 50 percent chance of seeing someone from the BCMC congregation working behind the desk. A check of the volunteers, shows that about 50 percent of the 30 volunteers are members of our congregation, beginning with Vern Preheim, the manager. Bob Schmidt, who has worked for Book ReViews for many years, now spends time sorting donated books. Judith Bartel and John Unruh price books, and Judith also processes books. Clerks include Betty Schmidt, Helen Bertrand, Diane Epp, Roger Juhnke, Bonnie Krehbiel, Evelyn Quiring, and Ray Regier. Shirley Thieszen cleans book donations as she is able. Board members from BCMC include Stan Eitzen, who serves as Secretary and also clerks, and Esther Eash, who

also updates the Book ReViews' blog. John Esau enters books on the internet at the ABE Books site. Selling books on the internet began in 2007. At present there are some 3,800 titles listed on ABE, and the average sales are two titles daily. About 15 to 20 percent of annual sales are from internet sales. Average price of books for internet sales, covering any topic in which you may be interested, is about \$10. The highest price paid for a book was \$275. This book, *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, was published in 1795 and was donated by Dotty Janzen. All profits, averaging a little over \$3,000 a quarter, are donated to Newton charities. The charities that received funds this past quarter include Peace Connections, Habitat for Humanity, The Salvation Army and CASA.

Book ReViews was founded by Ruth Unrau, a former BCMC member, in 1989, who had a dream to recycle and sell used books. The first location of the store was in the North Newton mall. The General Conference of Mennonites, primarily Western District Conference, was the beneficiary of profits. In 2002 Ruth and her husband Walt moved to Bluffton, and six couples, most from BCMC, invested \$11,000, purchasing Book ReViews from the Unraus. The store was moved to its present location in 2006, more than doubling the space available. A big bonus when moving was that at the same time the North Dillons store was moving into their new store at 12th & Main, and they donated all the sturdy pharmacy shelving from the old store to Book ReViews. Annual profits from sale of books has grown steadily through the years--\$15,000 in

1992, \$25,000 in 2000 and \$30,000 in 2002. Sales now top \$50,000. A reminder to each of you: when you are down-sizing or cleaning your

book shelves and magazine collections, take them to Book ReViews. And when you are shopping for a book, check Book ReViews first – you just might find it there!

~ Karen Penner

The Book ReViews Storefront



Pastor's Corner— Ruth R. Harder

Further thoughts on stones

A fascination with stones began for me in April, when we began collecting stones from the Flint Hills for a backyard patio. Before we knew it, we had about 75 stones of varying shapes and sizes scattered throughout our yard, some of them weighing 200-plus pounds. Seeing them on a daily basis filled us with a mixture of dread and excitement. Our yard was a mess. What had we started? How were we going to arrange and set them, let alone pick them up? As it turned out, we enjoyed the creative process of piecing the stones together and admiring the different sizes, depths, colors, and character of each rock. Of course, as every project does, it took more time than we anticipated and included plenty of setbacks, disagreements, exhaustion, and even injuries. After a particularly grueling afternoon of work, our neighbor asked from across the alley, "Are you actually getting things done or just moving heavy stones

around?" I didn't know whether to laugh or cry at that moment because truly, it didn't feel like we were making much progress.

We probably have all had moments like this, when we've wondered, "Is this project ever going to be done, and will it have been worth it?" Or "Can our neighbors hear our ... spirited ... discussions?" That's because whenever we embark on a new project, there are often unforeseen setbacks, tough choices and decisions, and relationship challenges. Our BCMC family is about to begin our own stones project. I hope that we, the living stones of BCMC, with our depth and character, and yes, relationship challenges, will be willing, wise, energized, patient, and forgiving participants in this long-range process of fund-raising and implementation and that our neighbors near and far will wonder, "What's happening at BCMC? Who are these people who work hard and have such vision and who know how to work together?"

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Pictures from the Leadership Retreat—
September 8, 2012 at Harvey County West
Park



Worship and events schedule *(Check weekly bulletins
and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates)*

9:30 a.m.— Worship
10:30 a.m.—Fellowship time
10:50 a.m.—Christian education

October 2012

**October 7—World
Communion Sunday**
Worship with music by Cherub
Choir and Chancel Choir, med-
itation by Heidi Regier Kreider,
and observance of Communion

October 14-Fall Fest Sunday
10:00 a.m. Worship with
Reflections on “The Sermon in
the Seal”; music by Bethel
College Concert Choir
No Sunday school

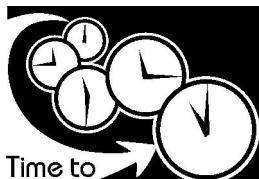
October 21
Worship with sermon by Heidi
Regier Kreider; music by Jun-
ior Choir and Chancel Choir

**October 28—Mennonite
Heritage Sunday**
Worship with sermon by
Keith Sprunger; music by
Chancel Bells
12 noon Guess Who’s
Coming To Dinner

November 2012

November 4
Worship with sermon by
Ruth R. Harder; music by
Cherub Choir and
Chancel Choir

**Daylight savings time
ends — move clocks
back one hour**



Time to
turn back your clocks!

November 11
Worship with sermon by Heidi
Regier Kreider; music by
Junior Choir

November 18
Worship with sermon by
Heidi Regier Kreider; music by
Youth Bells

November 25
Worship with music by
Chancel Choir