

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

August 2021 15:1 COVID-19 Pandemic Issue



Pastor's
Corner with
Dawn Yoder
Harms

Cultivating Gratitude

After a long hiatus, BCMC's newsletter, KALEIDOSCOPE, is circulating once again! Although COVID 19 is still spreading throughout our community and world, it feels good to reclaim aspects of life that help us stay connected.

The increasing spread of the Delta variant has reminded us that it is not yet time to disperse with caution. The Reopening Task Group continues to monitor the situation in our community and revise BCMC guidelines for safety as necessary.

In the midst of this rather discouraging news, I found myself preparing a sermon on Philippians 4, which focuses on gratitude and rejoicing in the Lord. Delving into the text and the topic of gratitude was a helpful exercise, given the moment in which we find ourselves.

The Apostle Paul suggests that when life is hard, gratitude is something we can choose to engage in. To be clear, practicing

gratitude is not a denial of pain. It is a willingness to hold gratefulness alongside the very real challenges of our lives and our world. It is grounded in God's faithful, loving, companioning presence with us, through all things.

Gratitude is more than a feeling. It is a practice that can involve pausing to notice beauty, expressing appreciation to others, offering a prayer of thanksgiving, or recording one's gratitudes in a journal. Practicing gratitude alters our brains in positive ways, and it can become a habit that cultivates joy and resilience, even in difficult times.

As I was working on my sermon focused on Philippians 4, our Reopening Task Group met to once again rethink BCMC's COVID-19 guidelines in light of rising cases in our community. I felt a weariness setting in. Will this ever end?

The next morning, I woke up wondering, "So, what am I grateful for?" The answer wasn't far away: I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to help keep our congregation and the people in our community safe and

well, and I am blessed to share this work with a team that cares about it as much as I do.

In the meantime, I will continue to take Paul's counsel to heart: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. {Philippians 4:4-7, NIV).

A Brief COVID-19 Timeline at BCMC

On Jan. 11, 2020, Chinese state media reported the first known death from an illness caused by the virus, which had infected dozens of people. But it seemed so far away and everybody thought, surely, it would not come here. On Jan. 31 travel to the US from China was restricted. February 11 the World Health Organization officially named the virus—COVID-19. By February COVID had spread to Europe, the Middle East, and South America and the United States reported its

first deaths from COVID.

March 1, 2020 was the first Sunday of Lent.

March 15—Church at BCMC was cancelled.

March 22—It was announced that BCMC would be cancelling worship services and church activities until April 5.

March 29—the first BCMC virtual service.

April 9—Maundy Thursday's service was virtual.

April 26—BCMC Congregational Meeting was cancelled.

April 30—It was decided to continue online worship experiences through the end of May. The BCMC building was locked (although the church office remained open but closed to the public). Various work crews were in the church repairing the elevator and renovating the kitchen and fellowship hall.

June 9—The church office reopened.

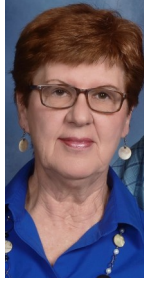
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**Happy 80th Birthday
Helen Nachtigal!
August 29, 2020**



Helen was born in a farmhouse east of Pretty Prairie the third of four siblings on August 29, 1940. She was an eager

student who graduated as salutatorian of her Pretty Prairie High School class. It was expected that she would attend Bethel College, and she did, but she certainly has no regrets, where she earned her Elementary Education degree. She also met Frank Nachtigal, whom she married after graduation in 1962. Frank and Helen taught and lived in Topeka, Emporia, Tonganoxie and Wichita, Helen always teaching kindergarten. In 1974, Frank and Helen moved to Clay Center where they purchased a walk-up Dairy Queen and remodeled it to a full-service Dairy Queen Brazier. After 18 years of successful operation, helped along with their 15-20 employees, they decided to sell and move to North Newton. Helen first taught full day kindergarten in Wichita before joining the Newton School District where she taught parents how to work with children with disabilities through the home-based infant and toddler program. In Helen's "spare" time while raising a family and working at the Dairy Queen in Clay Center, she had returned to Bethel and eventually earned her certification in Early Childhood Special Edu-

cation by driving back and forth to McPherson. Helen received several teaching awards including Teacher of the Year. She retired full time in 2006, but continued substitute teaching in the Special Ed Department until December 2017.

In 1969, their first son, Brad, was born. In 1971 Eric joined the family and was born during one of the worst blizzards Kansas had ever experienced. Helen remembers Walter Cronkite saying on the news that the only thing moving in Kansas was the wind. She also has two granddaughters, Madeline, who was also a Salutatorian of her high school class is currently a senior at Bethel College and Macy, a Valedictorian of her high school class, is a freshman at the University of Arkansas. Graduating at the top or near the top of the class seems to run in the family. Last, but not least, she has two granddogs. Causes have always been important to Helen as well as being an active community member. While living in Clay Center, she and BCMC member Kathy Campbell, who also lived in Clay Center at the time, organized peace seminars protesting nuclear proliferation. She loves politics and has worked on Tim Hodge's campaign knocking on doors and registering voters. She keeps in touch with state and federal representatives through letters and emails. Before the pandemic, she volunteered at Et Cetera and Kauffman Museum and is on the Board for Life Enrichment where she vets potential speakers.

The Nachtigals were able to combine their love of travel

with volunteering. For several summers, the Nachtigals would volunteer at the Rocky Mountain National Park YMCA of the Rockies. Most of the summers they worked three days and then spent their time off site seeing, hiking, and enjoying Colorado. They also volunteered with the Mennonite Mission Network in Shipshewana, Indiana as well as Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp in Colorado. They enjoyed several cruises, probably the most memorable was the one they took to Alaska, with all of Helen's siblings and spouses. The pandemic has been especially difficult with the sudden death of Frank back in August. Helen did rescue an abused dog, Daphne, who loves Helen dearly, but not many other people! Since all of Helen's siblings, Jim, Homer, Vernon Goering, and Josephine have moved to Kidron Bethel, they meet once a week to discuss a chosen topic or just to catch up. She participated in the research program for Moderna and is looking forward to cooking for others and going out to see a movie again. Helen's younger son, Eric, was an active participant in a Mennonite Church, but became discouraged when he was overlooked for any leadership roles. It also negatively affected Helen and Frank's view of organized religion causing them to leave the church for a time. Helen has actively organized through speakers and seminars educating people on the LGBTQ community. Her hope is that she has made a difference in the lives of these folks. It is no surprise that Helen's

June 18—A Church Board appointed Reopening Church Task Group began meeting (by Zoom) to plan for the restart of in-person worship at BCMC.

June 30—The BCMC Library reopened.

July 14—The Reopening Church Task Group decided, after a survey of the congregation, not to hold in-person worship until sometime after September.

October 11—The Reopening Church Task Group again polled the congregation and decided not to have in-person worship until November.

November 14—BCMC's worship services will remain virtual if the 2 week positive case rate is above 3%; or if Kidron Bethel Village has any active COVID-19 cases on campus; or if BCMC is connected with any clusters of COVID-19; or 2 or more BCMC staff test positive for COVID-19.

In December, Christmas programs were virtual.

March 7, 2021—Modified in-person worship services start at BCMC.

May 30—BCMC opened up worship services to no more than 80 attending, with a sign up form.

July 11—BCMC dispenses with the sign-up form and encourages anyone who wishes to attend to do so. Masks are required for worship services.

And now—to catch up with the 80th birthdays, 12 birthdays, and anniversaries which were celebrated during the 2020 year of COVID.

A Note:
Happy Birthday to Marilyn Stucky who celebrated her 80th birthday on June 3, 2020.

favorite Bible verse is Matthew 25:40 “.....Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Helen, you are truly a gift to our congregation. Thank you for sharing your story with us.
- Kathryn Simmons

Happy 80th Birthday Kathryn Kasper!
September 12, 2020



Kathryn Kasper was born in Lima, OH September 12, 1940 the second of eight siblings. When she was

three, her father, who was a Mennonite pastor, moved the family to Bloomfield, Montana, where he became pastor of Bethlehem Mennonite Church. Members from this church greatly influenced her father, including Marion, Alison and Ken Deckert and Bob and Verney Unruh, all who attended Bethel. She attended a one room school which was only one mile from her home. When Kathryn was 15, her father accepted a pastorate in Winton, CA. He encouraged his children to attend Bethel College and his wish came true. All eight siblings attended, although not all of them stayed the full four years.

At Bethel, Kathryn met Arlo and they married after she graduated in 1962. They first moved to Leoti, KS where Arlo was already teaching and Kathryn taught elementary music by traveling to four rural public schools. One year later, they moved to Dallas so Arlo could attend the Dallas Thea-

ter Centre and obtain his Master’s Degree. Kathryn again taught elementary school music. In 1965, they returned to Bethel where they basically spent the rest of their teaching careers, Kathryn teaching Voice, Music Theory, and Second Choir. She earned her Master’s Degree at Wichita State University where she also ended up teaching, since Bethel didn’t have enough voice students at that point for her to work full time, and later added Hesston College to that mix. She was tenured at Bethel in 1991. During sabbaticals, Arlo and Kathryn were able to travel and study in Seattle, Washington as well as Europe.

They have two children: Rachel was born while they were dorm parents at Haury Hall (and I had at Bethel privilege to babysit - Kathryn’s way of allowing me to stay in the dorm during interterm since I had dropped my class) and then after their second child died at birth and they found out that they had a high probability of passing on a rare genetic disorder, they adopted their son, Michael.

