

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

March— April 2017 11:2



Do We Truly Belong?

By John Tyson



To be honest, I was nervous about convention in 2015. I hadn't attended a Mennonite Church USA convention since 2005,

back when I was fresh off my senior year of high school. And this time I was the one bringing the youth along! I wondered as we set off on our short drive to Kansas City, what kind of church would we encounter at this convention?

The youth group I have the awesome privilege of serving now is different from the youth group I was a member of years ago. A rich diversity of racial and cultural identities are represented among us. For many youth, English isn't their first language, or the language they speak with their families. Most youth don't come from Mennonite backgrounds. In fact, neither do I.

All of us at some point have wondered: do we truly belong in this church, in this denomination?

The answer we received from our experience at KC2015 was an absolute yes!

I was thankful to see the growing diversity within Mennonite Church USA reflected

in leadership and in voice. I was thankful to see this diversity come through in the inspiring stories we heard from our speakers and in the multitude of ways that we worshipped God throughout the week.

For the first time, our youth group truly experienced how diverse Mennonite Church USA is from coast to coast. This was important to me. Over the course of the week, I sensed that this encounter with our denominational diversity began to sink-in as students became more engaged in worship. I sensed that they discovered space to belong in this emerging lovely and messy church.

Regardless of cultural background, the reality is that all youth in our congregations are wondering if they truly belong. They are wondering if the church will receive them for who they are today, not just who they might be tomorrow.

As new generations of Anabaptist youth emerge, tomorrow will certainly look different from today. My hope is that we will continue to reflect our diversity, learn from one another, and open our doors wider. I'm confident that Orlando 2017 will turn these hopes into reality showing our youth that they truly belong to this church is one way we can show that Love is a Verb.

Published in the Mennonite Church USA "The Convention Newsletter"/"The Convention Blog"

Migration Series



In 1962 *The Mennonite* published a series of five articles on the theme of migration. Each article had its own title, but they were collectively titled "Strangers in the Bible." Themes of faith confronted by displacement, alienation, wandering and homelessness thread their way throughout the five articles. These themes describing the status of a refugee are remarkably contemporary. Thousands are on the move today, torn by violence or the threat of violence from the homes they knew.

The articles were written by a single author, Pieter de Jong. Maynard Shelly was the editor of *The Mennonite* at this time. Bob Regier was the art editor. Bob chose to illustrate each article with an original woodblock print. The five titles for the prints were: *The Departure of Abraham*, *The Diaspora*,

Crossing the Red Sea, *The Crucifixion*, and *The Mennonite Flight from Russia*. The original blocks are still available. Bob has lifted a new print off of each block. These will be framed and displayed in the Gathering Place in March.

The Art Committee will be offering additional impressions from three of these blocks for purchase, unframed, at \$100 each. The three are *The Diaspora*, *Crossing the Red Sea*, and the *Mennonite Flight from Russia*. They will be printed by hand on Japanese rice paper. Eighty percent of the income from sales will support the art budget which is used to expand and enhance the visual resources of our church. Twenty percent will be designated for Mennonite Central Committee refugee work.

Prints that are requested will be produced by Bob with the assistance of David Kreider in early summer.

To place an order for these prints: *The Diaspora*, *Crossing the Red Sea*, and *Mennonite Flight From Russia*. contact the church office, Monica Lichti, 283-3667, office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org or Darlene Dick darlened@juno.com or 283-7416. Prints will be available after June 1. ~ Darlene Dick, Art Committee

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Happy 80th Birthday Rosie Horst!



Rosie Horst loves stories. Hers begins on March 17, 1937, in Kansas City, where she was born. At the age of three days, she was welcomed into the home of her adoptive parents, Gerhart and Mary Claassen.

Rosie grew up in Newton, just a few doors down from First Mennonite Church, her family's home congregation. She enjoyed playing with neighborhood friends Helen Bertrand and Susan (Schmidt) Rhoades. Rosie attended McKinley Elementary School and graduated from Newton High School.

Her parents had been told that Rosie was of Irish decent, so each year she enjoyed an extra-special St. Patrick's Day birthday celebration. Only much later in life did Rosie learn that she was actually German, not Irish!

