

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

September— October 2015 9:4



Welcome Dorothy Nickel Friesen!—Interim Pastor



At the close of Heidi Regier Kreider’s years of service as lead pastor of BCMC at the end of July, interim pastor, Dorothy Nickel Friesen began her time with us. Following are the facts on Dorothy:

Dorothy is a graduate of Bethel College (English Education), the University of Kansas (MA in Religion and Education) and St. Paul School of Theology (Master of Divinity). Prior to church ministry, she was an English teacher for 10 years. She was ordained by the Western District Conference and South Central Conference and served Rainbow Boulevard Mennonite Church in Kansas City, KS; Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship in Manhattan, KS; and First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, OH. She also was an Assistant Dean at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary,

Elkhart, IN and Conference Minister for Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA with office in North Newton. In retirement, she has served as a consultant to congregations in strategic planning and conflict resolution. She is married to Richard Friesen and they joined BCMC in 2003. They have two daughters, Melissa, a professor of theatre at Bluffton University, OH and Joanna, a Wichita small-business owner married to Steve Parks, a Wichita Heights math teacher. Joanna and Steve have two children: Lydia, who will be in eighth grade, and Sam, a budding fourth grader.

Elizabeth Raid interviewed Dorothy to find out more about the pastor behind the “facts”.

What drew you to this pastoral opportunity?

In the last months, I’ve been writing essays for a possible book on pastoral ministry. While I am not interested in a long-term pastorate, reflecting on my 33 years as a pastor opened me to being available for a short-term assignment. BCMC is the natural fit. This is my congregation, my people.

What surprised you?

I wasn’t really surprised, but I was quickly reminded that ministry involves both the big picture and the many small details, like working with families to plan memorial services, crisis care and other day to day activities.

What is challenging?

It’s easy for people to assume that because I’m a member here, I know all the systems and can just plug in and go. Not so. Each church has its inner workings, so I’m becoming familiar with those. Also, I’m a dive-in-deeply kind of person, so adjusting to short term ministry challenges my personality.

When you were my seminary field education supervisor, you gave this advice on crafting a sermon: start with an “attention getter. Unify thoughts around one theme. Be cohesive: Use illustrations. And cut, cut, cut!”

You’ve gotten our attention. Now, what theme would best describe your ministry here? I see myself as a “temporary shepherd,” a mirror to reflect what I see and redirect to commissions or individuals; to ask questions like, “What can we let go of?” Then others need to follow through.

In your August 16 message you acknowledged, welcomed and invited Bethel

College students to participate in congregational life. What other experiences as a teacher and also as a pastor in similar town/gown settings, such as First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, Ohio, do you hope to incorporate in worship and other areas of church life?

Of the twenty-six students who signed the guest registers, 10 expressed interest in a Sunday school class. I plan to incorporate students in worship, listen to them and support their needs. Working to encourage intergenerational experiences also helps build the church. We have a large youth group and a lot of new families who are attending, so we need attention to all age groups.

At your installation service, we promised to “offer support and prayers” for you? What are specific ways we can help enrich our congregational life and advance some of these hopes for BCMC?

Show up! Be present! Show hospitality to new, interested attendees. Give me feedback that focuses on BCMC’s unique calling for the next 10 years. Look and plan long-term. *continued next page*

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Any final thoughts! I am delighted and honored to serve BCMC in this way.

A note to readers: This is the Readers' Digest-style, "cut, cut, cut" version of my conversation with Dorothy!

Dorothy, we are grateful for your willingness to serve in this capacity. May God open our hearts to receive the gifts of ministry you offer, and together may our hands bless and advance the kingdom of God on earth. ~ Interview by Elizabeth Raid

Editor's note: Dorothy's credentials alone speak for her good fit for this new position, and her pleasant personality is an added bonus. If you haven't had the opportunity, stop in the office or drop a note to this well-qualified woman and welcome her as pastoral leader.