Kathryn retired from Bethel College in 2006 and received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach at the University of the North in Paraguay for six months. Those six months have turned into almost 15 years and counting. When they first arrived, they attended the local Mennonite Church and met the President of the Mennonite Seminary who immediately

offered Kathryn the job of teaching voice at the Seminary. Within a year and a half, The National University offered her a voice position and she taught at both universities until it became too much. She has now been at National for twelve years. She also teaches private voice to 10 students near her home, several of whom are the most popular Pop singers in Paraguay. This is partly because there are few qualified teachers in the area. Kathryn is thoroughly enjoying working where she is highly appreciated and needed. Currently she is teaching her university students virtually, which works out well since she has a one and a half hour commute each way (45-minute bus ride, plus two 15 minutes walks), when teaching on campus. Kathryn is also well known in Paraguay for having been a co-founder of “The Pope’s Choir.” It began as a 200-person choir to sing the mass at Pope Francis’ visit to Paraguay in 2015, and has continued to perform (often in its smaller form called The Schola Cantorum) at many important functions and celebrations around Paraguay since then. Kathryn and Arlo live in the large capital city (Asuncion,) but within a small community of about 15 people, with the landlady living on site. They have all been able to quarantine together. Their casita is about the same size as the garage they converted into living space here in North Newton. A maid comes twice a week and cleans the house and irons—including their sheets and

underwear!! Kathryn rents a small room, steps away from their home, in the next-door restaurant to teach private lessons. They’re also able to walk to the store that is only two blocks away. They don’t need a car, so use Uber or a taxi when necessary. And to keep in shape, she takes ballet two times a week—a ballet bar is right outside their home. They both had COVID before Christmas, but have fully recovered and are doing well. Life is full and enriching, so they don’t see themselves permanently moving back to Kansas anytime soon. When Covid permits they will continue returning to Kansas for several months around Christmas, which is summer break from school in Paraguay. It was such a joy to visit with Kathryn (& Arlo) and to find out how you can make the most of life at 80. Blessings to you both.
- Kathryn Simmons

Happy 12th Birthday Naomi Koontz!
December 8, 2020



Naomi Koontz, granddaughter to Barb and Dick, daughter of Matt and Jenni, and younger sister to Caleb and Abby, is the youngest Koontz present at BCMC. Naomi celebrated her 12th

birthday on December 8, 2020. As a lover of the out-

doors, Naomi has spent much of the pandemic down the street from her house golfing at Sand Creek Station Golf Course. A 6th grader at Santa Fe Middle School, Naomi has been doing remote schooling this year along with club volleyball, basketball, softball, piano lessons, and lots of golfing. Remote schooling has been a good experience for her because she finds school comes easy to her and it gives her more time to spend outdoors when she finishes with her daily school work.

Naomi would describe the perfect day for her spent participating in a golf tournament in the morning, followed by a trip to a water park, and finishing with one of her granny's famous deserts. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and playing poker with her family. One of the things Naomi likes about Bethel College Mennonite Church is that her whole Koontz family attends! She has enjoyed the plays that the Sr High Sunday School Class has put on and looks forward to the next time they put one on for the church.

In the future, Naomi thinks it might be cool to be a sports medicine doctor like her mom, Dr. Jennifer Koontz. In the meantime, she plans to live her life by a quote she once saw on a whiteboard at one of her volleyball tournaments: "Winners are not those who never fail, but those who never give up." May we all remember this message as we keep journeying forward together! - *Renee Reimer*

Happy 80th Birthday Howard Schmidt! January 13, 2021



Quietly intelligent --
Logical --
Great sense of Humor --
Good teacher
"A low-key person who cares about his friends, and never makes a show of it."

These are words

used by friends and family to describe Howard Schmidt, who celebrated his 80th birthday on January 13, 2021.

Howard's growing up years were spent in a variety of places in Kansas, Colorado and Ohio, the result of his father serving as a minister and CPS (Civilian Public Service) camp director. While living in Ellis, Howard told a friend his father was a CO. The friend reported to his own father that Mr. Schmidt was a Commanding Officer! The family moved to North Newton when Howard's father began work with Cornelius Krahn in the Historical Library and Kauffman Museum.

As a youth, Howard raised rabbits, delivered eggs, and had a lot of fun with other campus kids and their special maps and hideouts. His sister recalls that girls were not allowed to share those experiences. Howard attended Cooper Grade School and Santa Fe Junior

High, after delivering the morning paper and working on his model airplanes. One teacher thought of him as "too quiet" until he was elected class president, which gave her another perspective! Baseball was fun in grade school, but football really clicked for Howard, and he pursued it through high school and college. Being the only white member of the NHS football team was a valuable experience.

That football experience carried over into his years of promoting athletics at Bethel College as Booster Club President. Highlights included going from benches to lockers in Goering Hall, and developing the locker and weight rooms for other sports. Visiting teams no longer felt like refusing to come to Bethel in light of facing the ride home in their uniforms. Howard particularly enjoyed seeing the stadium complex develop during his tenure at Prestressed Concrete, as it gave him the opportunity to oversee the construction and erection of the stadium seating risers and their supports. He was happy that the company elected to donate the profits to Bethel.

Bethel memories are good. Besides football, highlights included student council participation, convocation, classes in his Natural Sciences major, and working on the grounds. After graduation, he taught physics and math first in Nebraska, burning up the road between Henderson and Newton every weekend to visit fiancée Marilyn Foth, and then at Newton High School, where Clarence Niles was an admired colleague. He earned

his Master's in Education from Emporia State College. He enjoyed teaching, calling it his favorite job, but decided to take a position at Prestressed Concrete, Inc. when that opportunity was presented to him. Howard worked there 41 years, building bridges and buildings. He felt good that they always stood behind their work, and he retired as VP of Production in 2010.

Howard's early interest in models expanded in adulthood to cars and radio controlled vehicles. He enjoyed working on projects with the local Lion's Club, and always considered himself a bit of a handyman, especially enjoying woodworking.

Howard and Marilyn have lived in Newton since they graduated from Bethel, and have enjoyed years of skiing in Colorado with friends. Their travels have included trips to Europe with a group of teachers, to China with the Goerings, and to the Holy Land with Patty Shelly, as well as their own explorations in the US and Mexico. The Kasper Broadway trips to New York were highlights for 30 years. A major car accident in 1992 kept them from going in 1993, much to Howard's chagrin. He was told that the first thing he said when he could talk after a month was, "You didn't cancel the NY trip, did you?"

A couple's book club with WSU professors and Wichita teachers offered a challenge and an opportunity to expand friendships.

Thanks for this glimpse into your rich life, Howard,

and Happy Belated Birthday!
- Carol Flickinger

Pictured below: Howard and
Marilyn Schmidt ↓



Happy 80th Birthdays Ron
and Lois Preheim
March 2, 2021 and
November 12, 2021



Their life stories begin at home: hers in a farmhouse near Henderson, NE and his in a farmhouse near Freeman, SD. Their families worshiped at Bethesda Mennonite Church and Salem Mennonite (South) Church respectively; both congregations are from the same conference. They met at Swan Lake Christian Camp – the Northern District Conference church camp. One summer Ron worked in Kansas during wheat harvest and Lois taught Bible School in Arizona with the Hopi Indians.

Both attended Freeman Jr. College and then Lois taught 4th grade in Freeman. Ron continued at Southern State studying Motors and then worked with an electrician and was a milk truck mechanic. Following a year of marriage they left for two years of voluntary service, in lieu of military service, at Ailsa Craig Boy's Farm in Ontario, Canada; this was a MCC assignment. The couple served as houseparents to ten of the thirty boys ranging in age from nine to fourteen. They with their family of ten boys attended Narrien Mennonite Church.

Following their service they farmed and fed livestock near Henderson, NE for forty-seven years. They provided foster care for a sixteen year-old boy from the city. (Two of his children are named Ron and Lois.) They also hosted thirty-seven International Visitor Exchange Program (IVEP) youth from eleven different countries who were interested in agriculture and lived/worked with them. (Many have returned for a visit bringing with them their spouse, children, and parents.) As their three sons grew, Lois reentered the field of education as a teacher and administrator. The couple enjoys traveling. They have visited many of the IVEPers in their homes.

The church is important to both having worked with Northern District Youth before the conference had staff for youth ministry. Ron served on the Peace Committee and as moderator of NDC. Lois worked with programming

and stewardship education. Ron served on the Bethel College Board and Lois on various boards: AMBS (from where she later received her Mdiv.), General Conference Education Commission, MCUSA. At Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson both sang in Chancel Choir and team taught Sunday School the last twenty years before retiring to Newton, KS to be near two sons, Atlee and Darrin and their families. Son, Patrick, and spouse live in Saskatoon, Sask.; both are pastors of Mennonite churches.

Here at BCMC Ron continues to sing in Chancel Choir and has served on Church Board; he is currently a member of the Facilities Committee. Lois has served on the Witness Commission and currently enjoys Mission Quilters and is on the Leadership Team for Women's Fellowship.

Ron turned 80 March 2, 2021 and Lois turns 80 on November 12, 2021. When the Canadian border relaxes, they hope their family can be together in KS; they will then celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Lois and Ron were married June 8, 1962.

-Carol Flickinger

Trailing the Schoolchildren's Blizzard by Lois Preheim

Lois Preheim's newly published book *Trailing the Schoolchildren's Blizzard* has arrived. This book chronicles captivating stories of families living along the trail of

the January 12, 1888 Blizzard that roared through middle America stretching from Canada to Texas. Each of the ten stand-alone chapters amplifies voices often lost or ignored - those of women and children. Each chapter begins with a poem that capsulizes the family story. All chapters end with a recipe still popular today. This book is for keepers of stories. Edmonton, Saskatoon, Helena, Bismarck, Saint Paul, Freeman, Henderson, Newton, Enid, and Austin are featured in separate chapters. The book will be available for check-out at the BCMC library after it is catalogued. It is currently available for \$16.00 from the author and at Faith and Life Bookstore.



Pina Coladas on the Green

The Bethel College Relations Team decided to throw a party for BC students. They've had a tough year in many ways and couldn't even have a full Spring Break. Plus, there were so many, many successes to celebrate! So we thought a Southern/Beach theme might be fitting. We called it Pina Coladas on the Green.

We were joined by the BC

Religious Life committee and Michael Unruh, campus pastor, in planning and helping with this celebration.

It was held April 21, 2021 from 6-8 pm. We served pina colodas and cookies which the Bethel College Women's Association so generously provided. There were games on the green such as corn hole and spike ball. Two music groups performed, one with BCMC students Simon Koontz, John Koontz and Oliver Dungan, and the Regier family. The Junior and Senior High youth groups also joined the celebration.

We held drawings for five cakes that the committee provided and four \$10 gift certificates. Students always love food! About 120 students came and enjoyed the evening. It was a huge success!

