

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

September—October 2016 10:5



Pastor's Corner— John Tyson Change is in the Air

Since moving to Kansas, I've had to get used to the idea that school starts before Labor Day. We were lucky enough in my growing up years in Pennsylvania to have our summer break last well into September, when the air was just crisp enough at the bus stop to remind us that fall was knocking on the door. I'm glad things get started a little earlier around here. Truth be told, the summer can be a little slow for pastors, especially when their main duty is to relate to children, youth, young adults, and families.

As a new school year begins, change is in the air. It's great to see students walking to class at Bethel College. It's great to see more children and youth back participating in new Sunday school classes and during Wednesday evening activities. It's great to see so many others returning refreshed from summer trips and vacations. The summer isn't technically over, but a new year has begun.

Change is also in the air at BCMC. Construction crews have been hard at work renovating the front entrance.

I'm grateful to be writing in an office with fresh paint and new carpet. Another Sunday school year is underway as children and youth move into new classes. As we go further into the fall, we will welcome Dawn Yoder Harms into the ministry of the congregation. These are exciting changes to congregational life.

In general, the church has an interesting relationship to change. It is one that mirrors the relationship to change that many institutions have, but with a twist. We aren't necessarily called to change in and of itself. We're invited by God to join in the work of transformation. The change we are called to embrace means something more profound than just replacing something that exists with something new or different, like changing the color of the walls or the carpet style. Transformation differs from mere change because it is about taking what exists and bringing it to deeper fulfillment. Transformation is harder than change.

In a 1983 lecture, Jaroslav Pelikan, a decorated church historian, famously dropped the one-liner,

"Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living." Pelikan was speaking primarily to the context of post-Christian Europe, where the church had become a stagnate institution among others instead of a living, breathing community. Pelikan called the church to the ongoing task of discerning between its practices of being community that are artifacts of stagnate traditionalism and its practices of being community that connect to the beauty and depth of its lasting tradition.

Our context is different, but Pelikan's challenge is relevant to us. At the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita, they teach that organizations tend to dwell in the tension between transformation and stagnation. These days I'm spending a lot of time trying to discern between the aspects of our congregational life that contribute to our transformation and the aspects of our congregational life that contribute to our stagnation. This is a hard and constant task, but the reality is that I'm not alone in this work of this discernment. Many of you are doing the same work from various vantage points.

It is the sign of a living and breathing community when people question traditionalism. It is the sign of a living and breathing community when people wonder openly how we might better reflect the beauty and depth of our tradition in our changing 21st century context. It all comes from a desire to grow deeper into the transformation that God invites us toward.

During this time when change is in the air, I'm ener-

gized by the transformation that is ongoing with us. It is a form of transformation that moves openly toward the future, while doing so in a relationship of integrity with our past. It is hard work, but it is fulfilling work. It's the work God has given us.

Peace Sunday at BCMC September 18



Dennis Koehn grew up in the Bethel College Mennonite Church. He refused to register for the draft during

the Vietnam War and served eighteen months in a federal prison. His academic interests are in areas of theology, ethics and human sciences. Dennis studied at Bethel College, Harvard University, and Chicago Theological Seminary. He currently works as a management consultant, specializing in executive coaching with CEO's and strategic planning. He lives in Chicago, where he loves to bike to the beach, swim, and read. The title of his message for Peace Sunday is *Peacemaking and Polarization*. ~ Lois Goertzen, Witness Commission

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Living Stones II Update

Several of the projects approved by the Congregation as part of Living Stones II have been completed, or are close to completion.

♦ **Stone Cleaning** – Completed! The two areas of the stone in the sanctuary, under the stained glass windows where condensation from the windows had left some water marks, and on the north side towards the back of the sanctuary where water has leaked in the past have been cleaned. The exterior stone has also been cleaned, and tuck pointed where needed. The window and door perimeters were also resealed.

Before

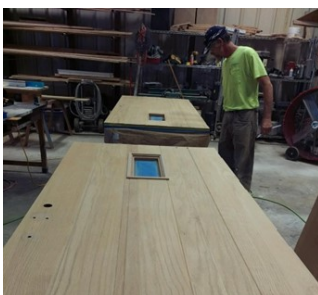


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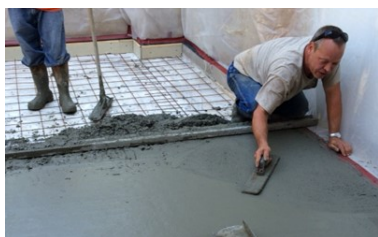


♦ **Main entry foyer** – Ceiling completed! A new ceiling with significantly improved lighting has been installed.