After a brief stint at Bethel College, Rosie began a term of Mennonite Central Committee voluntary service in Bethesda, Maryland, working in a Baptist children's home. While there she met Dale, a young man from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who was fulfilling his alternative service assignment at the National Institute for Health (NIH).

Following their marriage in 1956, they moved to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where their son Roger was born. In

1958, they returned to Newton for Dale to study at Bethel College. After Dale graduated, they moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, where Dale worked for the NIH and completed his graduate studies at Georgetown University and Rosie tended the home front. During these years they traveled to Lancaster, Pennsylvania on weekends to visit Dale's family and participate in Bethel Mennonite Church. After nearly six years in Silver Spring, Dale's work took their family to Nutley, New Jersey, where they lived for 20 years, worshipping at West Swamp Mennonite Church in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. When it was time to retire in 1986, Dale and Rosie moved back to Kansas, onto a farm north of Newton, where they continue to reside. They were members at Goessel Mennonite Church from 1986-1998, and they joined Bethel College Mennonite Church in 1999. When asked about hobbies, Rosie's eyes sparkle as she says, "Mennonite stories and history!" Perhaps because of her marriage to a Lancaster County Mennonite, she is particularly fascinated by

how different varieties of Mennonites came together during wartime through alternative service.

Along the way, Rosie has pursued several hobbies together with Dale. While living in New Jersey, their interest in collecting duck decoys took them to many interesting places and provided opportunity to meet many interesting people. During recent years, they have been collecting the artwork of F.S. Church, which lines the walls of their home. An outgrowth of this interest has been a jointly published book, featuring beautiful renderings of Church's works and the stories behind them.

These days Rosie enjoys hand-writing letters, reading (especially history), and gathering for a meal with her family, including grandchildren, on Sunday evenings. Aside from the goal of "staying warm and moving," Rosie hopes that people will be interested in learning history—the story of who we are—before it disappears.

We hope your 80th year is one of good health, continuing curiosity, and meaningful connection, Rosie. Thank you for blessing us with your story!

~ Dawn Yoder Harms



Rosie and her childhood friends. Rosie is on the front row, left; Helen Bertrand is front row, right; Susan Rhoades is in the second row, just to Rosie's left

Happy 80th Birthday Lois Goertzen!



Lois, the youngest of eight siblings, arrived April 5, 1937. Her parents, Mary (Stucky) and William Paul Groves were living in town in Freeman, South Dakota, but moved to the country when she was five where the family helped her uncle with a poultry business. Lois has fond memories on this farm with 2500 baby chicks, 1500 laying hens and all other life on the farm. Sadly, her father died when she was thirteen and she and her mother moved back into their family home in town.

Lois loved school, and along with the usual courses she was active in small singing groups, played French horn and drums, and in the small school had a host of good friends. She remembers what fun it was to participate in music contests. Church at Bethany Mennonite in town in Freeman was an important part of her growing up years. She was baptized when she was 14. Lois attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD for one year. She then joined two of her brothers in Denver, CO, and worked at a hospital in the accounting department. In 1957, another brother called to ask if she wanted to apply for a job at the General Conference in Newton, KS, and she made another move.

It was in Newton while singing in Elvera Voth's com-

munity chorus that she met her future husband, Orlando, a senior at Bethel College. They married in August of 1958, at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Lois worked part time for the General Conference and Mennonite Press throughout these early years of family life. Baby Teresa arrived, then Carolyn, and Cindy was born early in the morning after moving day into the house they had built at 22nd and Ivy, North Newton. Sandra rounded out the family of four girls six years later. Orlando and she bought and operated United Printing and Office Supplies for 28 years. After selling that business, Lois then worked at Mennonite Aid Union of Kansas, located in Hesston, and has fond memories of time spent there with other employees. After eight years there, she retired.

Family memories center around ten day summer vacation trips each year, often visiting relatives. A highlight for the family was being part of the “Beaver Bunch.” For nine years this group of four families enjoyed a week together at Beaver Lake in Arkansas. She chuckles, “we provided entertainment for every one else!” These families have been forever friends for her.