- Darlene Dick
Committee members: Carol Flickinger, Richard Reimer, Darlene Dick, Sandee Zerger and Dick Koontz, chair.



Anniversaries



On August 27, 2020, Harold and Carolyn Schultz, members at BCMC since 1971, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in Kansas City, MO. They first met at Goshen College

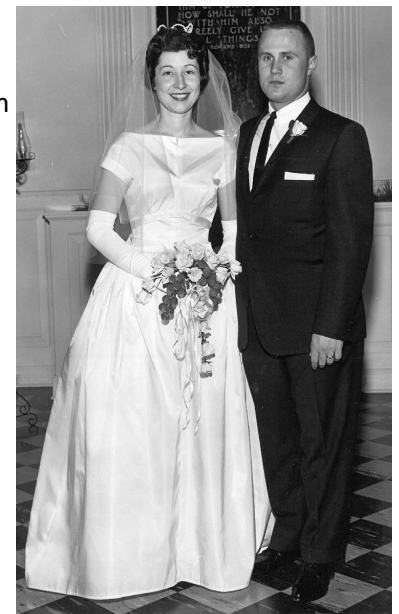
and were married at Oak Grove Mennonite Church in Smithville, Ohio in 1955. After 20 years as president of Bethel College, they moved to Kansas City in 1991 where Harold was CEO of Saint Luke's Hospital Foundation Medical Education and Research for 10 years. Upon semi retirement he spent 12 years as a fund raising consultant for non profits in the Kansas City metro area. Carolyn taught literature at Baker University's School of Professional and Graduate Studies for 24 years and continues her 25th year as a docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Since many BCMC members remember their children as "campus kids" during Harold's presidency, their oldest daughter, Susan, is now president of Eastern Mennonite University and spouse Jesse Huxman is an administrator with Mennonite Disaster Service, daughter Lori and husband Brad Bodamer are senior partners at Shook, Hardy and Bacon, a national law firm headquartered in Kansas City, and son Christopher and his wife Sheila Tabilon are both physicians in Napa, CA. Carolyn and Harold have nine grandchildren. 2020 was also the 50th year anniversary of Bethel College's Fall Festival which began in 1971 to celebrate Harold's inauguration. Warm regards,
Harold J. Schultz

60th Wedding Anniversary
of Marilyn (Kliewer) and Don
Harrold
December 30, 2020



Orlyn and Janis (Shantz) Zehr had their 65th Wedding Anniversary on August 20, 2020. Orlyn wrote: "Due to COVID-19 restrictions we did nothing 'special' to commemorate it."





50th Wedding Anniversary
Barbara (Delk) Koontz
and Richard (Dick) Koontz
August 29, 2020



Sondra (Bandy) and Phil Koontz's
50th wedding anniversary was
September 4, 2020.



John and Judy (Harder)
Kliewer's 50th Wedding
Anniversary was December 27,
2020. They wrote: "Because
of COVID we have decided to
do something together with
our family later."

Barb Koontz writes:

"We never could have imagined in 1970 what the year 2020 would be like! The Corona virus disrupted our 50th wedding anniversary plans in 2020. The celebration trip with our children and grandchildren in Santa Fe, New Mexico was cancelled as we knew it would not be wise to travel. The "Hide-A-Way" in Newton provided a short get-away for the family. We played games, ate carry-out food and just enjoyed being together! Hopefully we will be able to schedule a family vacation in the future. Close friends treated us to several days in Branson, Missouri, limiting activities as we knew Covid 19 could be anywhere. We definitely enjoyed a change of scenery. The "Koontz Brothers" and wives met at Lake Okoboji, Iowa (the honeymoon location of Elbert and Ruth Koontz in 1944) in the fall to celebrate 50th wedding anniversaries by sharing and recording childhood, extended family and custom combining memories through old slides, tears and laughter. "

Sadly, Phil died suddenly May 13, 2021. His tribute appears later in this issue of the "Kaleidoscope"

Wade and Joan (Goering)
Brubacher's 50th Anniversary
was December 19,
2020.

Senior High Youth Group adapts to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021

The BCMC Senior High Youth have had a 4-year rotation for summer youth trips. Year one they attend the MCUSA Convention. Year two they do a local service trip in the Newton/Wichita area. Year three they have an urban experience. Year four they do a rural/outdoor experience. In 2020 the youth group was already set to do a local service week in Newton, Wichita, and Hutchinson when the pandemic hit. Following strict COVID-19 safety guidelines, sponsors came up with a creative way to have a local summer service experience without any overnights or indoor gatherings. We enjoyed painting with local artists, delivering bird feeders to some Kidron Bethel residents, spending the day volunteering at Camp Menno'scah, putting together MCC kits, and ending the week playing outdoor games at Centennial Park.

Summer 2021, with the pandemic still present, we again had to be creative on how we can learn together. The sr high summer trip was shaped to focus on some of the racial injustice our country has been facing by taking a learning experience tour to Alabama. They stayed in an Airbnb in Birmingham, Alabama and visited places in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma while learning from social justice advocates. They visited the 16th Street Baptist Church, Civil Rights Memorial Center, Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the Selma to Montgomery Trail. It was a different urban experience than other years, but tied in many of the things they had been witnessing as a country in 2020.

In March the Youth Group had a drive-thru soup fundraiser to help raise funds for this unique learning experience.

- Pastor Renee Reimer



Jana Marie Hoffman, age 44, of Hays, Kansas passed away March 5, 2020 in

Newton, KS. She was born June 20, 1975 in Hays to William Dale Hoffman and Mary Stahl. She graduated from Hays High in 1993 and earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Wichita State University. Jana worked as an aesthetician and owned her own company called My Skin Care Coach. She was very active in fitness and hiking and was always looking to help others.

She is survived by her father William Hoffman and stepmother Jody of Hays, her mother, Mary Smith and stepfather Larry of Newton; three sisters, Jenny Orr and husband Ray of Grand Junction, CO, Shannon Funk and husband Heath of Hays and Na-tausha Dreher and husband Ryan of Hays; a brother, Conrad Hoffman of Tempe, AZ; a stepsister, Amy Stutzman and husband Dalton of Newton ; stepbrothers, Jason Smith of Newton , Toby Smith and wife Alicia of Newton, nieces and nephews, Nolan Dreher, Lydia Funk, Jaxon Orr, Landon Funk and Lena Funk; step nieces and nephews, Cain, Jordy and Dylan Smith, Madison and Dawson Stutzman.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.



Helen M. Voran Voth, 96, died April 6, 2020. Helen was born March 21, 1924, south of Bel-

mont, KS, on a typical Kansas day, she liked to say, that involved snow, wind, rain and sun. She was the daughter of Fred E. Voran and Edna Graber Voran. In 1942 Helen met Dr. Orville Voth, at Bethel College and they married Jan 7, 1945. During their marriage of 63 years and Orville's professional career, they moved 18 times in six states. Orville and Helen's last move together was to Schowalter Villa. Orville died shortly after this move in 2008. Helen moved in a Schowalter Villa nursing unit in January 2020. Helen loved music but was afflicted with Meniere's Syndrome in her 50's which affected her inner ear, robbed her of balance, hearing, and her musical life. Through a cochlear implant she acquired some hearing but was unable to continue with her musical interests. She managed to smile and make others smile. She was preceded in death by brothers, Dallas Voran, Robert (Bob) Voran, and Paul (Bud) Voran. She leaves behind a sister, Mary Lou Gaeddert (John) and sister-in-law Lois Strong. She also leaves behind daughters Judy Fisk, Marian Rice, Kathryn Voth (Neil McChesney), and Peggy Voth, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many unrelated relatives of the heart.

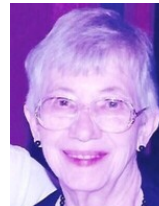


Tamen Vincent Miller was born December 28, 1984. He grew up in North New-

ton, Newton, and Wichita in Kansas. He started college at Wichita State University when he was 16 years old. At the time, he was the youngest pledge president in the history of national Kappa Sigma fraternity. On the National Student Exchange Program, he studied one semester at California State University-Chico. Tamen graduated from The Evergreen State College with a B.A. with an emphasis in education and economics in 2012.

Tamen served in Ameri-Corps (Corporation for National and Community Service) as a reading tutor in Omak, WA and Fort Collins, CO. He loved teaching children to read, play chess and basketball. He was a former volunteer at Stand Up For Kids, a nonprofit organization in Olympia, WA, which helps homeless youth get on their feet. Tamen wrote "My So Called Digital Life" a satirical book about online social media. He also was active in legalizing marijuana in Washington State and was chair of the Public Relations committee for a major political party in Thurston County. Tamen was a kind and gentle soul who loved God, people and animals. His intellect, sense of humor, and friendship and love will be greatly missed by family and friends. We look forward to seeing him again in Heaven. Tamen died April 10, 2020.

Tamen is survived by his parents Vincent and Priscilla Miller, 11 aunts and uncles, and 44 cousins.



Hulda E. (Reimer) Voth passed away April 20 at the age of 95. Hulda was born September

18, 1924 to David A. Reimer and Elizabeth (Classen) Reimer and grew up on a farm near Meade, KS. Hulda attended for two years and earned a degree in 1949 from the Tabor College Academy in Hillsboro, KS. She attended Grace Bible Institute in Omaha, NE in 1951, working her way through school as a waitress. She taught for a short time at a Bible school in Kalispell, MT. In 1952, Hulda met Kenneth Voth while they were both in voluntary service at Brook Lane Farm, a mental health hospital in Maryland. They married in 1953 and had four children. They moved several times to accommodate Kenneth's training as a medical technologist. As soon as the youngest child was in school, Hulda began working part time as a school cook, first east of Newton, KS in the country grade school, Pleasant Acres, then later in the Valley Center, KS school system. Hulda was head cook for one of the schools, responsible for meal planning, nutrition, and food inventory management. She supervised and worked with two other cooks. Later Hulda returned to working in the mental health field as an industrial therapist at Prairie View Mental Health Center in Newton, KS. There she supervised patients in a work environment, upholstering seats for lawn equipment.