♦ **Main entry doors** - The exterior side of the main doors, as well as the exterior wood trim, are in the process of being refinished and an automatic door opener will be installed on the north door.



♦ **Entrance Ramp** – Weather continues to be a challenge, all of the rain has caused many delays in the concrete work. New light poles are being installed along the ramp as well as along the sidewalk from the north entrance out to the street.



- ♦ **Library** – Completed! The main library, the childrens' library, and Room 14 were painted by Darlene Dick and Margo Schrag. The old carpet and asbestos tile were removed and new carpet installed.
- ♦ **Offices** - Completed! The reception area and two offices were painted by Hugo Boschmann; Darlene Dick painted the lead pastor's office; and new carpeting has been installed.

Thanks to everyone for your understanding and cooperation while work is being done! ~ *Annette Lamp, Living Stones II Task Force Coordinator*

Harvest Giving Walk

You are invited to participate in the fourth annual Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk to raise funds for hunger relief, Sunday, October 9, 1:30 p.m. leaving from Tabor Mennonite Church, 891 Chisholm Trail Road, Newton. BCMC will participate in this event in lieu of the Newton CROP Walk, which is not occurring this year. Mark your calendars and contact Amy Tyson, (jatyson121@gmail.com or 319-750-8747) to sign up to participate in the two or six mile walk. Donations will go to support Mennonite Central Committee and the local Tabor Church Food Pantry. Please make checks payable to Harvest Giving Walk.

~ *Amy Tyson, BCMC Harvest Giving Walk Coordinator*

Labels and Boxtops for Education

Barb Koontz, BCMC representative for the Hopi Mission School reminds all of us to save soup labels and box tops to forward to Hopi Mission School in Arizona. BCMC makes our donations through Western District. Recently the school received a 2016 minivan which required 60,000,000 points. This requires a lot of donations from many of us, so please remember to save these items.

~ *Lois Goertzen*



Western District Conference Annual Session

The annual session of the Western District Conference of the Mennonite Church USA was held July 29-30 on the Bethel College campus, North Newton. The opening worship session was Friday evening, July 29 at BCMC with Marty Troyer, pastor of Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church, Houston, TX presenting the message entitled, "In Houston as it is in Heaven" asking "What if what we want is already here?" then referencing Jesus' statement "The Kingdom of God is among you". He spoke of the gospel as bridging the gap between the world that is and the world that can be, that our mission as the church is not only saving souls but saving lives through justice and through "seeking the peace of the city", that Shalom is not just the absence of violence but also the presence of justice. Also included in that session was the installation of Jennie Wintermote as the new quarter-time Library Director for Western District Conference Resource Library, Bruce Pellecer as Associate Conference Minister based in Texas and Kathy Neufeld Dunn as a ¾ time Associate Conference Minister (KS – based). The evening con-

cluded with a service of communion.

Delegates and visitors convened Saturday morning in Memorial Hall for the business session which opened with music and scripture centered around the conference theme, "Held together in Mission" based on Matthew 28: 16-20. Shared stories of Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, reaching out to their rural neighbors through their Wednesday evening meetings and of Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, creating an advocacy team to support nearby residents of a low income housing unit illustrated God at work in our world. Discussion around the tables centered on the question "Where do you see God at work in your church and community?" As was the case on Friday evening, music and scripture reflected the increasing bi-lingual nature of our conference and Spanish translation was available in all business sessions.

Business before the delegates included consideration of the 2017 budget of \$588,050 and was adopted by acclamation. The nomination ballot to fill positions of Moderator Elect (Ray Reimer, Zion, Elbing), Board Secretary (Allen Jantz, Faith, Newton), Executive Board (Cynthia Loganbill, Hope, Wichita, and Jim Sticky, Faith, Newton,) as well as positions on various commissions was also adopted by acclamation.

In her State of the Conference Report, Conference Minister, Heidi Regier Kreider noted that Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston, which had held associate membership in Western District conference as well as being a member of South Central Conference has withdrawn its associate membership status in WDC as a proce-

dural matter, not because of any dissatisfaction with the conference.