Lois has always loved to garden, and did a lot of sewing for her girls as they grew. She is a baker and a cook, too. Having her family of 15 seated around her dining room table bring her much joy. Since 1959 she and Orlando participated at BCMC where Lois continues to sing in the choir, is co-editor of the *Kaleidoscope*, helps with Women’s Fellowship Circle, and serves on the Funeral Committee. Orlando’s death came suddenly in 2008 when he was 74. Three years later in 2012 Lois moved from the home

they had built in Campus Woods to her Kidron Bethel apartment. These days her deepest joy comes from time spent with her children and seven grandchildren, and the hours of volunteering at the Et Cetera shop.

The hymn, *My life flows on*, HWB 580, comes to mind as she ponders her journey of life and faith. Lois, may this 80th year bring many more smiles and hugs, and, as this hymn chorus states, “Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,” I know that you will, no doubt, keep on singing!

~ Susan Wheeler

Happy 80th Birthday Marlene Faul!



Having visited all 50 states and traveled internationally to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Korea, China, Brazil, Paraguay, Mexico and Canada, Marlene is looking forward to her 80th birthday event to her favorite place in the United States, the Grand Canyon. Camping three days at the Grand Canyon in the large RV of her daughter Mary, husband Troy, and three labs (dogs), will be quite an experience, but the helicopter ride over the canyon sounds marvelous!

Marlene was born to Rudolph and Violet (Kelm) Cole in Clarkfield, Minnesota on April 27, 1937. The oldest of four children, growing up on a farm,

Marlene loved the lifestyle. However, with loads of work, she did not want to marry a poor farmer. Guess what? She did not marry a poor farmer, nor a rich one. She married a poor school teacher, Jim Faul teaching in Freeman, SD and later at Bethel College. However, she has no regrets!

Marlene grew up Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and has always appreciated this part of her faith journey. She appreciates the basics taught as a young child: the 10 commandments, 23rd Psalm, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, hymns, especially, *Holy, Holy, Holy* - a hymn sung every Sunday and as a little child knew all four stanzas from memory and could participate in worship with singing and the liturgy. To begin each day, Marlene wakes up seeing the neighbor's Bradford Pear tree outside her bedroom window (she never shuts the blinds) and recites, “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24).

In her lifetime, she has lived near Granite Falls, MN; in Minneapolis, MN; Warroad, MN, Newton and North Newton, KS. They all have been very meaningful places. When Jim was called to restart the instrumental program at Bethel College in 1963, Marlene became bookstore manager for four years until they adopted their first daughter Sharon. Two years later they adopted Mary. During that time Bethel College Mennonite Church had some challenges and Marlene was asked to be church secretary on a part-time basis. That part-time basis lasted 34 years!

Working with pastors is a NEW EXPERIENCE! They are all unique and different. Esko Loewen was first, and John A. Esau was the second. They became co-pastors. Do

you know what is great about co-pastors? The administrative assistant is in charge! In trying to figure out who the Mennonites were, Esko and John were very helpful. Growing up in an ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Church, Marlene had no clue about the Mennonites.

Retirement came in June 2002. Jim and Marlene had their retirement plans all figured out with international travel for a month and then he was to teach music at Hopi Indian Reservation. However, Jim’s cancer returned, so mission work was no longer a possibility. Now what to do with retirement years? She decided to do something for children. So, Marlene applied to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children). After all the background checks and training, she received her first case in August, 2003. To this day, she is still a CASA. It is emotionally challenging, but Marlene feels fulfilled when winning a case for the best interest of the child(ren). In 2014, she received the honor of “CASA Volunteer of the Year” with a beautiful engraved Karg Glass.

Having volunteered for 15 years since retirement: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children) with two cases at a time, Circles of Hope Ally, New Hope (Homeless) Shelter shift worker, clerk at Et Cetera Shop, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), Scandinavian Society of Wichita – have held all offices and been in charge of the annual Smorgasbord for 80-120 people for over a decade at Christmas time – providing lefse for all of them; FCE (Family and Community Education) – a national organization and held many offices for the state, area, county, and local organization, Secretary of Western District Women in Mission, and many areas of BCMC church work – currently both President and Vice

President of Women's Fellowship, Deacon (secretary), Bell Choir, Everence Advocate, Funeral Committee, teaching VBS.