BCMC's Auction for Art and Facilities

BCMC held an auction Saturday morning, June 27, sponsored by the Facilities Committee and Art Committee to raise funds for the Visual Art Fund and Facilities Plant Fund. It was a beautiful Saturday morning with perhaps a somewhat small but enthusiastic crowd assembled for the auction. BCMC members and friends had donated art, furniture, some tools, and other miscellaneous items for the auction. Also for sale were about 15-20 church benches which, over the years, had been stored by Ken and Annette Lamp, then later by Frank Stucky. BCMC member (and Facilities Committee member) Glen Ediger had cut down long church benches into two shorter benches. These benches sold well and also demonstrated what could be

MC USA Assembly Meets in Kansas City

The Mennonite Church USA delegate assembly met in Kansas City June 30-July 5. The theme "On the Way" was based on Luke 24, the Road to Emmaus story. The 90 plus table leaders had stones with an etched fruit of the spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-



Lou Gomez, Vern Preheim, Heidi Regier Kreider, Jon Zerger, Lois Preheim, Ben Kreider, Dianne Epp

done with the longer benches the church had for sale. Brubacher Auction Company, with Wade Brubacher, auctioneer, conducted the auction. A Bake Sale, coordinated by the Mosaic Sunday school class added significantly to the day's proceeds. The auction netted \$4,288 with the addition of \$714 from the bake sale for a total of \$5,002, which was divided between the Art Fund and the Facilities Fund. Thank you to all who participated!

~ Monica Lichti



Benches for sale

23. This then served as the 'talking stone' as participants either passed or gave voice to their thoughts.

BCMC delegates Lois Preheim, Dianne Epp, Benjamin Kreider, Lou Gomez, Vern Preheim, Jon Zerger, and Heidi Regier Kreider share their assembly experiences through the lens of the fruit of the spirit:

listened thoughtfully and shared honestly. Seeing some youth take time out of their programming to attend delegate sessions as observers because of their concern for the issues facing the church provided joy and hope for the future.

Ben Kreider: PEACE. The concept of "peace" showed up numerous times throughout the convention. The word was inscribed on the "talking stone" we used in sharing at my delegate table. The leaders of delegate assembly tried to "keep the peace." One seminar I went to on sexual abuse described how a Mennonite peace theology led her to not being able to confront and call out abuses. This person called for a thicker and more nuanced understanding of love and peace.

Heidi Regier Kreider: PATIENCE. I observed patience as delegates at my table asked clarifying questions, articulated their convictions, listened respectfully to the different points of view expressed by others, and stayed

Dianne Epp: JOY. In the midst of hard decisions and tension there were moments of joy embodied for me by a table discussion group which



The Bake Sale—set up and run by the Mosaic Sunday school class

Art for sale



Jerry Buller, Facilities Committee chair; Darlene Dick, Art Committee chair; Wade Brubacher, auctioneer

at the table even through tears, anger and pain.
Vern Preheim: KINDNESS. The Convention Center is very large. Volunteers at Information Stations were kind in helping people find the specific room they wanted for a seminar or program. I observed delegates at the tables during business, listening and responding to those who expressed opinions very different from their own.

Lois Preheim (Delegate Chair): GENTLENESS. The distance between diverse perspectives dimmed when hearts listened respectfully to each other's stories and comments. It was more important to practice gentleness and grace than defend one's thinking.
 ~ Karen Penner

**Mennonite World Conference Reflections—
 July 21-26, 2015
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

BCMC members attending MWC were Patty Shelly, Ron and Lois Preheim, Vern Preheim and Norma Johnson, Don and Eleanor Kaufman, Hugo and Mary Ann Boschmann, and Perry and Dalene White. Following are reflections from these attendees.

Patty Shelly: I attended the MWC General Council meetings (as a representative of MC USA) for the four days prior to the Assembly and had wonderful conversations with Mennonite leaders from all over the world as we were eating meals together during our meetings. At Assembly sessions, the inspiring music and congregational singing led by an international worship team was a highlight for me.