Sunday school teaching, an Extension Homemaker Unit , and family camping road trips that reached from Texas to South Dakota to California

were some of the regular activities. After retirement Hulda and Ken had a robust social life through church and traveling with children and grandchildren. Hulda and Kenneth maintained a large circle of friends through First Mennonite Church in Newton, KS and later Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton, KS. She is survived by her four children, Alan Voth, Lucinda Beach, Karen Claypool (William) and Deana Voth (Paul Larson), three grandchildren, Kimberly Araujo (Ryan), Alex Beach and Ryan Beach, and two great-grandchildren, Kai and Lakey Araujo. She is survived by her sister, Alma Koehler, and numerous sisters/brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, their spouses and children. She was preceded in death by Kenneth, her husband of 64 years, in July, 2017; her three brothers, Dan, Arnold, and George Reimer.



Rosella Reimer Duerksen died April 30, 2020 in Tucson, AZ.

She was born Jan. 12, 1926, in Goessel, KS, to Maria and Abraham Boese and five siblings, but the day turned tragic when her mother died. Rosella was adopted by her mother's cousin Katharina Voth Reimer and husband Thomas Reimer. Rosella grew up as a beloved part of the Reimer family, while, at the same time, experienc-

ing the continuing love of her Boese siblings. The families attended Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. After completing a B.A. degree at Bethel College, North Newton, KS, she attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, earning a Masters of Music Degree. She returned to Bethel College to teach. After marrying Harold K Duerksen, they moved to New York and attended Union Theological Seminary. Rosella earned her Doctor of Sacred Music Degree at Union, The Julliard School of Music, and Columbia University Graduate College of Music. Following graduation, Rosella and Harold moved to Ann Arbor, MI, where Rosella organized a semi-professional choral ensemble, the "Ann Arbor Cantata Singers". She was also the Choral Director at Trinity Lutheran Church. They move to Iowa City, IA in 1964. She was the Director of Music for First Presbyterian Church from 1966-1980. She organized another semi-professional choral society, "The Iowa City Chamber Singers" and in 1972, she founded the Annual Bach Festival. In 1980, they moved to Little Rock, AR, where she became the Music Director of the Arkansas Chamber Singers. She was also the Director of Music at Second Presbyterian Church, and started an annual Religious Arts Festival there. After "retirement" and moving to Tucson, AZ, in 2000, Rosella was active in the American Guild of Organists, working as a program chair for a number of conferences. She served in the music programs of both St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

and St. Frances Cabrini Church, where she was the music director for over 10 years. Rosella is survived by her husband of 68 years, Harold K Duerksen and three children; Kathleen Duerksen, Tucson (Kevin Finnegan); Kristina Duerksen in San Diego; and son Tom, Tucson, living under the loving care of Sandy Lein. She has a grandson, Edward, and great-grandson, Micah. Interment was at the Alexanderwohl Church Cemetery.



Esther Pearl (Lehrman) Rinner was born Sept. 10, 1922, in Aberdeen, ID, the daughter

of Henry H. and Theresa (Wiebe) Lehrman, and died on May 30, 2020 in North Newton, KS. She was baptized and became a member of the First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen. She attended Bethel College and received a teaching certificate in 1942. She taught at the one-room Candy School east of Newton for one year and then for two years in the elementary school in American Falls, ID. Esther returned to Bethel College where she received her B.S. degree in Education in 1947. During two summers in a women's service unit and then one year in the 1940s, she was an attendant in a state mental hospital in Ypsilanti, MI, followed by a year and a half of voluntary service in LaPlata, Puerto Rico under Mennonite Central Committee, working with children in a community center. On June 30, 1949 Esther was married in the First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen, ID to Andrew James (Jim) Rinner of Wayland, IA, a Civilian Pub-

lic Service worker she had met while serving in Ypsilanti. Throughout their married life, his career as a nursing student and then nursing instructor took them to Chicago, North Newton, Hutchinson, Denver, and since 1960 in Newton, KS. The couple's two daughters, Jeanette and Amy, were born during the family's years in Hutchinson. Jim and Esther spent their last years at the Kidron Bethel Retirement Center in North Newton. Jim died on April 27, 2004 after almost 55 years of marriage. Esther was always active in church work, community, and education. She was a substitute teacher in Hutchinson and was employed as secretary for the Western District Conference office and the development office at Bethel College in North Newton. Most of her working years were as secretary and administrative assistant for the executive secretary of the General Conference Mennonite Commission on Home Ministries in Newton, KS. Esther volunteered in Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, congregational and church council secretary in Bethel College Mennonite Church; teacher in Newton's Released Time Bible School; docent at Warkentin House; treasurer for Newton Church Women United; member of a Harvey County Extension Homemakers Unit; PTA president at Washington School; 4-H Club leader; Bethel Deaconess Hospital Auxiliary; volunteer at Newton Medical Center gift shop and at the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents and sisters Ruby Lehrman and Elva Brucks, brother Charles Lehrman, and son-in-law Steve Grantstein.

She is survived by sister-in-law Lois Lehrman of Buhl, Idaho; daughters Jeanette Grantstein of Wichita and Amy (Rinner, Dueckman) Waddell (Marc) of Abbotsford, British Columbia; grandchildren Abigail Grantstein Howard (Lucas), Andrew Granstein (Kathleen) James David Dueckman (Pauline), Noel Dueckman (Stephanie), Laura Dueckman Merritt (Ryan), and great-grandchildren Evangeline Grantstein, Bonnie Grantstein, Caroline Howard and Zachary Dueckman and nine beloved nieces and nephews.



Judith Coover

78, passed away June 11, 2020 at Comfort Care Homes, Newton, KS, from

complications of Alzheimer's disease. Judy was born Feb. 10, 1942, in Grand Island, NE. She married Jim Banman July 20, 1984, in Arvada, CO. They lived in Denver and Centennial, CO, and relocated to Kansas in November 2017. Judy graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1965 with a degree in psychology. She retired in 1998 as regional manager of administration with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Denver. Judy possessed a caring and tender soul. In her retirement years, she volunteered as a surrogate grandmother in Denver at Families First, a home for sexually and physically abused children, and as a Court Appointed Special

Advocate (CASA), looking after the welfare of children in the court system until her memory decline interceded. She was athletic as a recreational swimmer, golfer, skier and undaunted by bicycling long distances. Judy's passion was making quilts and fabric art. Surviving Judy are her devoted husband of 35 years, Jim Banman, North Newton, KS; her son, T.J. (Jennifer Hancock) Gerlach of Grand Junction, CO; her step children, Steve (Sandy) Banman of Goessel, KS; Susan Banman (Riccardo) Sileci of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Christine (Polly Schattel) Banman of Asheville, NC. She also is survived by five step-grandchildren: Craig Banman, Goessel, KS; Allison (Albino) Quinones; Austin, TX; Audrey Sileci, Sao Paulo; Natalie (Jonah) Mills, Redding, CA; Jacob Schattel, Asheville, NC., and two step-great-grandchildren, Albi Quinones and Gigi Mills. Judy's sister, Patricia Molden, and her parents, Frank Glenwood and Marguerite Marian (Haddel) Coover predeceased Judy.



Burton W. (Burt) Unruh, 68, of Wichita, KS, died July 6, 2020. Burt was born June

11, 1952 in Landour, U.P., India, while his parents, Willard H. Unruh and Selma E. (Dick) Unruh, were serving there as missionaries. Burt graduated from Newton High School in 1970 and continued his education for a short time at Bethel College in North Newton. On June 6, 1981, Burt married Katherine (Fowler) Unruh in Wichita, KS. Their union

blended Burt's children, Christopher and Stephanie and Kathy's daughter, Melissa together as a family. Burt owned and operated a residential remodeling and design company for most of his adult life. He dabbled in sales and screen printing, but his true passion was woodworking. Burt served as president of the Sunflower Woodworkers Guild and held other esteemed positions within the guild and he was a member of a local Tai Chi group that met for several years at the YMCA. Once Burt retired, he opened his wood shop to friends and family, teaching wood working techniques and sharing tools with people. His friends referred to the group as "Burt's Barn" but to his wife, it was lovingly called "the play group". He and his friends met monthly to work on a wide variety of projects and spend the day socializing. Burt led by example with his passion for knowledge. He was surrounded by endless piles of books, magazines, and newspapers throughout and until the end of his life. Burt is survived by his wife Kathy of 39 years, son Christopher Unruh of Chandler, AZ; daughter Melissa (Unruh) Woods of Wichita; daughter Stephanie (Unruh) Helmstadter and husband Jason of Sun Prairie, WI. Siblings: Paul W Unruh and wife Shirley of Greensburg; Carol (Unruh) Buller and husband Jerry of Newton; Louise (Unruh) Hurwitz of Peachtree Corners, GA and Allan W Unruh and wife DaLene of Valley Center. Grandchildren: Janessa Woods and Max Helmstadter, along with several nieces and nephews. Burt was preceded in death by his parents, Willard H. Unruh and Selma E. (Dick) Unruh.



