

Prayer Requests

Mennonite Church USA: Justin Shenk and Valerie Showalter of Mennonite Mission Network request prayer for the Round Chapel where they worship and serve in the East End of London. Pray for unity of vision as members discern how God is calling the congregation to discipleship.

Western District Conference: In the midst of this busy season, attend one of the many special programs that celebrate the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Celebrate in song, art, drama and worship! Thank God for church staff and volunteers who have dreamed and planned and offered their gifts to make these celebrations come alive.

This congregation: Pray for safety, energy and wisdom for all who work this week to finish BCMC's renovation projects before Christmas.

If you would like to request prayer or a visit, contact the church office or one of the pastors. The Prayer Network and Visitation Team are ministries sponsored by the Deacon Commission.

Bethel College Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who confess faith in Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, education, ability, and other factors which give rise to discrimination and marginalization.

Church office hours: 9:00 a.m. – noon on Mon – Fri; 1:00 –5:00 p.m. on Mon – Thurs.

Building is locked daily at 5 p.m. unless evening activities are scheduled.

Notary public service is available in the church office.

Phone: 316-283-3667

Fax: 316-283-2079

Email: office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Web site: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Pastor: Heidi Regier Kreider, heidi.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Home phone 284-0448, day off is Friday

Interim Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: Weldon Martens, weldon.bcmc@sbcglobal.net; cell phone 402-202-9276, day off is Friday

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Susan Wheeler, susanmwheeler@gmail.com

Home phone 620-327-2295, cell phone 316-706-0887; day off is Monday

Administrative Assistant: Monica Lichti, office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Custodian: Michael Crawford, 316-727-9840

Music Coordinator: Rebecca Schloneger, 316-772-6084

Organist: Eleanor Kaufman, 283-7421; **Bell Choir Director:** Vada Snider, 283-5231

Chancel Choir Director: William Eash, 284-0920

Junior Choir Director: Renee Reimer, 605-212-0081

Cherub Choir Director: Megan Siebert, 785-580-9634

Bethel College Caring Ministries Intern: Nicole Smith, 574-612-0078

The lights in the sanctuary windows witness to our hope and prayers for peace. We encourage others to place a light in a window as a reminder to pray for peace.

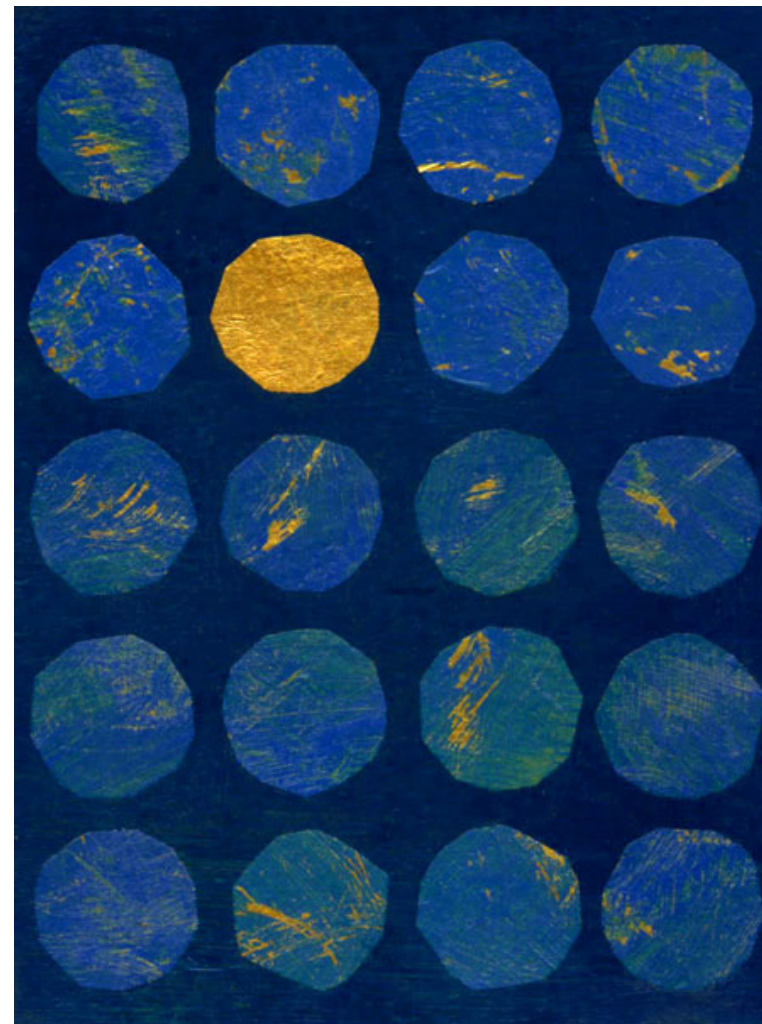
~ *Witness Commission.*

Cover image: *Where Advent Begins* © Jan L. Richardson

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Advent 2013

The mystery of God's dwelling!