Norma Johnson and Vern Preheim: Highlights of attending MWC

2015 Pennsylvania for us were the morning and evening worship times with great music and challenging sermons. We reconnected with people we'd met and worked with through MCC, General Conference and AMBS. It was a privilege to be at this event.

Ron and Lois Preheim:

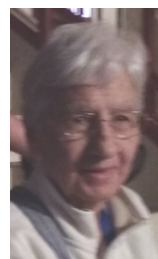
The music, worship, and fellowship at MWC were phenomenal due to the international composition of participants. Adults and young adults contributed their perspectives and experiences during worship. International conversations occurred during meals, during tours, and in friendship and interest groups.



Don Kaufman: It was a distinct privilege to participate in the Harrisburg gathering of Anabaptists around the globe.

Personally I was especially moved by the amazing transformation which has taken place among the conflicting groups within Indonesia. Considering the atmosphere of suspicion and fear which was all too prevalent during the 1960s, the recent reports by Paulus Hartono and Paulus Widjaja constituted 'good news'. Since 2004 it became apparent that the tsunami, earthquake, and volcano tragedies enabled people to understand that they had other issues to attend to which were far more important than their

vengeful conflicts. Vulnerability by both groups led to enemies becoming good neighbors and friends. What a transformation of feeling, understanding, and imagination! Militant persons became courageous and compassionate to show a peace-building model for diversity, radicalism, and pluralism. A new awareness gave meaning to life.



Eleanor Kaufman: Highlights for me include: The thrill of seeing seven to eight thousand Mennonites from around the

world entering the arena. This was repeated every morning and evening of the conference.

* The wide variety of speakers, music groups, congregational singing revealing the complexity and unity of the body.

* The amount of detailed planning that was required to allow the event to function so smoothly including plans for lodging hundreds of people in private homes, transporting them in a fleet of buses - which were then used to take attendees on a variety of tours in the afternoons.

* The shoulder bag provided for each attendee made from cloth and neckties donated to MCC.

* The wonderful, surprise meeting of long-time friends while walking from place to place.

Perry White: As a first time attendee to the World Conference, I was struck by my own 'American-centric' perspective of the Church. It is truly impressive and humbling to see the incredibly joyous way our brothers and sisters around the world are

working to bring Christ to their communities. The international flair and exuberant worship together was exhilarating!

Mary Ann Boschmann: The Mennonite World Conference was not unlike and yet better than a big family reunion. It was a treat to meet friends from various stages of our lives and various countries. Even among the 8000+ attendees, knowing there were many differences of culture and theology, there was an atmosphere of common threads and unity of faith family and friends we were still meeting for the first time. The focus and celebration was our common faith (not our differences and disagreements). The worship time and sharing by several Young Anabaptists gave me hope and optimism for the future of the church. Their vibrancy, honesty, vulnerability and especially their commitment to their faith was inspiring. They also reminded us that the youth are watching us--how we do (or don't do) church and how we live out our lives; that will also impact the future of the church. Overall, I resonate with some who said the week 'was a foretaste of heaven'.

Hugo Boschmann : What in Paraguay six years ago was called 'Congreso Mundial Menonita' became the shorter acronym "MWC" in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. Even though different countries label the Mennonite World Conference differently, what all celebrate is the unity in belief and service around the world. These events bring to memory the truly international family of Mennonites that we are. How inspiring it is to join the thousands who share a common belief in a God of peace who is active in the world through the church. For me



Hugo Boschmann placing his thumbprint on the MWC Logo

the many workshops every afternoon presented the breadth and interest that the Mennonite family is involved in. Our faith is an

active faith. I especially enjoyed the workshops on

the 'Conversation of Mennonites with Catholics and Lutherans'; the 'History of the MWC through the Decades' and 'The churches' response - or lack of response - to violence in a time of war'.