What will 80 years and beyond be like? Hopefully not like her parents. Marlene's parents were very involved in church work and then her dad died at age 80 and her Mother had a major stroke at 80 but lived till a month before her 90th birthday. Maybe it is time to hang up the volunteering and just enjoy Marlene's passions of family – two daughters and spouses, four grandchildren, two with spouses, three great grands; four step grands with spouses, seven step great grands; ethnic cooking – especially Scandinavian; concerts, games/cards, and her beloved Dallas Cowboys!
Written by Marlene Faul
Edited by John Tyson



A total of 111 church members participated in this event with 27 hosting and 84 guests. Members voiced their preference on a sign-up sheet a couple weeks in advance of the event.

The Hospitality Commission who orchestrated the event assigned the guests to the hosts, and the guests received a note in their mailboxes the morning of the 12th as to which host homes they were assigned. Earlier, guests were notified which food items to bring to fill out the meal with hosts furnishing the main course, bread and drink. Hosts didn't know who was coming until guests arrived.

Editorial Note: I was a guest and part of a group of six, and can vouch for the hospitality of the hosts, and the lively conversation around the table. It certainly served as a wonder-

ful time of fellowship where we enjoyed some delicious food. Statistics of numbers participating from Jeanette Leary, Hospitality Commission chair.
 ~ Lois Goertzen

BCMC Archives Committee (Part I)

The Archives Committee regularly continues to add materials to the BCMC archives. Our congregation's historical records are stored in the basement vault and include documents dating back to the beginning of the congregation one hundred twenty years ago. Correspondence and sermons are available from many of the pastors who served the congregation with especially voluminous materials from the past fifty years. Few congregations probably have as many boards, committees, and commissions as BCMC, and the archives contains complete sets of minutes covering many decades for most of them. So decisions made over the years by the church board, deacons, trustees or other entities are well documented.

Some of the earliest records of BCMC are large ledger books which were used in the early years to keep track of membership and also donations. A few of the records are printed and have been bound, such as newsletters, bulletins, and annual reports. The church secretary insures that these and other records get to the archives. A complete set of church yearbooks dates back to the early 1930s. Throughout the years quite a number of BCMC sermons have been printed and may be found in the archives, and recent pastors have also deposited manuscript copies of most of their sermons. Long before DVDs were used to record worship services, reel-to-reel and cassette tapes survive to provide insights into

what the minister or even the choir sounded like years ago. To go with these sounds of the church, the collection also contains many hundreds of slides and photographs. Most of these are fairly recent and very few date back to the days when the congregation met in the Administration Building Chapel. However, there are many photos of the construction of the church building in the 1950s. And today activities such as Sunday school, Bible school, and special programs and projects are often captured. In addition, the archives has the architectural plans for the building and each of the additions. Moreover, the collection includes copies of the church constitution and pictorial directories.

A three-page outline of the materials in the BCMC archives is available, and a complete list of the boxes and contents covers nearly seventy-five pages. Members of the archives committee (David Haury, Keith Sprunger, and Rachel Pannabecker) welcome inquiries, and materials in the BCMC archives are available for research. These records will help anyone interested in exploring and telling the story of the congregation.
 ~ Submitted by David Haury (Watch for Part II in the May/June issue)

Did you know About the BCMC Vault?

When our church building was constructed in the 1950s, provision was made for a basement vault to house the congregation's archival records. Located in the southeast corner of Fellowship Hall, it is barely noticeable but serves to keep our records safe and secure. How safe and secure? It is protected by two steel doors – steel on steel – and the most precious items within are kept in a specially crafted steel box.
 ~ Keith Sprunger



The BCMC Vault

Proposal for a "Scatter Garden"

In 2016, the Creation Care Committee was asked by the Church Board to create a proposal for a BCMC 'scatter garden.' This garden, in addition to the columbarium, will serve as a place for members of our church family to be memorialized. Additionally, this garden can serve as a tranquil space for contemplation, an educational area for our church youth, and a butterfly habitat. While some people prefer their ashes to be permanently stored, others find more comfort from their earthly form being scattered and mixed into the soil. The natural world is cyclical, and returning ourselves to the soil is part of that process. Many individuals feel that scattering ashes in a garden fits well with their personalities and lifestyle—it can be a more freeing, informal alternative to interment in the columbarium. This is an option we would like to offer to our congregation.