Larry D. Friesen, who always enjoyed a good laugh, successfully eluded his decade-long nemesis, frontal

temporal dementia (FTD), on August 8, 2020. Some will remember him for donning a man-sized Raggedy Ann costume on Halloween to go trick-or-treating with his daughter. Others will recall him pulling on lederhosen to perform a piano duet with his brother Duane. Those closest to him know he never missed a chance to show off or ham it up. Larry was the second son of Waldo H. Friesen and Linda (Zielke) Friesen, born on November 20, 1944, in American Falls, ID. The family harvested potatoes in fall with the extended family, raised crops, milked cows, and went camping in the mountains when farming allowed. Larry graduated from Bethel College, earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Denver, and completed his doctorate in social work from Columbia University, New York City. In Denver he met Donna, a fellow social work student. In 1969 they were married and began their 50-year journey together. He had an interest in mental health, and his early career reflected that, including working in community mental health, emergency services, and children's programs in Colorado, Maine, and Kansas. In 1980, Larry became a devoted father to Katy. In the more than 40 years he lived in Harvey County, he supported numerous community organizations, either by serving on boards, involving his students in research, or just sharing his wis-

dom. He served for eight years on the USD #373 School Board (1992-2000), and was instrumental in expanding the hiring of school social workers. Larry was always fixing or building something. He built furniture, turned bowls on his lathe, and drilled wells with a home-built rig in the back yards of friends and family. He still planted potatoes every spring. Nothing energized Larry more than seeking out the perfect camp-site (very early in the morning), setting up camp, firing up the Coleman stove, and experiencing nature. Last October, the family celebrated Donna and Larry's 50th anniversary, Larry's 75th birthday, and Katy's marriage to Christian, knowing that the future of Larry's journey was unknown. Larry lives on in the hearts of his wife Donna June, of Hesston, and his daughter Katy June-Friesen and son-in-law Christian Samaniego, of Hyattsville, MD. He will be greatly missed by his brother, Duane K. Friesen and sister-in-law Elizabeth (Voth) Friesen of North Newton, as well as his aunt, Laura Friesen of North Newton. Brothers-in-law Warren L. Prell (Deborah) of Barrington, RI, and George F. Prell (Linda) of Indianapolis, IN, and nieces and nephews: Anne Friesen Birky (Brett) of Denver; Sarah Friesen Guhr (Brad) of Newton; Tyler Prell (Christy) of Washington, D.C.; Tamara Piasecki (Bill) of Upton, MA.; Jake Prell, MI; Jessica Gockley of St. Augustine, FL.; and Hannah Miller

(Ryan) of Indianapolis, IN. His great nieces and nephews are Henry Guhr and Ben Guhr, Newton; Elizabeth "Lizzie" Birky and Katie Rose Birky, Denver; Aviendha Prell, MI; Luke, Sophia, and Bella Gockley, St. Augustine, FL.; Daley Prell, Washington, D.C.; and Karis, Colby, and Griffin Piasecki of Upton, MA. He is also survived by 14 first cousins. Finally, share your diagnoses and relinquish a little privacy; you'll receive more support that way. Brain diseases are especially difficult to navigate, and more common than you might think. Let's work together to eliminate the stigma associated with dementias.



Frank G. Nachtigal was born in Hutchinson, KS, the son of Jacob and Edna (Klassen)

Nachtigal on February 9, 1940. Frank grew up speaking Low German which was the language of the home. His early years were spent in Buhler, KS where he attended elementary and high school. During his childhood, most activities were centered on the extended family within the Buhler community and the First Mennonite Church of Buhler where he was baptized in 1955 by the Rev. Henry Franzen. During his elementary and high school days, Frank demonstrated a love of sports, which continued until his death on August 17, 2020. He participated in football, tennis, and basketball in high school and tennis and basketball in college. In

later years Frank spent many hours watching his beloved "Bethel Threshers". Go Threshers! Roll on! During his high school years, Frank, or as he became known to his high school and college friends, Fritz, spent summers doing custom harvesting with the Pauls & Elmer Adrian custom cutting crews, traveling to Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, Montana, and beyond. The money he earned from this endeavor was used to pay his way through Bethel College. After high school he attended one year at Hutchinson Junior College, and the remaining three years at Bethel College, graduating in May 1962. At Bethel College he met his wife Helen Goering whom he married on August 25, 1962 at Pretty Prairie Mennonite Church. Following college graduation Frank registered with the draft as conscientious objector and was assigned as a therapy aide at Menninger Foundation in Topeka, KS. Afterwards, he began his teaching career in Neosho Rapids and Hartford, KS. Later he moved to larger schools, Tonganoxie and Wichita, to continue teaching Industrial Arts, Physical Education, and Drivers Education, as well as to coach. During these years he attended graduate school at Emporia State and received his master's degree in 1966. On January 27, 1969, they welcomed their first son, Bradley Gene Nachtigal in Topeka, KS. A few years later, their second son arrived, Eric Neil Nachtigal, on February 21, 1971. Frank continued teaching until 1974, when the family moved to Clay Center, KS where they owned and operated a Dairy Queen Brazier until 1989. During Frank's time

running the Dairy Queen he became the President of the Kansas Dairy Queen Owners Association. In 1989 Frank and Helen sold the Dairy Queen and moved their family to Newton, KS. At that time, their oldest son, Bradley, was attending Bethel College and their youngest son, Eric, moved with his parents to finish one year of high school at Hesston High School. In Newton Frank spent three years as the owner/operator of Newton Memorials. After selling the business Frank spent his remaining working years at Bethel College as Set-up Coordinator for the Maintenance Department. During his time at Bethel Frank was awarded the Gerry Sieber Service Award for his outstanding service to Bethel College and his actions that exemplify his servant leadership. Frank retired from his position at Bethel College in 2005 but continued working there part time until 2014. He also volunteered at Kauffman Museum, the Et Cetera Shop, Camp Mennoncah, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, and other organizations affiliated with the Mennonite Church. After Helen retired they both did extensive volunteering including several Mennonite Mission Network assignments. Frank and Helen enjoyed 7 summers of volunteer work at YMCA of the Rockies at Estes Park CO. Frank is preceded in death by his parents, Jacob and Edna Nachtigal, his brother-in-law Darold Wedel, brother in law Richard Schmidt, and nephews Brian Goering, Todd Goering, and Alan Schmidt. He is survived by his wife Helen and two sons, Bradley and wife Jodi, daughters Madeline and Macy of Lawrence and Eric,

along with his partner John of Wichita. He is also survived by two sisters, Geneva of Moundridge, KS, and Dorothy Wiens of Carmel, IN, and husband Bob Wiens, and one brother, Chester of Seattle, WA and wife Anne. He is also survived by his sister in law, Josephine Schmidt, brother in law Jim Goering and wife Shirley, brother in law Homer Goering and wife Mary, brother in law Vernon Goering and wife Jane, all of North Newton.



Nancy Jo Mueller was born April 27, 1982, in Newton, to Jim and Melanie Mueller. She

died August 20, 2020, in Colorado Springs, CO, after an illness. Nancy started vocalizing very early, and would always wake up singing. Singing became Nancy's lodestar, a gift that would provide joy both to herself and to others throughout her life. Nancy's first three school years were in Newton, and then she transferred to Halstead for the remainder of her school days. She was a graduate of Halstead's Class of 2000. She then attended Baker University in Baldwin City, later transferring to Bethel College in North Newton to finish her bachelor's degree in psychology. While in college Nancy met Jeremy Crabtree; they were married in 2004. Their son, Maddox, was born June 14, 2006. Nancy and Jeremy divorced later in 2006. During her college years

Nancy held various jobs in the mental health field. She worked at Youthville in Newton, and at Comcare in Wichita. A few years after her college graduation, Nancy attended the Friends University master's program in marriage and family counseling, from which she graduated with honors. Nancy was a devoted mother to Maddox and enjoyed learning to know his many, many friends. Nancy was a huge baseball fan, and she and Maddox could be seen many a summer night at a Wichita Wingnuts game. She also loved to play softball through the Newton rec league and go out with friends and sing karaoke. She ran two marathons. She was a baptized, lifelong member of Bethel College Mennonite Church and a member of its Agape Sunday school class, and later was one of the church's youth group sponsors. Maddox enjoyed being included in the high school youth events. In early 2016 Nancy met Jacob Schrag, and they started planning a life together, which involved living on a farm outside of Moundridge. On June 1, 2016, Nancy and Maddox were on their way from the farm to North Newton for Bible school when they were involved in a car accident. Maddox was killed instantly. The next years were difficult, and always full of pain at the loss of Maddox. Nancy brought joy to the lives of her family, both immediate and extended. To her family and friends she brought her big heart, her keen sense of humor, her love for music and music theater (and all movies by Christopher

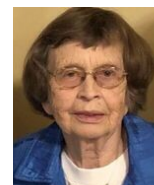
Guest), her passion for justice, and her love for the Chicago Cubs. A highlight of her life was singing the national anthem at a Cubs game at Wrigley Field. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Joe and Elva Gingrich and Ruth Boese, and by her beloved son Maddox. She is survived by her husband Jacob Schrag, parents Jim and Melanie Mueller, sister Becky Mueller, mother-in-law Charmaine Zerger, sister-in-law April Schrag, brother-in-law Joe (and Tomisha) Young; aunts and uncles; lots of cousins, school chums and the rest of her beloved community.



Marvin K. Holck, 82, resident of Hesston, KS passed away on November 1, 2020 at Newton Medical Center

due to complications associated with dementia. He was born October 14, 1938 in Forest City, IA to Kermit and Lucille (Rachow) Holck of Kanawha, IA. Marvin graduated from Kanawha Community High School, Kanawha, IA in 1957. After graduation he joined the Army and served at Fort Bliss, TX from 1957 to 1960. Following his military service, Marvin returned to Kanawha and began farming with his father. In 1986, after several decades of farming, Marvin attended Bethel College and completed his Bachelor's Degree in 1988. He began working for Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA – now Everence) and eventually became an owner of the MMA Office – Rediger, Parsons, Holck (RPH) and focused on providing financial investments and advice to local community mem-

bers. Marvin was active in many church and civic activities. For the past 24 years, he was a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church and participated in committees including the BCMC Finance Committee and the Church Board. Marvin was also a member of the Ten Thousand Villages Board. Marvin's lifelong hobby was flying and he had a passion for aviation. He began flying when he was 17 years old and flew for over 60 years, logging many thousand miles. He was an experimental aircraft enthusiast and built and flew several of his own airplanes. Marvin is survived by his wife of 28 years, Joyce (Reimer) Holck of Hesston; his sister, Diane (Holck) Ruter of St. Louis; his two daughters, Beth Holck (Tom Rosa) of Washington, D.C. and Brenda (Holck) Spurgeon (Larry) of Wichita; two daughters by marriage, Sandy (Schmidt) Smith (Tim) of Wichita and Lori (Schmidt) Harrison (Paul) of Santa Barbara, California; granddaughter Kaley Spurgeon; three grandchildren by marriage, Molly, Ben, and Max Smith.