Statistics from the Assembly: *Close to 8,500 attended the event. Attendance from outside North America was 1,547 which included 274 from Asia, 275 from Africa, 444 from Latin America, 449 from Global Youth Summit. Over 40,000 meals were served to people from 77 countries. The next Assembly will be in 2021 in Indonesia. Check out the MWC website at <http://www.mwc-cmm.org> for videos and resources related to the Assembly.* ~ Lois Goertzen

and Adina Schrag. Until she was five, home was a farmhouse in Kingman County. Then the family moved to a farm near Pretty Prairie where she spent the rest of her growing up years. Her love of music came early. At age three she remembers picking out melodies of her Sunday school songs on her grandmother's pump organ. When she was six her parents bought a piano. Recalling when the piano arrived, La Vera said, "I was so excited. I figured I would play it like the piano player on the Fuller Theological Sunday radio program. I sat down and proceeded to run my hands up and down the keyboard, but to my dismay it sounded like noise! I was so disappointed and realized that I needed to take lessons." An accident on the farm brought an unexpected change and challenge to her life. When she was running to the field where her dad was working, the hired man happened to lift a 10 gallon cream can over the side of the truck, hitting her on the head and knocking her out. The doctor stitched up the gash, and they thought that was the end of it, but several years later, her eyelids began to look droopy and continued to get worse. None of the doctors she saw seemed to know how to help that problem. Finally, an eye doctor in Halstead fitted her with unique glasses. She said, "The glasses had crutches on them to hold my eyelids open more. I was thrilled!" Eye surgery in the 1970s made it possible for her to wear regular glasses. Elvera Voth inspired her decision to pursue music. Her high school music teacher took her to Bethel College to hear the Brahms *Requiem* and introduced her to Elvera. In 1957 she graduated from Bethel College with a major in music. After graduation she taught

piano, organ and voice and all the music classes at Freeman Junior College, South Dakota, for five years. After a short, failed marriage, she went to Indiana University, Bloomington, where she received her master's degree in music education. Her 54 Buick took her safely to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, but only after her dad insisted she have seat belts installed. Penn Manor School District became home to her career teaching elementary music for 29 years. Bethel Mennonite Church near her apartment became her church home. She was pleased to find that Floyd Bartel was the pastor of Bethel Mennonite. She had met Floyd and his wife when she toured with a Bethel College music group in Topeka, Kansas where he pastored at that time. A highlight of her years directing the church choir at Bethel Mennonite was the Sunday when the text of the choir anthem by Esther Wiebe was the same as the scripture for the day! "That was a real God moment," she commented, in the days before worship committees and coordination. She also accompanied the Lancaster Choral Singers and served as assistant conductor for about 30 years. With this group she traveled to the Soviet Union and other parts of Europe a number of times.

When she retired and moved to Kansas in the fall of 1999, she wondered how she would fit in. However, soon she became involved with the alumni council at Bethel College, Masterworks Chorale and the Newton Chorale. At BCMC she enjoys accompanying the Junior Choir, playing in the bell choir, and singing in the Chancel Choir. While she never realized an early dream to become a nurse, the desire to help others came full circle through her friendships and care of a num-

ber of neighbors and friends who were older than she. Currently, she enjoys a special friendship with Lester Ewy and Elvera Voth, her former Bethel College music mentor. Providing transportation, taking them to musical events, and sharing her gifts of compassion and caring in a number of ways, blesses her life and theirs as well. "It's payback time," she says. While she heals from recent rotator cuff surgery, her frustration is not being able to drive and help like she wants to. Meanwhile, she continues to enjoy sharing her Kidron Bethel duplex with her two cats, Ebony and Fluffy. LaVera feels fortunate to reach the age of 80 and is grateful for each day and whatever it brings. How fitting that her favorite hymn is "My life flows on in endless song." Likewise, God's promises of renewed strength for those who wait for the Lord as recorded in Isaiah 40:28-31 are evident throughout her life. LaVera, your friends at BCMC are grateful for your faithful, song-filled service and your friendship of caring and hospitality for those who need a helping hand. We wish you much joy as you celebrate this 80th year of life and pray God's continued blessing in the years ahead. ~ Elizabeth Raid

Happy 80th Birthday LaVera Schrag!