A scatter garden can be a peaceful and beautiful place to visit in remembrance of loved ones, and useful for helping children understand death using the lessons of nature's cycles. Connecting our human origins in Eden's soil to the eventual resting place in our church garden is spiritually and biologically satisfying.

The Creation Care Committee has worked diligently to 1) find successful examples of similar gardens at other churches, 2) design a space that will be tranquil and comforting to those experiencing loss and 3) plan a garden that is water-wise, ecologically beneficial, educational and economically sustainable for the church. This proposal is still in formation and we are seeking input from others—discussion will be happening during Sunday school classes, at the March 29 Wednesday night supper, and at the April congregational meeting.

Through careful selection of native and adaptable species, the garden will be a haven for birds, butterflies and bees, and a colorful addition to the church front. It will lend itself to outdoor teaching opportunities for children and adults.

Having a garden buzzing with life near the entryway of BCMC will send a bright, positive message to newcomers that this congregation is engaged with nature and open to the concerns of future generation church members. ~ *Katie Schmidt, Creation Care Committee Member*

Upcoming Events for the Calendar

Western District Conference Future Events

- Mar. 9: Resource Commission Meeting
- Mar. 23: Women's Spring Supper, 6:00 p.m., Bethel College Student Center
- Apr. 29: Congregational Resourcing Event: Congregational Implications and response to Sexual Abuse Outside the Church; 1st Mennonite, Hutchinson
- August 4-6: WDC Annual Assembly, Doubletree by Hilton, Arlington DFW South (Texas)

BCMC Kaleidoscope

2017 MCC Comforter Blitz

Once again the Kansas Friends of Mennonite Central Committee are sponsoring the MCC Comforter Blitz March 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Journey Mennonite Church at Yoder, 3605 East Longview Road, Haven, (one mile north of Yoder). Last year 385 women signed up to work on the 287 completed comforters finished in three days. The majority of these were distributed overseas by MCC. Some were sold at the MCC quilt sale. If you can tie a knot, pin fabric, or machine stitch, you are welcome to come and help for whatever time you have. Bring scissors, and a thimble both clearly marked with your name. You may bring your own lunch, or donate to a furnished lunch. For any questions, call Carol Peters (home 283-4232, or cell 620-560-4629). Information furnished by Carol Peters ~ *Lois Goertzen*

With our members.....

Congratulations, Adam Robb!

The Moundridge High School scholars bowl team, composed of three juniors and three seniors ably coached by BCMC member Adam Robb won the first ever state tournament, scoring 9-1 this year. The tournament was held Feb. 11 at Bluestem High School in Leon. Congratulations, Adam, for leading these young people to their win. It's so great having great teachers like you. Information submitted by Adam Robb ~ *Lois Goertzen*



Make It Day

The Mennonite Central Committee Resource Center's "Make It Day" on Friday, Feb. 10 saw a number of women from various Western District Conference churches including several BCMC members, pictured here, Lois Reimer and Nadine Peters, engaged in sewing infant gowns for layette kits. Currently many of these kits are sent to Jordan for distribution in the Syrian Refugee camps. ~ *Dianne Epp*



Lois



Nadine

Janet Stucky Serves On Africa Mercy

A recent article in the Kansas City Star highlighted the work of The Mercy Ships nonprofit, which has been operating since 1978 and describes itself as following "the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor." Volunteers not only pay their airfare to fly out to meet the ship wherever it is docked, but they also pay about \$500 to \$700 a month for their expenses.

Africa Mercy is a 500-

foot-long floating surgical hospital that for the last four months has been docked in the waters off Benin and in August will head to Cameroon. Last year, it was in Madagascar's waters.

Among the 400-member crew is BCMC member Janet Stucky, who joined the ship in September after spending two and a half years working on the mainland. Daily, she treats malnourished children with distended bellies like beach balls, and adults and children with malformed faces.

"I wanted to serve people wherever God would lead me," said Stucky, speaking by telephone. Her thoughts went to one patient in particular — a woman with a tumor the size of three grapefruits dangling beneath her chin.

The patient had been rejected by the people in her village, Stucky explained, who viewed her as being cursed. Another woman, with a similar tumor that had grown for more than seven years, was abandoned by her husband.