Dorothy L. (Regier) Harder departed this life on November 4, 2020, in North Newton, KS. Dorothy

was born on August 22, 1930, the youngest child of Dietrich and Katherine (Reimer) Regier. Dorothy grew up, along with her siblings Arnold and Alfrieda, on their farm in rural Harvey County. Six days of the week were devoted to hard work around the farm with Sundays being a day of rest, spent at Hoffnungsau ("view of hope") Mennonite

Church and with her mother's family. Dorothy attended a one-room school (Paris Grade School) a mile west of their farm, where they studied with nearby children and spoke in English rather than the Dutch-German dialect spoken at home. In the later 1940s, she attended Moundridge High School, graduating in 1949. Dorothy attended Bethel College. After two years, she taught elementary school at Moundridge. Upon returning to Bethel, she met Willis Harder. Dorothy graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor's degree in Education. The next day they got married. Willis and Dorothy lived in Topeka and Lincolnville, KS for a year each, before they settled on Dorothy's parent's farm in the summer of 1956. After two years teaching first grade in Buhler, Dorothy and Willis began their family in 1958 with Kurt, David in 1960, and Lynn in 1965. Dorothy brought her teaching skills to her children's lives as she prepared them for key aspects of life—whether it was foundational reading and math skills, their Sunday School lesson on Saturday, or competitive kick ball games. Dorothy also helped Willis with the farm as he expanded it by several times during the 1960s. In 1969, Dorothy returned to teaching and taught 3rd grade for the next 26 years at Buhler Grade School. In 1996, she and Willis moved from the farm to North Newton where they have resided since. Dorothy stayed active in a

variety of ways by walking around the paths in North Newton and in the pasture out at the farm. Dorothy was very busy and nurturing with her grandchildren as they arrived from 1987 to 2008. She was an active member of the Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church from 1945 to 2000 and thereafter the Bethel College Mennonite Church. Dorothy had a deep faith and expressed it by helping others, participating in many small groups, providing food and assistance, and inviting new people in. Less than a week before her death, she noted to Willis how they had not yet met the people in the adjacent duplex. Dorothy volunteered for several decades with the Bethel College Women's Association and for 20 years at the Et Cetera Shop in Newton. Dorothy's favorite drink in retirement was tea. She liked to have people over for tea and collected tea pots from travels and from Et Cetera. A quote that she noted with emphasis from "Three Cups of Tea" was -- "The first cup of tea you share with us you are a stranger; the second cup you are a friend; and the third cup you become family." She wisely interpreted this quote as requiring listening with humility. In the last two decades, she overcame open heart surgery, the loss of her first child, a hip fracture, and she endured decreasing vision from macular degeneration. Her death ended a struggle with declining lung function caused by bronchiectasis, a lung disease contracted sometime in the past. Dorothy is predeceased by her parents, her

siblings and their spouses, Arnold Regier (Mary) and Alfreda Penner (Ervin), and her son, Kurt. She is survived by Willis, her husband of 66 years; daughter-in-law, Dorothy Janzen (Keith); son, David Harder (Michele Horn); and daughter, Lynn Schmidt (Steve); nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



John Wesley Gaeddert age 96 died November 12, 2020 at Kidron Bethel Village in North

Newton, KS. He was born February 7, 1924, in Nowata County, OK, the son of Peter R. and Lena (Janzen) Gaeddert. The Gaeddert family had moved to Oklahoma from Kansas in search of improved farming prospects. Instead they found land ravaged by prolonged drought and economic collapse. The family returned to Kansas, where John was baptized in the Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church in rural Inman. As John wrote in his memoirs, the Gaeddert family was "poor but not poorly." John was a graduate of Buhler High School and Bethel College with a degree in music education. He later obtained an MRE from Mennonite Biblical Seminary (IL) and a BD from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (IN). John's college career was deferred when he was drafted into service as a conscientious objector during World War II. His service took him to the Sierra Nevadas of northern California, where he fought forest fires, surveyed road projects, repaired telephone lines, and worked in a TB hospital. Upon returning to Kansas from California, John

enrolled at Bethel, where during his junior year he began courting Mary L. Voran. They were married on June 1, 1951 at Bethany Mennonite Church in Kingman County, KS. John began his career with three years teaching K-12 music at Lehigh and Hillsboro, KS. John felt a calling to ministry, and moved his young family to Chicago (IL), then Elkhart (IN), to attend seminary. He pastored three churches during his career: Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson, NE.; Tabor Mennonite Church, rural Newton, KS.; and Halstead First Mennonite Church, Halstead, KS. He often directed the church choir as well. Interspersed with these pastorates were administrative positions: a three-year stint as country director for Mennonite Central Committee in Congo (Zaire); director of admissions for Bethel College; and executive secretary of education for the Commission on Education, General Conference Mennonite Church. After retirement from ministry, John pursued a lifelong dream, turning to sculpture as a full-time pursuit at the age of 65. John produced hundreds of sculptures, many of which were made from his favorite medium, bristlecone pine. In 2016, Bethel College hosted a retrospective of John's work at the Luyken Fine Arts Center gallery. From teaching to singing to ministry to administration to art, John had several careers but one vocation: the exploration and celebration of beauty and love in our common, lived experiences. John was a person of deep faith and longing for justice. In private, his family and friends knew him as fun-loving, goofy, and even a rascal. He loved a good

joke, especially practical ones. He loved wordplay, peppering his speech with Low German phrases and aphorisms, fishing, playing tennis, and his family. John is survived by his wife Mary, to whom he was married for 69 years; three children: Susan Bartel (Allan) of North Newton, KS.; Dee Gaeddert Dorsey (Jim) of Grant, MN.; and Russell Gaeddert (Jean Flickinger) of Hutchinson, KS.; four grandchildren: Nathan Bartel (Kendra Burkey); Megan Bartel (Chris Lowen); Adam Gaeddert (Rebecca Woodruff); and Sam Gaeddert (Keila Quenzer Gaeddert); five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Velma Stoesz (Charles) of Mountain Lake, MN. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Lorene Balzer (Victor) and Erma Goering (Wilbert); and two brothers, Melvin (Velda) and Elmer (Elfrieda).



Lynn Vern Loucks, son of Vernon and Pearl (Koehn) Loucks, was born in

Goessel, KS July 5, 1945. Lynn's family lived near Canton, KS and attended Spring Valley Mennonite Church until 1952 when they moved to Protection, KS. Lynn attended first grade at Sunny Hill Grade School south of Canton and grades 2 through 8 in Protection Grade School. Lynn graduated from Protection High School in 1963 where he played basketball, ran ½ mile in track qualifying for the state meet, and foot-

ball. Lynn was baptized in the Protection Mennonite Church in 1960. He earned an Associate of Arts degree at Hesston College with a major in Elementary Education and graduated from Bethel College with a B.S degree in Elementary Education in 1967, and an M.Ed from Wichita State University in 1991. Lynn's teaching career began in Wichita, KS teaching 6th grade at Linwood Elementary. During his second year at Linwood, he was drafted. He contacted Mennonite Central Committee and joined the Teachers Abroad Program coupled with community development Bolivia SA. He taught for two years in the village of Los Tajibos, a national rural, public school where only Spanish was spoken. He stayed for another term to serve as the director of education which included supervising MCC teachers, relating to the local Bolivian education office, and scouting for new villages for future MCC volunteers working in education, health, and agriculture. In late 1974 he returned to Newton and taught 6th grade at Santa Fe Middle School. After two years he left teaching to work in New Creation Fellowship leadership. In 1984, Lynn returned to teaching 4th grade at Lincoln Elementary. In 1992, he went back to 6th grade and seventh at SFMS and taught middle school science and social studies there until his retirement in 2008 from USD 373. After retirement, he taught for two years at Truesdell Middle School in Wichita followed by 10 years being a paraeducator for special education students at

Hesston High School. From 2001 until retirement, he worked with Kansas State Department of Education reviewing science test items and serving on an advisory council. He and Karen were Science Coordinators in USD 373 during this time. Karen and he also were adjunct instructors of Elementary Science Methods since 2005 at Bethel College. Lynn enjoyed all of these experiences and realized how much there is to know and learn in life.

In 1996, he married Karen Unruh, and they settled in North Newton where they built a house. Karen was teaching in the Newton schools grades 3, 4, and 5. Along with her commitment to family and teaching, she was a pianist most Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Their summers involved Newton Community Theatre where all of the family was involved. While Karen was accompanying the musical, Michelle and Aaron were on stage, Lynn helped backstage constructing sets. He claimed he had the best seat in the house by being backstage. He became a member of Faith Mennonite Church in 1996 and transferred his membership to Bethel College Mennonite Church in 2012. Lynn and Karen enjoyed traveling. In March 2009, they visited Karen's son, Aaron, in Italy where Aaron was studying for a semester. In June 2015, Lynn and Karen visited Cuzco and Machu Picchu in Peru and then continued to Santa Cruz and Los Tajibos, Bolivia. In Los Tajibos, Lynn met five of his former students, visited the new school in Los Tajibos, and had a lengthy visit with Baltazar Opimí. Baltazar was the leader of the Tajibos when

Lynn was a teacher there. One night Baltazar asked Lynn, "Do you want to hear a caso contable, or an oral traditional story?" From him, Lynn learned some of his stories that he recorded on paper, and that Lynn has told in schools or other venues. In recent years, Lynn realized that these stories are no longer being told. He felt like a Keeper of Chiquitano oral traditional stories. This was an honor and a burden. While visiting Los Tajibos, Lynn learned from the current superintendent of the school that there is no record of the early school during the time Lynn was teaching there. Being the "Gringo Teacher", Lynn copied some photos of the early school while he taught there with historical information about it to send to him.

Lynn's family purchased a gas station in Protection in 1965. Since he was going to college, living in Bolivia or Newton, he realized that a history of "Loucks Service" needed to be recorded. He did that with help from his brother, Orlin, who partnered with Lynn's dad in the business for 30 years.

Lynn is preceded in death by his parents; a son, Samuel Lynn, in 1979; and two step-grandchildren, Tarson and Braxton, in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Karen; his son, Fred and Erin Loucks of Houston TX; his daughter, Angela and Sean Alexander of Australia; a step-daughter Michelle (Dyck) and Dan Ackland of St. George, KS; a stepson, Aaron and Katie Dyck of Manhattan; a sister, Marlene Vargas of Chicago; a brother, Orlin and Dora Loucks, of Great Bend, KS; and seven grandchildren, Harper, Griffin,

and Finn Loucks, Isobel Alexander, Caden and Laken Ackland, William and James Dyck.