LaVera Schrag, born Sept. 5, 1935, is the oldest of four children born to Dan A.

Pastor Search Committee

We hope you have seen the following announcement in the BCMC Sunday bulletins. "The BCMC Lead Pastor Search Committee (Rosalind Andreas, chair; Judy Friesen, Jennifer Koontz, Dale Schrag, and Jon Zerger) has received its charge from the Church Board and completed its orientation with Western District Conference Minister Liaison, Clarence Rempel. The committee invites recommendations for lead pastor

candidates. Those recommendations will be processed by the committee utilizing the established WDC protocol. Suggestions can be given to any member of the committee." When we receive a suggestion, we spend some time as a committee determining if it's a reasonably viable candidate. Does what we know about the nominee match the gifts required to fulfill the demands of our Church Board approved job description? The conference protocol utilizes both the information we complete on the Congregation Information Form (CIF) and the Ministerial Leadership Information form (MLI) completed by interested candidates. Clarence Rempel follows the protocols necessary for contacting persons in which we are interested as we move forward. If you know of a pastor who, in your mind, would be perfect for the position of lead pastor at BCMC, get that name to a member of the search committee so we can move the process forward. We look forward to receiving your nominations. ~ *Rosalind Andreas, for the Search Committee*

Congregational Meetings

Congregational meetings are scheduled to take place at three times during the year. In January the budget and fiscal reporting is the primary focus. April's meeting provides us with the opportunity to thank "servants" of the church who are completing terms of service on boards, committees and commissions. We also elect new

church officers, and approve appointments to commissions. The congregational meeting on Sept. 27 provides the church with a chance to reflect on programming and to engage in congregational discussion. The final agenda for the Sept. 27 meeting is still in progress with the Church Board approving the agenda at their September meeting. Many things are being considered for the agenda. It will include devotions, for congregational meetings should be seen as times of worship as we do the work of the church, a treasurer's report updating us on the 2015 budget as we prepare for the 2016 Pony Express and the Search Committee for Lead Pastor will be giving a report to the congregation on the status of the search process. The need to expand the BCMC Columbarium and the front entrance renovation will be brought to the congregation for information and discussion. Because of the physical proximity of one to another, these two potential projects need to be presented together. This is not an action item, but is a time to present some information and listen to feedback from the congregation. The "Rainbow Resolution" being presented at the Western District Conference Assembly will be on the agenda as a listening opportunity for those from the BCMC congregation who will be delegates to the convention. While there have been presentations made through the summer, there needs to be time for the delegates to listen to what the congregation has to say. This is particularly true given the decisions at the Mennonite Church USA Assembly in

Kansas City.

The Church Board hopes that you will consider attending the September congregational meeting. Child care will be provided. Please keep this upcoming meeting, the Search Committee, the Church Staff, and the Church Board in your prayers. Further details and the actual agenda, will be in the bulletin and on the website in the coming weeks. ~ *Jim Robb, church moderator*

Update on Janet Stucky in Benin



Janet Stucky, serving with Mennonite Mission Network in Benin, West Africa, brought news of her work to BCMC on June 28 and then attended the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Kansas City where she told of her gardening project and work with nutrition education among women, children and patients at the Bethesda Hospital. After visiting her family in Mt. Lake, MN, Janet returned to Cotonou and will complete her term in late 2015. Pray for her ministry--or email her with encouragement at jhstucky@gmail.com. Following are excerpts from an email to Pastor Dorothy Nickel Friesen (who is also on Janet's Ministry Support Team) after Janet returned to Benin.

"After at least a year of anxiety and waiting for funds to begin the flour pro-

ject, the process has begun! Simply finding time in people's schedules to help with the implementation has been challenging, many of whom have two jobs! Space at Bethesda is tight with the hospital already bulging at the seams and other ancillary services scattered around the community are at capacity. However, the director agreed that we could have an area in the back of the hospital as a temporary work space.