The chair of the Deacon Board of Inman Mennonite Church presented a statement noting that following the MCUSA decisions at their conference in July of 2015 and after prayerful consideration and discussions with WDC, Inman Mennonite Church has withdrawn as a member of WDC and has formally been accepted as a member of South Central Conference. Heidi Regier Kreider then led in a prayer of release for that congregation. In an attempt to clarify the relationship between WDC and several other organizations, the Executive Board brought a change of Bylaw 5 to the Delegate assembly for approval. A two-thirds vote is required for such an amendment and a clear support for the change was indicated by a voice vote.

Afternoon workshops included a wide variety of options including "Justice for Undocumented People", "Creative Contemplative Prayer", "Israel/Palestine Learning Tour Report", "Making Sanctuaries Safe for Children and Youth", "Learning to Stay Grounded", "The Power of Stories" along with several on Rural Mission topics and others.

Conference concluded Saturday evening with a Mini Music Festival on the Bethel Campus which was open to the public. Krehbiel Auditorium, the Prairie Skies Stage, Krehbiel Science Center Foyer and Mantz Library Lounge were the venues for a variety of musical groups including The Flannelbacks, Venegas Duo, Four Times Harder, Book of JEBB, and Rosewood Winds among others. ~ Dianne Epp

Mark Kreider Receives Scholarship

Mark Kreider, student at Goshen College, Goshen, IN was recently awarded a \$1,000

scholarship from Everence. He is among 42 recipients of Everence college scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year. More than 160 students from across the country submitted applications for these awards which were based on academics, leadership, community involvement and responses to an essay question. Congratulations, Mark, for this honor, and best wishes as you continue your studies.

~ Lois Goertzen

The Bethel College Relations Team hosted an ice cream social Aug. 28, for students as they began a new semester



Congratulations to Shirley and Paul Harms Who Celebrate 60 years of Marriage—September 10



A Week at Camp Mennoscah is a Highlight of the Summer



Lucy Burch stayed in the "Skylark" Cabin

Many children, youth, and adults from BCMC took time off to camp and serve at Camp Mennoscah this summer!

Campers included: Lucy Burch, Lily Schloneger,

Justin Zerger, Abby Koontz, Katherine Friesen, Elisabeth Friesen, Braylon Butcher, Eva Dungan, Oliver Dungan, Elizabeth Lamp, Alice Claassen, Emma Claassen, Caleb Koontz, Jonah Schloneger, Alahna Wheat, Katherine Lamp, Maggie Dungan, Anjela Rodriguez, and Mercedes Rodriguez.

Those who served included: Connor Born, Maggie Dungan, Sarah Turner, Mike Claassen, Kevin Neufeld, Adam Robb, Jill Robb, and Jeanette Leary.

BCMC is grateful for the wonderful gift of Camp Mennoscah to our faith community!

~ John Tyson



Alice Claassen enjoys a game of Frisbee at camp

Bethel College Mennonite Church
P.O. Box 364
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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 2016

September 4

Worship with reflections by George Leary, Marlene Ewert and John Waltner; music by the Chancel Bells

September 11

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by the Chancel Choir, Youth, Junior Choir and Cherub Choir

September 18—Peace Sunday

Worship with sermon by Dennis Koehn; music by the Chancel Choir

11:45 a.m. All Church Potluck in Fellowship Hall—Everyone is invited!

12:45 p.m. Fall Congregational Meeting—Sanctuary

September 25

Worship with sermon by June Thomsen; music by the Menno Ringers

October 2016

October 2—Bethel College Fall Fest Sunday

Worship will begin at 10 a.m. with Bethel College students and faculty; music by the Bethel College Concert Choir

No Sunday school this Sunday

October 9—World Wide Communion Sunday

Worship with sermon by June Thomsen; music by the Chancel Bells

October 16

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by the Chancel Choir

October 23

Worship with sermon by June Thomsen; music by the Chancel Choir and the Cherub Choir

October 30

Worship with sermon by Perry Bush, the Menno Simons Lecturer at Bethel College; music by the Junior Choir