Carl David Thieszen was born July 21, 1929 on the family farm in rural Henderson,

NE. He was the second of six children of Daniel and Marie J. (Epp) Thieszen. He died December 2, 2020 at Presbyterian Manor (Newton, KS) with his wife, Louise and daughter, Sharon at his side. Carl's family farmed and engaged in the land leveling business in Nebraska. Their family was the first of three families to begin irrigation in the Henderson community. His early school experience was in rural School District 73 East. After attending a one-room school for eight years, Carl attended bible school for a year before attending Henderson High School where Carl participated in basketball, softball, track, student council, including president, glee club, boys' octet, dramatics, and other student organizations. He graduated in 1948. After high school he worked on the family farm and helped with the land leveling business. Carl attended Freeman Junior College for one year before serving in the alternative Selective Service 1W Program for 27 months at the Wiltwyck School for Boys in Esopus, NY. At this agency he worked with delinquent boys between the ages of eight and twelve. After his

service, Carl attended Bethel College, graduating with his Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies in 1957. Carl was active in student leadership and council. He also volunteered drilling water wells in Mexico. Following graduation, he taught elementary and secondary students in Walton, KS. While teaching at Walton, Carl met Louise Dick of Ruthven, Ontario while she was completing her BS degree in social science at Bethel College. Carl and Louise were married on August 11, 1962 at the North Leamington United Mennonite Church, Leamington, Ontario, Canada. Their first home together was in Ransom, KS. Carl attended Fort Hays State University and completed his Master's Degree in Education and certificate in school administration. During 17 years in western Kansas, Carl served the schools in Brownell, Arnold and Ransom as teacher, coach, principal and superintendent. Carl was an active member in the First Mennonite Church of Ransom, local Lions Club and Chess and Pinochle groups. In 1976 Carl and his family moved to Little River, KS where Carl was superintendent of USD 444 for 15 years. In addition to leading the school district, Carl was active in the local Lions club, volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service and MCC annual relief sale. During his time in Little River, Carl was an active member of the First Mennonite Church in McPherson. In his spare time, Carl enjoyed woodworking, landscaping, and beekeeping. In 1991, Carl and Louise retired and

moved to North Newton, KS where they built their current home on Bluestem Court. After a year in retirement, Carl accepted the call to serve as the principal and superintendent for the schools in Goessel, KS for two years. During retirement, Carl gave generously of his time and talents with organizations such as Bethel College Mennonite Church, Tenth Man (now called JoinHands church building program), MCC House Against Hunger, Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program, M2 Prison Visitation, and local homeless shelter, as a docent at Kauffman Museum and as a tour director for Prudent Tours. Carl enjoyed biking and beginning in 2002 at age 73, he completed his first Biking Across Kansas ride; he continued to participate until age 83. Carl's faith was important to him which he shared with his family through daily devotions and weekly church and Sunday School. He would often recite Psalm 118:24: "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." He enjoyed hymnal music and singing, often breaking out in song. Carl is survived by his wife Louise (Dick) Thieszen of North Newton, KS; son Robert Thieszen (JoAn Waltner) of Newton, KS and granddaughter Maura of Overland Park, KS; daughter Carol Thieszen-Culp and grandsons Jordan and Carter Culp of Sheboygan, WI; and daughter Sharon Thieszen of Sheboygan, WI. He is also survived by his siblings Harold (Esther) Thieszen, Rosella (John) Schwartz, Edna Galle, Marvin Thieszen, and sister-in-law Erna Thieszen. He is preceded in death by his infant son Roger

Thieszen, his parents, brother Aldon Thieszen, brother-in-law Karma Galle, and sister-in-law Shirley Thieszen.



Harold Dean Bartel, age 96, and a 68-year resident of the North Newton community, died, December 5, 2020. Harold was born

February 14, 1924 at McPherson County Hospital to parents Edward W. and Ida (Schroeder) Bartel, joining 6-year-old brother Wesley. The childhood home was a farm 8 miles northwest of Hillsboro, Kansas and a "stones-throw" from Lehigh and Durham. Low German was the language spoken in the home. His trek to the one-room schoolhouse (Silverfield) serving grades one through eight, was 1/4 mile down the lane road. During his formative years, Harold's family was active in the life of Johannesthal Mennonite Church, northwest of Hillsboro, where he first made the acquaintance of Louise Goertz. They were married in August 1946. Harold graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1941. His further education at Bethel College was interrupted after completing his freshman year for nearly five years by an agricultural deferment from the draft during WWII. Harold ultimately graduated with the class of 1950 with majors in Social Science and Bible. He started his career as a 6th grade teacher in Valley Center. He resigned in 1952 after securing employment at the North Newton Post Office. Harold worked for 30 years at the post office and 50 years at the Mennonite Press (both terms running concurrently

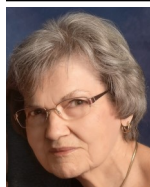
during the first 30 years). Harold was celebrated by the Mennonite Press in May 2002 as the employee with the longest tenure in the company history. Since 1953 Harold was an active and dedicated member of Bethel College Mennonite Church, serving in many roles. He also served his community on the North Newton City Council and the North Newton Housing Authority (Wheatland Homes). The combination of 12-hour workdays and his inclination for perfectionist labor intensive lawn care standards left little time or energy for pursuing hobbies. However, when in his late teens, Harold discovered the genre of Jazz music, he was hooked on what became a lifetime passion. In subsequent years, the Jazz concerts presented by Bethel's music department brought boundless joy to Harold's life. Preceding Harold in death were his parents, his only sibling Wesley Bartel and in 2014, his wife of 68 years, Louise. He is survived by his children: son, Fred (Susan) Bartel of North Newton; daughters Judith Bartel of North Newton and Natalie (Gary) Hand of Colwich, and grandchildren: Amanda (Derick) Perez of Wylie, TX, Justin Bartel of Richmond, VA, Jordan (Riann) Hand of Wichita, Rachel Hand of Wichita, and 5 great grandchildren.



Lorene Katherine Penner Goering, 90, passed away January 13,

2021 in Newton, KS. She was born 3-30-30 along with her twin sister to parents Albert H. Penner and Susan Penner, Goessel, KS. Lorene grew up in the Hillsboro area along with her brother and 5 sisters. She lived on the family farm and attended the country school until age 11 when they moved into Hillsboro and she attended school in town. She graduated from Hillsboro High School. Lorene attended Bethel College where she met Bob Goering. They married July 31, 1949 at the Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton. Lorene took meals out to the field while Bob was farming and also helped him with responsibilities during Bob's 16 years of owning a Chevrolet dealership. In addition, Lorene also ran her own business, Bee Cee's where she used her certification in mastectomy and prothesis fittings to help many. Lorene was huge in community service and held leadership positions in many of those endeavors. She was part of Community Playschool at Bethel College Mennonite Church, held leadership positions in the Kansas Twins Association (KSTA), and was involved in Girl Scouts for over 20 years. After her husband Bob passed away in 2014, Lorene continued to reside in their rural Newton home for over 70 years. Lorene followed the motto of "always leave a place better than you found it" and that is exactly what she has done for this world and the many that were lucky enough to have known her! Lorene is survived by her children Scott Goering, Bev

Martinez, and Trisha Grosch and husband Doug. Grandchildren Megan (Keith) Frymire, Leslie (Daniel) Knapp, Nick Martinez, Margo (Jon) Stinchcomb, Chelsea (Jarret) Krueger and Shelby (Maggie) Grosch. Great Grandchildren Caleb, Cameron, Colby, Collin Frymire Natalie, Ally and Alex Knapp, Braxton Martinez, Cody (Julia) Stinchcomb and Jayden (Adam Wagner) Stinchcomb. Great Great Grandchild Addalynn Wagner, her twin sister Loretta Krehbiel, and sister Vera Kliewer.



Helen Ruth Jantzen Unruh, passed away February 20, 2021 at Salem Home in Hillsboro, KS from

complications following a heart attack in January. Helen Ruth leaves behind her son Jon of North Newton; her sister-in-law Anne Koch Jantzen; nieces and nephews Steve (Janis), Karen (Leon), Ron (Jeri), Bob (Ani), Don (Damaris), Dan (Deb), Lisa (Tim), Kristine, and Franz (Jean); close cousins Marjorie and Jeanette (Steve), and her many friends at Kidron Bethel Village and beyond. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 63 years, Robert Unruh, in 2016, and by her brothers and three spouses: Richard and Hilda, Ted and Maureen, Paul and Elaine, and Carl. Ruth was born August 21, 1929, to Jacob and Helen Jantzen in Beatrice, NE. She grew up with her four brothers at their home on the west edge of Beatrice. After 9th and 10th grade at Mennonite Bible Academy, she graduated from Beatrice High School. She was baptized in 1944 at Beatrice Mennonite Church,

where she played piano as a young girl. Ruth graduated in 1953 from Bethel College, where she met Robert Unruh. They were married June 19, 1953. Ruth taught one year at Maple Hill elementary school in rural Marion County, before the Unruhs moved to Kingman. In Kingman County, KS she taught elementary school music in Spivey and Ninnescaw schools. In Lehigh and Kingman Ruth established a piano teaching studio. It was in Kingman that Ruth and Bob welcomed their son, Jon, into their home. In 1987 the Unruhs moved to Hutchinson, where Ruth played piano and organ at First Mennonite Church in Hutchinson, and also accompanied choirs. In 2006 they moved to Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton, and joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church. Bob and Ruth greatly enjoyed their new community and church, where Ruth was involved with the organ committee, a women's circle program committee, and worked as a volunteer at the Kauffman Museum. In 2013 Bob entered the nursing unit, and passed away in 2016. In 2019, Ruth moved into Assisted Living, and that September celebrated her 90th birthday with an open house and a gathering of many relatives and friends. Ruth loved family, friends and music. She cherished childhood memories of winter evenings by the wood stove where her father would read aloud while her mother carved miniature birds. Ruth's own spiritual pilgrimage nurtured both a strong faith and an appreciation for mystery in life; in 2016 she closed her Christmas card with her own wise words, "Into this unsettled world comes God's

quiet." One of Ruth's favorite lines of scripture was, "Sing to the Lord a new song" (Psalms 96:1).