In the last week, a midwife and I have been consulting with a builder, carpenter, electrician, painter, and others to negotiate

two spaces, one an empty shell with three walls and the other a run down shack used for trash and other storage. Within one week, the rooms

have been transformed into a



very usable space! I had no idea that this would be part of my task, but we have been successful in hiring the right people to make our space beautiful, by African standards. The building went up within less than a week and now we are waiting for the electrician and the painter to finish so that we can purchase some of our sup-



plies and begin working at putting our flours together. We are going to be very traditional to begin this project by grinding the grain by hand, heating over a gas fired pot, drying, adding a predetermined protein and leaf mix, labeling, packaging and then selling at a very nominal price to women for their children and to persons with HIV/AIDS. People at Bethesda are happy to see something visible and are very gracious in their congratulations of the fine structure that has come up to serve the people!

At this time we do not have funds for running water and some other amenities, but hopefully additional funds will be coming to make this project one that is workable and sustainable. I have also met with my colleague to plan further training in nutrition of trainers beginning mid-September. We hopefully spread the message of how to eat healthy to a widespread population through use of demonstration and visually showing combinations of foods that are available and will help to improve health.” ~ *Janet Stucky, Benin*

Happy Anniversary!
Congratulations to John and Jan Kelly on their 25th Wedding Anniversary — September 2, 1990



BCMC Kaleidoscope



Spotlight On Youth



Twelve students in the Senior High youth group and five sponsors attended MCUSA convention in Kansas City this summer. The group spent time enjoying worship, seminars, and fellowship time together, including a service project and a trip to Worlds of Fun!

Arlo and Kathryn Kasper Participate in Paraguay Mass Concert for Pope Francis July 10-12

For four months this year, especially via church music, we experienced the excitement and immense dedication here in preparing for the visit of Pope Francis July 10-12. Kathryn helped audition some 1800 hopefuls for a special choir of 500 that a former student of hers conducted for the outdoor Sunday mass before a

throng of 1.5 million. Kathryn led warm-up/tune-ups at rehearsals. Arlo joined in a smaller choir at Cathedral Vespers with the Pope. Extra interest: The conductor, a young Catholic, is a recent music grad of the local Mennonite seminary, and the accompanist for both groups is Mennonite. ~ *Arlo Kasper*

Check the church bulletin board for a more complete article and photos related to this event (sent by Arlo Kasper.)

With Our Members

Child Dedications at BCMC

- * **Eleanor Ruth Porta**, daughter of Katheisha Esau and Fabian Porta, Austin, Texas — July 12, 2015
- * **Grayson Mallet-Provest Murphy V**, son of Kate Brubacher and Grayson Murphy, New York, New York— August 2, 2015

Save Your Labels

Are you saving your Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops for Education? The Hopi school in New Mexico funds educational needs with money raised from the labels and box tops. Please place them in the box which is located under the mailboxes or drop them in the wooden box near the door into the sanctuary.

Thank you so much.
 ~ *Barb Koontz*



BCMC Members Participate in Rally

Ten members of the BCMC community joined representatives from several congregations and community organizations in downtown Wichita on July 17 to express solidarity with victims of the racially-motivated church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina. Several activists and local political leaders spoke to the crowd. Each of the speakers called for stronger gun laws and support for the #blacklivesmatter movement. ~ *John Tyson*



Obituaries



**Marie Ratzlaff—
June 10, 1916—June
22, 2015**

Marie was born in rural Stockham, NE to Dietrich D. and Mary (Janzen) Friesen. She married Dietrich P. Ratzlaff June 9, 1936 in Henderson. They had six children. Marie was formerly a member of Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson and later a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton. Surviving are five sons: Neal (Debra) Ratzlaff of Omaha, NE, Randy (Donna) Ratzlaff of Henderson, Steve (Lynette) Ratzlaff of Fresno, CA, Keith (Treva Reimer) Ratzlaff of Pella, IA and Craig (Carol) Ratzlaff of Aurora, NE; one daughter Jeanne (Vernon) Dreier of Hesston, KS; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one sister Alice Janzen of Reedley, CA; nieces, nephews She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter-in-law Izen Ratzlaff; and two brothers Dietrich and Wilbur Friesen.