Obituaries



Ethel Grace Ewert Abrahams—August 3, 1923 – July 5, 2016

Ethel Grace Ewert was born August

3, 1923 in Hillsboro, KS, to Gerhard and Helena Peters Ewert. Ethel was baptized and joined the Hillsboro First Mennonite Church in 1938. She attended Hillsboro grade and high schools. She graduated with degrees in Art from Bethel College (BA) and from Wichita State University (MA). September 26, 1944, Ethel married her high school sweetheart, Norman E. Abrahams. Ethel worked as a secretary to put Norman through optometry school in Chicago. They were blessed with four children: Nan, David, Dwayne, and Nadine. The family settled in Hillsboro, KS. Ethel volunteered with Mennonite Library and Archives, Kauffman Museum, and Wichita Art Museum. She served on the boards of Hillsboro Public Library, Kansas Women's Association, Kauffman Museum, Kansas Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale, and Bethel College Women's Association. In 1980, Ethel researched and published the book *Frakturmalen und Schoenscreiben: The Fraktur art and penmanship of the Dutch-German Mennonites while in Europe 1700-1900*. After relocating to North Newton in 1988 at age 65, she embarked on an exceptional quilting career, creating over 200 exquisite quilts. Her passion led to research, writing, and lecturing about crazy quilts, tobacco silks, and vintage doll quilts.

Ethel and Norman joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church in 1989.

Several years after Norman died, Ethel moved to Kidron Bethel Village, then later to Schowalter Villa. Surviving her are her children, Nan (Don) Graber of Monument, CO, Dwayne (Ruth Regier) Abrahams of rural Newton, and Nadine (Norm Epp) Abrahams of Lakewood, CO, grandchildren Dana Graber (Stephen) Ladek, Nichole Graber (Billy) Simmons, Nathan (Elizabeth Weidner) Abrahams, Kristen Abrahams, Mark (Amanda) Abrahams, and Kaitlin Abrahams. Five great grandchildren include Kylan, Auden, and Eliana Graber Ladek, Jaden Graber Simmons, and Jolene Abrahams. Ethel was preceded in death by her son, David, and husband Norman.



Ruth Cordelia Duerksen Linscheid—April 13, 1931—August 4, 2016

Ruth was born in Goessel, KS, the daughter of Gustav and Emma Schmidt Duerksen. She spent most of her childhood on a farm one and a quarter miles north of town. She had an older brother Walden and younger sister Emmalyn. (Another sister, Olivia, died in infancy when Ruth was 2 years old.) She attended Good Hope School. Ruth's mother died when Ruth was 13. When she was a senior in high school, a new Social Science teacher, J. Willard Linscheid, came to Goessel. After Ruth graduated, she met Willard again at her best friend's wedding. Shortly thereafter, he invited her to a movie. On July 24, 1951, they were married at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. They had three sons, David and John in March 1953 and Steven in October

1955.

After her sons entered grade school, Ruth enrolled at Bethel College. She graduated in 1968 and became an elementary school teacher, initially in Newton and then for 17 years in Goessel.

Ruth and Willard were particularly excited to become grandparents. In 1984, Aaron was born to David and Cynthia. In 1985, he was joined by younger brother Joel.

In 1986, Ruth and Willard retired to North Newton. Not long after, in the summer of 1987, Willard was diagnosed with cancer. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary eight months before he died in 1992. When Aaron married Caitlin Welch, Ruth baked all of the zwieback for their wedding reception. In 2011, Ruth became "GG" (great grandmother) to Adam, and to his brother Coen in 2013. And in her last years, she took great interest in the urban farm that Joel's fiancé Kim Schmidt was developing in Wichita.

When diagnosed with pancreatic cancer late in 2015, Ruth chose to engage hospice rather than fight the terminal disease. She died August 4, 2016, at Kidron Bethel Healthcare in North Newton, on the 90th anniversary of her parents' marriage.

Survivors include three sons, David A. (Cynthia) Linscheid of North Newton, Kansas, John M. Linscheid (Ken White) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Steven K. Linscheid (Anne Crichton) of Washington Grove, Maryland; two grandsons, Aaron (Caitlin) Linscheid of Kansas City, Kansas, and Joel Linscheid (Kim Schmidt) of Wichita, Kansas; two great grandsons (Adam and Coen Linscheid of Kansas City); a brother, Walden (Susan) Duerksen of Goessel, and a sister, Emmalyn (John) Hiebert of Beatrice, Nebraska; and 12 nieces and nephews: Yvonne Hiebert, J'Nan Ensz, Tamara Jost, Kim-

berly Funk, Londell Duerksen, Russ Duerksen, Kristin Neufeld, Gretchen Isaak, Garth Isaak, John Weaver, Mark Weaver and Rebecca Weaver.