December 15, 2013

Bethel College Mennonite Church

Bethel College Mennonite Church

2600 College Avenue, Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117 316-283-3667

Pastors: Heidi Regier Kreider, Susan Wheeler, Weldon Martens

December 15, 2013 Prelude 9:00 a.m., Worship 9:30 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The mystery of God's dwelling...in love

INVITING THE MYSTERY

9:00 a.m. Prelude Christmas carols by instrumental trio
Vada Snider, flute; Ellen Neufeld, oboe; Heidi Regier Kreider, piano
Selections by Hesston High School Singers; Jessica Harrison, director

Introit *Silent Night* Gruber
Cherub Choir; Megan Siebert, director

Greeting Heidi Regier Kreider

Call to worship

Leader: Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord

People: Let us awake to love!

Leader: Strengthen your hearts, for the Lord is near.

Come, rejoice in God our Savior.

All: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in transformation!

***Hymn** *Comfort, comfort, O my people* **HWB 176**
Karen Loucks, pianist

ENGAGING THE MYSTERY

Lighting the Advent candle Omar and Carolyn Voran

Prayer of confession

Leader: In the coming of Jesus, we see God's transforming love: Life springs out of death, desperation yields to hope. We pause to consider the redemptive power of God. Let us confess the desert places in our lives, the ways we have gone astray, and all that is broken in our world. The third Advent candle is the candle of love.

All: In this light we celebrate forgiveness, knowing that God dwells with us in the midst of transformation.

Hymn *Hope is a candle* (stanzas 1-3) **STS 15**
(children come forward during hymn)

Time with children Carol Flickinger

Scripture readings Isaiah 35:1-10 and Luke 1:47-55 Fred Obold

Anthems *My soul is filled with joy* Haas
Junior Choir, Cherub Choir and parents
Lullaby, Holy One Taylor

Scripture readings Matthew 11:2-11

Scripture response:

Leader: For the Word of God that gives us love,

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem *Helpless and hungry / What Child is this* [STS 26]
Junior Choir; Jill Siebert, soloist

Sermon *Searching for evidence* Heidi Regier Kreider

CELEBRATING THE MYSTERY

***Hymn** *On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry* **HWB 183**

Prayer of God's People

Offering

To learn more about BCMC or share a prayer request, please fill out a card from the pew rack and place in offering plate.

Offertory

***Dedication hymn** *Gloria* (sing 3 times) **HWB 204**

*Dedication prayer

LIVING THE MYSTERY

***Closing hymn** *Fling wide the door, unbar the gate* **HWB 186**

*Benediction

*Benediction response

*Postlude

*All who are able are invited to stand

HWB = Hymnal: A Worship Book

STS = Sing the Story

Welcome visitors and friends! May you sense God's presence at BCMC. Personal hearing devices are at the north sanctuary entrance. The Nursery (Rm 20 behind balcony) is available during worship for families with infants and toddlers. Following Time with Children, children receive activity bags to use during worship (return to baskets at the entrance as you leave). We invite members and visitors to fill out welcome/prayer cards located in pew racks and place them in the offering plates for response by pastoral staff.

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. The Call to Worship and Confession at the lighting of Advent candles is from Mennonite Church USA worship resources on the theme "*O, the mystery of God's dwelling.*"

Interested in learning more about BCMC, or becoming a member of the congregation? An orientation class will be offered in several Sunday-afternoon sessions in January and/or February 2014. Class meeting schedule will be set once participants are confirmed.