**Wanda E.
Claassen—
January 18, 1927—
June 30, 2015**

Wanda was born in Inman, KS to Henry P. and Maria Ediger Nachtigal. She graduated from the Bethel Deaconess Hospital Nursing Program in 1948. She married Donald E. Claassen and he died in 1974. She married Albert J. Loganbill and moved to Dana Point, CA. They returned to Newton and Albert also preceded her in death. Wanda was a lifelong member of Bethel College Mennonite Church. She is survived by her daughters: Joleen Claassen and Debra (Claassen) Van Vleck (Steve); son: David Claassen (Michelle), granddaughters: Cara (Eshelman) Kliewer (Chris), Cristina (Eshelman) Webster (John), Emily (Van Vleck) Tucker (Jeremy), grandsons: William Van Vleck (Kelley Boes),

Dylan Claassen and Jhett Claassen; great-granddaughters: Ava Kliewer, Vivian Kliewer and Eleanor Tucker.



**Howard Mervin
Snider—March
19, 1923—August
2, 2015**

Howard, Bethel College Professor Emeritus, was born in Guernsey, Saskatchewan, to Clemens and Samantha (Biehn) Snider. He had two older sisters and a younger brother. He attended high school at Rosthern (Sask.) Academy in 1942. He did his alternative service in northern Saskatchewan and in Moose Jaw followed by study at Canadian Bible Institute in Regina. He attended Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg, VA in 1948-1949. He was ordained minister in the Sharon Mennonite Church in 1950. In 1953, he went to Goshen (IN) College to complete college and attend seminary and met Marie Gingerich from Lowville, NY and they were married Nov. 27, 1954. In 1957, both Howard and Marie graduated from Goshen Biblical Seminary and moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where Howard became pastor of Holyrood Mennonite Church. He earned a master's degree in sociology from the University of Alberta. He and his family moved to North Newton, KS in 1966. He taught at Bethel College for almost 30 years and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. He joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church in 1977. Howard is survived by his wife Marie; daughter Vada Snider of North Newton; son Conrad Snider of Newton; brother and sister-in-law James and Roberta Gingerich of Moundridge; and nieces and nephews: Janet Bowman, Edith Shantz, Dorothy Peterson and Ruth Deyarmond from Ontario; Lynette Allen, Kara Revel and Darwin Gingerich from Kansas; Brian Snider from British Columbia and other nieces

and nephews from Alberta and Saskatchewan. He is predeceased by his siblings Verda Weber, Elva Heintz and Orval Snider.



**Viola Edna
Duerksen Ediger—
August 27, 1922—
August 11, 2015**

Viola was born on the west side of Lake Inman. She had 3 sisters, Louise, Elda, and Darlene. She attended Bethel College before leaving to teach school near Inman, and then in Newton. She went to California and to Poughkeepsie, NY for voluntary service, and to Paraguay, South America for two years with the Mennonite Central Committee. Viola returned to Bethel College and met Ferd Ediger. They were married in 1950 and, after seminary in Chicago, served with the Commission on Overseas Missions in Japan. They served in Japan from 1953 until 1983. They moved to Canada due to health concerns. Ferd pastored a church in Regina, Saskatchewan, until his death in 1988. Stan Voth and Viola Ediger were married in 1992 and subsequently celebrated 23 years of marriage. Viola is survived by her husband, Stan Voth, her 5 children, 8 grandchildren, and two great-grand-children.



**Pastor's
Corner—John
Tyson**

We're In It Together

The highlight of my summer was the joy of being with twelve high school students and four sponsors at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City. As the delegates discerned resolutions on some of the most challenging and intense issues of our time, students likewise spent significant time engaging in worship and seminars related to issues relevant for their lives and generation. As sponsors and I reflected together during convention,

we seemed to find ourselves living in the tension between 'the church as it is' and 'the church as it is becoming.' We were paying attention to conversations in the delegate assembly but we were also listening and engaging with the students as they open new paths of possibility, making way for a new church to emerge.