She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Willard, her parents, Gustav and Emma (Schmidt) Duerksen, her sister, Olivia Duerksen, her mother-in-law, Anna Linscheid, two sisters-in-law, Katherine Weaver and Marjorie Isaak, and two brothers-in-law, Arthur Isaak and Clyde Weaver.



Marie Gingerich Snider—August 9, 1927—August 30, 2016

Marie was born to Nicholas and Dorothy (Moser) Gingerich, in New Bremen, New York. Brother Jim was born five years later. At the age of 4, Marie entered first grade in a one-room schoolhouse next door to the family farm on Route 12 in Lewis County. After graduating from Lowville Free Academy at the age of 14, Marie attended Eastern Mennonite and Goshen colleges. She taught for several years at a one-room school in Lowville and at Rockway Mennonite School in Kitchener, Ontario. Returning to Goshen Seminary to earn a master's degree in religious education, she met Howard Snider from Guernsey, Saskatchewan. They were married at New Bremen Mennonite Church in Lowville, New York, on Nov. 27, 1954. (Howard died on August 2, 2015.)

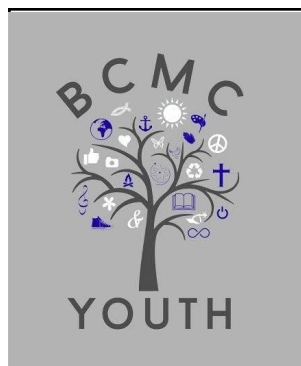
In 1957, the Sniders moved to Edmonton, Alberta. Vada was born in 1958 and Conrad in 1962. In the mid-1960s, Howard accepted a faculty position at

Bethel College and the family moved to North Newton.

Marie began working at Prairie View Mental Health Center in 1967. Throughout the years her role expanded and, when she retired in 1991, she was director of communications.

In 1976, Marie edited the booklet "Media and Terrorism: The Psychological Impact," which was later reprinted in its entirety in the report of the United States House of Representatives subcommittee on Media and Terrorism. She won numerous national awards for healthcare communications, including the prestigious MacEachern Award from the Association of Hospital Public Relations. In her 50s, Marie returned to school again, this time earning a master's degree in communications from Kansas State University. Her master's thesis, titled "Sex Roles in the Comic Strips – a Historical Perspective, 1896-1979," led to dozens of speaking engagements. In 1980, she was invited to appear as "the real Marie Snider" on the television show "To Tell the Truth." After retiring from Prairie View, Marie began writing "This Side of 60." The column was syndicated and at one point appeared in more than 70 newspapers across the United States and Canada. She wrote the final column only 10 weeks before her death.

Marie is survived by daughter Vada, son Conrad (Diane Sorensen) and 4-legged George of North Newton; brother Jim (Roberta) Gingerich, Moundridge, KS nieces Lynette (James) Allen, Moundridge, and Kara (Dean) Revel, Miltonvale, KS; nephew Darwin (Jodi) Gingerich, Moundridge; great nieces and nephews; Boshart, Widrick, Moser and Gingerich cousins in eastern United States; sister-in-law Agnes Snider Weber and Snider nieces and nephews in Canada.



The Bethel College Mennonite Church Senior High Youth Group, (and their sponsors) has been busy. A couple of weeks ago they helped with moving all of the books from the BCMC library to storage so that the library could be re-carpeted. August 17 they met at Play-Mor Lanes for bowling. They had a gathering at George and Jeanette Leary's home in Moundridge on August 24.

September 7 they gathered with other area Mennonite church youth groups at Faith Mennonite Church for games and other activities. The pictures below were taken then.

September 24 there will be a Fall Mentor Gathering at the home of Adam and Jill Robb.

October 9 they will participate in the Harvest Giving Walk which starts from Tabor Mennonite Church.

They are all wearing their BCMC t-shirts with the logo (pictured) which they designed. Be sure to remember these young people in your thoughts and prayers.