Holiday events:

- Handel's *Messiah* - Today, 7 p.m. at First Mennonite Church.
- All are invited to the Mennonite Central Committee Center, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton, Tues., Dec. 17 from 3-6 p.m. Meet Michelle Armster, our new Transitional Executive Director, dedicate our new solar panels at 4 p.m., visit with staff, tour the MCC center and enjoy Christmas goodies!
- Dec. 19 performances at Prairie Harvest, 601 N. Main St., Newton: Vada Snider and Karen Loucks at 6 pm, BCMC Junior Choir at 7 p.m.
- The annual living nativity, Night in the Barn is Dec. 21 and 22, 6-8 p.m., come and go. Visitors gather around a bonfire and enjoy hot drinks as part of the evening's activities. Admission is free; donations to the youth group accepted. Directions to Night in the Barn: From Goessel: 3 miles north on K15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS directions.) For information, call 620-367-8432 or 620-386-0709.
- "Five Times Harder," with Tom and Lois Harder and their three daughters, will perform their annual Christmas Concert at the Lorraine Ave. Mennonite Church, Wichita, Sun. Dec. 22, 4 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminaries - Great Plains Extension

invites you to an informal "focus group" discussion about the future direction of the Extension. The sessions feature a short history of GPE, some program options and time to give counsel to the GPE Board in preparation for their January meeting. Tues., Dec. 17, noon-1 p.m. bring your lunch or 7-8 p.m., in the Seminary classroom at 2505 N. Main, North Newton. For information, contact Dorothy Nickel Friesen, dnfriesen@ambs.edu or 283-7098, etc. 206.

On behalf of the students at Great Plains-Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary, thank you for your prayer and financial support. We who attend classes in North Newton are grateful for a local seminary and for its devoted faculty and administrative personnel. With gratitude, *Lois Friesen*

The Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary - Great Plains Extension offers a 3-credit course *Congregational Song* (audit option) in spring semester in four weekends: Feb. 7-8, March 7-8, April 4-5, and April 25-26--with the Friday class from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and the Saturday class 8:30 - 4:30. Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith is professor; classes will be at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton. Sign up by Jan. 6 (saving \$50).

Register online; www.ambs.edu/forms or contact Dorothy Nickel Friesen, dnfriesen@ambs.edu; 316-283-7098, etc. 206 for information.

A big thank you to the congregation for donating \$4,765 towards the Newton Area 2013 meat canning event. A total of 20,000 pounds of pork at a cost of \$28,000 were canned in November. BCMC contributed a big part of the cost. Thank you for your generous contribution of dollars and volunteer labor. ~ *Hugo Boschmann*, BCMC Newton Area Meat Canning representative.

Today

- 10:30 a.m.** Fellowship time with coffee served in Fellowship Hall
- 10:50 a.m.** Christian Education for all ages – Visitors welcome!
Children and youth Sunday school classes:

- 2-3 year olds—Rm B-6; pre-K through 4th grade students—following snacks in Fellowship Hall, meet in Room B-8 for singing and story
- 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students—Rm 26
- Sr Hi Youth—Rm 22

Adult Sunday school classes:

- Agape (Young Adults)—KIPCOR, 2515 College Ave.
- Bible Study—Rm 14—A study of *Ephesians*
- Catacombs—Rm B-5—*Mennonite Women in Ministry*, Dorothy Nickel Friesen
- Fine Arts—Rm 24—*Understanding the New Testament* video series
- Issues & Christianity—Rm 23—Discussion of issues and events
- Mosaic—Rm 20
- Open Circle—Rm B-7—Sermon reflection and response
- Seekers—Rm 21—*Reading the Bible again for the first time*, Marcus Borg
- Sojourners—Rm 28—*Child Abuse Issues*, Diane Schunn

Monday, December 16

- 3:00 p.m.** BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Health Care
- 7:00 p.m.** Worship Commission—Rm 23
- 8:00 p.m.** Music Committee—Rm B-8

Tuesday, December 17

- 2:30 p.m.** Search Committee—Rm B-8
- 5:30 p.m.** Hospitality Commission—Rm B-8
- 7:00 p.m.** Facilities Committee—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 18

- 5:30—6:15 p.m.** Christmas Program Practice—Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m.** Cherub Choir (Rm 24) and Junior Choir (Rm 28)
- 7:15 p.m.** Menno Ringers—Rm B-7
- 7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 8:30 p.m.** Chancel Bells—Rm B-7

Thursday, December 19

- 4:00 p.m.** Visitation Team—Rm 23

Sunday, December 22 –Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m.** Prelude by violin ensemble from Bethel College Academy for Performing Arts
- 9:30 a.m.** Worship with scripture reflections by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir and Menno Ringers
- 10:30 a.m.** Fellowship time with refreshments in Fellowship Hall
- 10:50 a.m.** Christian Education for all ages

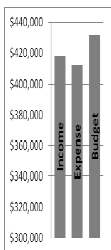
BCMC Living Stones update: The church mailboxes will be moved to the renovated foyer area. Countertops, woodwork, tile, ceiling, lighting, coffee station, and bathroom fixtures are being completed; new carpet will soon be installed under the balcony, and in the nursery and foyer. Ceiling and lighting has been installed. Final inspection is scheduled to take place this week to approve the renovated space for occupancy, as well as a walk-through orientation for members of Implementation Task Force, Facilities Committee and church building staff.