"We have children who have backward feet," Stucky said. "We have children who can't walk because their feet are pointed toward each other." Read more at <http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article131006024.html#storylink=cpy> ~ *Lois Goertzen*



Janet Stucky



The Junior High Club raised \$1,067 during their annual Super Bowl snack fundraiser! Special thanks to Junior High sponsors Lu Ann Zook and Doug Siemens for organizing the fundraiser.
~ John Tyson



Members of the Senior High youth group and their Youth Group sponsors, attended Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in February. It was a great time of laughter, conversation, worship, and fun out in the snow! ~ John Tyson

Youth Events for your calendar

April 23 Before the Spring Congregational meeting there will be an all church potluck during which the Youth will sponsor a Dessert Fundraiser

June 25-30 DOOR Denver



**Pastor's Corner with
Pastor Susan Wheeler**

This past weekend, I attended the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship seminar, "When the unthinkable happens." Dr. Kate Wiebe shared from her work as the founder of the Institute for Congregational Trauma and Growth. She used a graphic to demonstrate a common pattern after a traumatic event occurs. Immediately after the event, the energy is high with heroic effort...water bottles, blankets. But most significantly one feels that somehow they can change what has happened. Then comes the long line downward - a period of disillusionment that can last anywhere from one to two years as one grapples with reality and their own helplessness. At the bottom a breaking point is reached and with help they start the climb upward. This line has peaks and valleys but then levels off as a "wiser self." Dr. Wiebe also emphasized that a key element in recovery is a concept she named, "Feeling felt." Patterns of communicating in congregations to facilitate healing can be done in the worship and liturgy, through pastoral counseling, small groups, fellowship gatherings, Bible studies, congregational meetings, and even surveys and assessments to get a sense of what has helped them to "feel felt."

Building resilience as a community is important. Making exit plans, strengthening significant relationships throughout the wider community, and learning ways to remain calm are effective. Calming can be done if you pay attention to your breathing, drink a glass of water, exercise, rest well, talk, cry, shout. Singing together can calm a group. This reminded me of the stories Peter Dyck wrote about the Russian Mennonites singing on the ship as they traveled to an unknown land - often with spouses and family left behind.

When Dr. Minter spoke to us, she used Palmer Becker's slogan for Anabaptist Faith. "Jesus is the center of our faith, Community is the center of our life, and Reconciliation is the Center of our work." We repeat-

ed (shouted!) these phrases often throughout the morning. Together we built resilience!

Obituaries



Howard K. Buller
November 3, 1920—
January 28, 2017

Howard was born near Stockham, NE

to Henry B. and Anna M. Friesen Buller. He grew up in the Henderson, NE community and attended grade school at District #62 and graduated from Henderson High School in 1938. He was baptized and became a member of the Bethesda Mennonite Church in 1940, where he was active until 1990, when he transferred his membership to Bethel College Mennonite Church.

After high school, Howard worked at various farming related jobs in the Henderson area, and worked on harvest crews in the Inman, KS and Mountain Lake, MN communities until he was drafted into the army in 1942. In the army, Howard served as a non-combatant and was trained as a mechanic. After serving almost four years, he was honorably discharged and returned to his home community. Howard was married to Elma M. Mierau on May 16, 1947. They had three children, Ruth Ann, Stanley and Charles.

During his working years, Howard worked as a mechanic and then owned the local Standard Oil service station. For several years he worked in the local high school as a custodian. He also drove delivery truck for the local hatchery and cement truck for the Henderson concrete plant. In the 1960's, he was hired as a postal clerk in

the Henderson Post Office and then became a rural mail carrier.

After retiring from the Post Office in 1986, with 27 years of service, Howard and Elma moved to North Newton to do voluntary service at Bethel College. Howard spent significant time volunteering at various places. When not volunteering, Howard enjoyed making wooden toys, which he took to Mennonite Central Committee auctions. Howard was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Elma. He is survived by daughter Ruth Ann Nelson and husband Randy, son Stanley and wife Carol, son Charles and wife Darlene, grandchildren Sarah Phillips (John), Erica, Christian, Craig (Caitlyn) and Karl (Emmali), and great-granddaughter Emma Nelson. He is also survived by his sister Eleanor Hatfield and brothers Louie (Evelyn), Dean (Harriet) and Jimmy (Betty).