On one of our final evenings together in KC, a consensus emerged in our Senior High youth group that we should all attend together a seminar on dating – an obvious issue of importance for teenagers and emerging adults. A few hours later, we converged on the seminar room that would host the session on dating and it was at full capacity. Over 500 young people filled this room, hungry for dating wisdom, and maybe a few tips. Soon after the seminar began, it became clear that this would be controversial. It quickly became offensive. Amidst the sensitive resolutions under discussion in the delegate hall, the dating seminar was utterly tone deaf. It belittled the LGBTQ community. It celebrated ugly forms of female objectification and said nothing about the rise of sexualized violence. It provided little to nothing of substance for the hundreds of Mennonite youth to consider as they begin to seek partnership for the journey of life. It was a tremendous opportunity to speak into the lives of young people and, in my view, it was lost.

Thankfully, before going to the seminar, we all agreed to have dinner out to celebrate a birthday and engage in a time of reflection together. For the sponsors and me, this was a time to listen and pay attention to how this particular seminar was received by our students. For the students, this was a time to process the experience.

Return service requested

rience, holding it up in the light of their own emerging beliefs, ideas, and experiences. Conversation eventually began to flow between students and sponsors and important ideas and values were shared in both directions. What emerged is reminiscent of the practice known as *Zeugnis*, a form of communal discernment and correction at the center of the Anabaptist theological movement that typically occurred in worship following the sermon. This time it happened at a draft house in downtown KC after a disappointing seminar on dating, but it was no less effective and meaningful.

Zeugnis isn't easy. It requires a true level of courage, vulnerability, and trust: the

courage to speak, the vulnerability to accept the risk of disagreement and conflict, and the trust in yourself and others that you will listen and others will listen to you. Few, if any, congregations practice *Zeugnis* in its original form. As someone who occasionally preaches, I'm frankly glad that's the case. Yet it hasn't left us entirely. I see vestiges of *Zeugnis* remaining with us when students and sponsors engage in critical discernment, listening clearly to one another, while putting their thoughts truly on the table but with low fences to guard them. Beneath the conversation, there exists an implicit recognition that absorbing each other's perspective is a better good than winning an argument or coming to a resolution. I hope this old and yet new form of conversation continues its resurrection as a new church emerges.

Karen LeVan, David LeVan, and Ben Lichti are responsible for shepherding a student group that is remarkably diverse and yet able to discern together in a style that makes sense to them. It is a tremendous testament to the deep relationships they have cultivated over the course of their two year term as a sponsor team, a term that included several transitions in the associate pastor role. As this sponsor team concluded its time together at the convention, I'm profoundly grateful for the gifts they have shared and the time they have spent with students at BCMC. (Ben will continue with a new sponsor team alongside Nancy Mueller & Tim and Bethany Schrag.)

The tension between 'the church as it is' and 'the church as it

is becoming' was particularly acute during the convention for anyone with one foot in the delegate conversations and the other on the youth side. It generates pain and hope at the same time. But, like transitions, it's also an opportunity for discovery and, perhaps, rediscovery. As our group of students and sponsors rediscovered the unlikely practice of *Zeugnis* in the heart of downtown KC, I discovered anew that the work of ministry isn't something pastors do alone. Pastoral work is an activity as much as it's a vocation or a role. That means we're in it together – students, sponsors, and pastors alike. Thanks be to God.

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.

September 2015

- September 6:** Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen
- September 13:** Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; Music by Chancel, Cherub and Junior Choirs
- September 20: Peace Sunday** Worship with sermon by John Stoner; music by Chancel Bells
- September 27:** Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Choir and Junior Choir

October 2015

- October 4: Worldwide Communion** Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by Chancel and Cherub Choirs
- October 11: Fall Fest Sunday** Worship with Bethel College students and faculty; music by the Bethel College Concert Choir
- October 18:** Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Choir
- October 25:** Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by Chancel Bells