Join the Harvest of Love! This annual campaign runs Nov. – Dec., sponsored by Newton Ministerial Alliance and Salvation Army to gather non-perishable food and money to assist with needs in Harvey County. Make checks “Harvest of Love” and send to Salvation Army at 208 W. 6th St., Newton, KS 67114. You may also bring food items to BCMC and place them on the first pew under the balcony, near the south sanctuary entrance.



The Bible in 90 Days will be a BCMC Sunday school class to run Jan. 5 – Apr. 6, 2014, hosted by the Bible Study Sunday school class. Other individuals or Sunday

school classes are invited to join the Bible Study class in this journey through scripture! Contact the church office if you are interested in participating.



At the end of November, annual fund income for the year was \$5,751 more than expenses but \$14,300 less than budget. December is the final month of the fiscal year and additional expenses are anticipated including repair and protective covering for the Trinity windows by the Facilities Committee and final benevolence contributions. Contributions for the year should be received by Sun., Dec. 29. ~ *Richard Friesen, Treasurer*

It's time for men to register for a new season of singing with the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus; an opportunity to combine the love of singing with making a contribution to the mission of the church. All money received from offerings at KMMC concerts go to Mennonite Central Committee. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board. “*We sing that others might live.*”

It's time to renew our group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* for 2014. If interested in joining our group plan, fill out this form; attach payment of \$37.00, made out to BCMC with “*The Mennonite* subscription” in the memo line. **Place this form, along with your payment, in the offering plate or bring to the church office no later than today, Dec. 15.**

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I am subscribing to *The Mennonite* through the BCMC group plan
 Name _____

The search committee for an Associate Pastor for Faith Formation has begun their work by meeting for an orientation meeting together with Western District Conference Minister Clarence Rempel. For updates on steps in the search process, see the BCMC website at bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org and click on "Who We Are" and then "Associate Pastor Search Process." Members of the committee are John Esau, chair; Joshua Brubacher, Valetta Seymour, Bonnie Krehbiel, Doug Siemens and staff liaison Heidi Regier Kreider, lead pastor.

Poinsettias at the front of the church are

Donated by:	In memory/honor of:
Ethel Abrahams & family	Norman and David Abrahams, husband and son
Carl & Rosalind E. Andreas	Carol Enns Brubacher
Wade & Joan Brubacher Family	Harold & Elma Goering & E. J. & Lucille Brubacher
Jerry & Carol Buller.....	Willard & Selma Unruh
Dianne Epp.....	Family and Friends
John and Bernice Esau.....	Keith Esau
Marlene V. Faul, Sharon, Mary & families ...	James O. Faul
Friesen Family.....	Orlando Friesen
Joann Funk & Family	Francis Funk, Frederick Funk, Jonas & Bertha Krehbiel; Arnold & Edna Funk
Paul & Eldine Harder.....	Delton & Marian Franz
Paul & Shirley Harms	G.F. & Susie Harms & Arnold & Edna Funk
Don & Marilyn Harrold.....	Janna Harrold
Dorothy Janzen	Kurt Harder
Walt & Mary Ann Jost.....	Esther Bartel
Dick & Barb Koontz.....	Elbert & Ruth Koontz and Aldene Delk
David & Heidi Regier Kreider	
Evelyn Quiring.....	Frank Quiring
Merrill & Boots Raber	Stella Carrizosa
Jim & Beaty Robb.....	Orlo & Helen Goering; Stewart & Marge Robb
Ron & LaVonne Sawatzky, Sheri, Alan	
Nick & Markus Lepard	Henry & Edna Goossen
Richard & Frances Siemens	Our 5 Grandchildren
Milly Stucky.....	Keith Stucky
Myron & Mildred Voran & family.....	Kathy J. Voran
Omar & Carolyn Voran	Our parents
Lenore Waltner & family.....	James Waltner