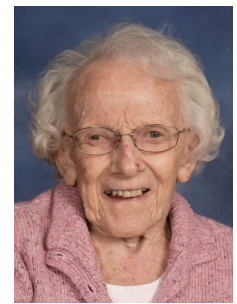


LaVonne Godwin Platt
August 16, 1932—
February 8, 2017

LaVonne was born in Marquette to Rob-

erta Mann Godwin and C. E. Godwin. She grew up in Windom, Assaria, Greenleaf, Bern and Long Island, where her parents were schoolteachers. She graduated in 1950 from Long Island High School and attended Kansas University (KU), where she graduated with a degree in Home Economics Education in 1954. LaVonne joined the Methodist Church in Bern, and while at KU was active in the Methodist Student Movement. She met Dwight Platt in a small discussion group at the Wesley Foundation, at KU, in 1953. In 1956, she joined Dwight who

was by then working for an American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) village development project in Barpali Thana, Orissa, India. They were married in Barpali on June 21, 1956. In 1957, they returned to the United States so Dwight could teach at Bethel College. LaVonne joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in 1958 and continued membership in both for the rest of her life. Dwight and LaVonne's daughter Kamala was born Feb. 6, 1959, and their son Richard was born Aug. 18, 1962. In 1970, the Platt family returned to India where Dwight taught at Sambalpur University and LaVonne conducted research on the effects of the Barpali development project. LaVonne taught Home Economics in high school and college; she taught women in a village education program in Orissa; she conducted workshops and seminars on world hunger issues; and she taught junior high Sunday school. LaVonne was also a researcher and a writer and editor. LaVonne is survived by her husband, Dwight Platt; children, Kamala Platt and Richard Platt (Juliet Brown); brother, Duane Godwin (Nony) and numerous extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, C. E. Godwin and Roberta Mann Godwin; and brother, Galen Godwin. A Life Celebration will be held at 11 a.m. Thurs, March 16, 2017, at the Bethel College Mennonite Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the AAUW to fund Community Action and International Project grants for projects that promote education and equity for women and girls or to the Mennonite Central Committee to fund work with displaced Iraqis, Syrians and Palestinians in the Middle East and with immigrants crossing the southern border of the United States.



Margaret Edith Reimer Friesen
October 24, 1920—
February 19, 2017

Margaret Reimer Friesen passed quietly in her sleep Sunday morning, February 19, 2017, at Kidron Bethel Village, North Newton, Kansas.

Born in Beatrice, Nebraska in 1920, Margaret was the youngest of six children born to Abraham Reimer and Marie Penner. As a registered nurse she spent most of her career at Bethel Deaconess Hospital, retiring as night supervisor in 1982.

In 1944 she was married to William Friesen, who preceded her in death in March, 2014. Also preceding her in death were six sisters and one brother. She is survived by three children: Randall Friesen of St. Charles, Missouri, Michelle Friesen-Carper of Valparaiso, Indiana and Warren Friesen of St. Peter, Minnesota; four granddaughters and two grandsons; six great-grandsons, the most recent of whom was born 20 minutes after her death. A memorial service for Margaret was held at Bethel College Mennonite Church Feb. 22, 2017. Memorial donations can be made to Bethel College, Mennonite Central Committee or Bethel College Mennonite Church.



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. Fellowship Time in the Gathering Place with coffee, water and tea available is at 10:30 a.m. Faith Formation is at 10:50 a.m. Everyone is welcome!*

March 2017

March 1—Ash Wednesday

7:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday family friendly service in the sanctuary

March 5—First Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Choir

March 12—Second Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Arli Klassen, Mennonite World Conference coordinator of regional representatives; music by Junior Choir and Chancel Choir

March 19—Third Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Bells

March 26—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Brent Dungan and Maggie Dungan

April 2017

April 2—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Choir
Special Sunday School elective: Lenten Hymn Sing in the sanctuary

April 9—Palm Sunday

Worship with stories, scripture and song; music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Bells

April 13—Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service in Fellowship Hall

April 16—Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service—Prouty Home, 332 N. Hoover Road, Newton

Worship service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Chancel Choir and Junior Choir

There will be no Sunday School

April 23

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Choir
11:45 a.m. All church potluck in Fellowship Hall with Dessert Fundraiser by the Senior High Youth Group
12:45 p.m. Spring Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary

April 30

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Chancel Bells