Rosalind Haury Enns Andreas died at age 79, March 15, 2021 in Newton. She

leaves her sister, Ellen Goering of Boulder, CO; niece, Christie Schmid of Seattle, WA and nephew Matthew Goering of Fort Collins, CO; her brother-in-law, Jack Brubacher, of Edmond, OK and nieces, Laurie Lisle of Edmond, OK and Lisa Smyle of San Antonio, TX; step-children, Joel (Ay Vinijkul) of Baltimore, Ronald (Dawn Blanken) of Pueblo, CO, and Peter (Kristen Lavallee) of Providence, RI, and four grandchildren: Derek (Fort Collins), Marley (Baltimore), Stella and Annika (Providence.) She was predeceased by her husband Carl, her parents, Walter B. and Florence Haury Enns, and her older sister, Carol Brubacher. Rosalind Haury Enns was born on November 17, 1941 in Newton, Kansas. In 1963 she earned her B.A. in English from Bethel College, and in 1973 received her masters in speech communication from the University of Kansas. She began her career in education as a teacher and consulting teacher in the middle and secondary schools in the Shawnee Mission district. Rosalind married Carl R. Andreas in 1973 and relocated to the greater Detroit area. There, at Oakland University, she first directed the Offices of

Commuter Affairs and then Student Activities prior to serving as the first woman Dean of Students. She continued graduate work at the Center for the Study of Higher and Post-Secondary Education at the University of Michigan, receiving a PhD in education in 1984. Rosalind and Carl moved to Tucson, where she served as the first woman Dean of Students at the University of Arizona from 1985 through 1989. They relocated to Vermont where Rosalind served as Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Vermont (1989-1995), stepping down to serve part-time on the faculty in the College of Education and Social Services. She coordinated the Secondary Education Program, served on the graduate faculty, and later presided as Associate Dean. Reflecting on her years in university leadership positions in student affairs, Rosalind observed, "We worked relentlessly to confront inequality, injustice, and to resolve conflicts to insure that students and staff alike can continue to learn, develop, and contribute to a healthy learning environment." Rosalind published works about educator preparation, student leadership programs, institutional planning, and commuter affairs. She was founding chairwoman of the Commission for Commuter Programs in the American College Student Personnel Association and served in leadership positions with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. She also served as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the

Mennonite Education Agency, working with three colleges, two universities, two seminaries, and elementary and secondary schools affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA. She consistently encouraged Mennonite institutions to embrace open and progressive perspectives and positions. Rosalind was the commencement speaker at Bethel College in 1987 and served two terms on the Bethel College Board of Directors. In 2003 she received a Distinguished Achievement Award from Bethel. Rosalind retired in 2003, and she and Carl moved back to Kansas in 2012, settling in North Newton. She became an active member of the community, serving on the boards of the Bethel College Mennonite Church, the Kaufman Museum, and the Carriage Factory Art Gallery.



Laura Ann (Miller) Schrag 89, died April 23, 2021 at Kidron Bethel Healthcare in North Newton, KS.

She was born September 20, 1931 in Nappanee, IN, to Mose I. and Lydia Ann (Burkholder) Miller. She was the oldest of five siblings in her Old Order Amish family. As a child she attended a one-room school, where she completed an eighth grade education. After she completed school, she worked as a mother's helper in 33 different families over several years, when a new baby was arriving. She took a trip with friends to the west coast in 1954, stopping in at newly opened Prairie View in Newton, KS to visit friends who were working there, then moved to Kansas to cook at the Unit House for Prairie

View staff in February 1955. She later transferred to activities, and finally left Prairie View in 1963 when she married Elmer Schrag of Pretty Prairie, KS on April 13. They joined Bethel College Mennonite Church, and bought a farm near Goessel Kansas where Elmer taught school. They had two children, Michelle (1964) and Darin (1969). Laura Ann was engaged with the farm, parenting, family, church, and community activities. From 1976-79 she worked part-time at the Goessel Co-op Grocery store, and then enjoyed 15 rewarding years as the Activities Director at the Bethesda Home in Goessel from 1979-1994. After her retirement, she worked as a volunteer and for a time as a co-manager of the Et Cetera Shop in Newton from 1994-2016. She also volunteered regularly at the Kauffman Museum and the local MCC Center. After her husband Elmer's death in 2000, Laura Ann moved to Kidron Bethel in North Newton, where she has lived for 20 years. Laura Ann was a great lover of jokes and laughter, a reader, gardener, Scrabble player, baker of apple pies, enjoyed embroidery, knitting, and other crafts. She was a born storyteller, and loved to share about her experiences growing up in the Amish community. She made others comfortable with her open acceptance and unpretentiousness, and was a great appreciator of God's creation in all its beauty. Laura Ann is survived by her sisters Ada Kropf of Maquoketa, IA and Sara Gingerich of Mountain View, AR, her brother Vernon Miller of Goshen, IN, her daughter Michelle Goering of San Diego, three grandchildren-- Elyssia

Schrag, Miles Goering and Gabriel Goering-- and one great-grandson, Grayson Schrag. She is preceded in death by her sister Esther Yoder (Sugar Creek, OH), her son Darin, and her husband Elmer.



Philip Clyde Koontz, age 72, died suddenly May 13, 2021 at his home in Newton. Phil

was born in Beatrice, NE on June 30, 1948 to Rev. Elbert and Ruth Schroeder Koontz. He graduated from the Hillsboro public schools and Bethel College. He married Sondra Kay Bandy in Hesston on September 4, 1970. They celebrated 50 years together in 2020. At age 16, Phil was baptized in the Mennonite Church by his father. He became a faithful member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church where he served as a member of the worship and trustee commissions. Throughout high school and college, Phil and his brothers ran a custom combine crew. Phil was the crew's mechanic. This business enabled Phil to graduate debt free from college. He was always astounded at the trust his father placed in three young men.

Phil was employed at Price Bros Equipment, Wichita, for 40 years where he worked on industrial equipment. He loved a mechanical problem and was known at work and in the family for his strong work ethic and his ability to fix anything.

He retired in 2012. Music was one of Phil's passions. While in college, he sang with Bethel's madrigals, concert choir, and male quartet. At church he sang in the chancel choir and played in the bell choir. He was a choir and board member of the Newton Chorale, and for more than 40 years, he sang in the Wichita Symphony Chorus. Another passion was cars. While the family lost count of the number of cars Phil owned, Phil did not. He could recite details about every one of them and all the cars he saw on the road. Phil loved to read history, memoirs, and biographies. He enjoyed traveling, and with Sondra toured 17 foreign countries and all but two of the fifty states. Give him a map to look at and he was busy for hours. Phil was a man of integrity, honesty, and kindness, a gentle man of subtle humor, reserved until he knew you well, and always curious about how things worked. Phil is survived by his wife Sondra Bandy Koontz, two brothers: Theodore (Gayle) of Goshen, IN and Richard (Barbara) of North Newton, 1 niece and 4 nephews, and ten great nieces and nephews with another on the way.



Elsie Mae Wicke Flaming was born to Paul Wicke and Freeda Luckert Wicke, July 23, 1936. (The following is from Elsie's 80th birthday story in the BCMC *Kaleidoscope*, in July of 2016, written by her friend, Deane Frey. It has been edited to better fit this occasion.) Elsie Flaming's grandfather,

Henry Wicke, came to the United States in 1882 from Kassel, Germany and settled in the Moundridge area with his cousin Chris Rupp. When the Cherokee Strip opened up in 1893, it gave him a chance to own land of his own. He settled around Deer Creek, Oklahoma. Elsie's half brother, Glenn Henry, born in 1945, lives on that farm which means it is still held by a member of the family of Henry Wicke. Elsie was born on that farm. Elsie's sister, Vesta, joined her in May, 1939. Their mother, Freeda, passed away in September, 1940. Elsie attended the Deer Creek schools. She graduated from Deer Creek High School in a class of 14. During these years she was also active in 4-H sewing and foods. The Wicke family attended the Deer Creek Mennonite Church and she was baptized by Pastor Richard Ratzlaff, June 5, 1949. During her early school years, she had a special friend, Florine Hohmann, who attended Bethel College. Elsie was invited to Bethel for weekend visits. The majority of the then winning Bethel football team was from Deer Creek. After high school graduation in 1954, Elsie decided to attend Bethel College where she majored in Home Economics with minors in English, Health and Physical Education, graduating in 1958. She taught in Howard, KS, teaching High School Home Economics, Health and Physical Education for one year. She then taught in Hillsboro for two years. The following summer she visited a friend who had been teaching in Conway Springs. There she became reacquainted with Horton Flaming who she knew from being part of the kitchen

crew at Bethel. June 2, 1961, they were married in Deer Creek. The following fall, Elsie and Horton were hired to teach in Augusta, KS. They lived there until they retired. During these years Elsie tutored students, substituted in classes of kindergarten through high school seniors. She also had a major part in developing the hospital auxiliary, which began in 1972 until the hospital closed in 2002. Elsie, Horton and family were very active members of the First United Methodist Church and Elsie was very active in Methodist Women. They had two sons: Kevan, born in 1962, and Garth, born in 1964. They have a daughter, Billie, and a son, Garth Henry. Garth and his wife, Lisa have two sons, Braxton and Garrett. After retirement and a dream of some day going to Alaska, Elsie and Horton went with Prudent Tours to Alaska and several other trips. Later Horton and Elsie were tour guides for 66 Prudent Tour trips. Elsie volunteered at Kauffman Museum, visited Kidron Nursing Home residents, and the Parkinson Support Team. Elsie died, May 31, 2021, in Ames, IA, under the care of hospice. There will be a private burial service for Elsie in Oklahoma at a later date.

Allen E. Gaeddert, 75, died June 21, 2021 at his home in North Newton, KS. He was born November 6, 1945 in Goessel, KS, the son of Walter and Harriett Knowles Gaeddert. Allen was raised in the Moundridge area, graduating from Moundridge High School. Shortly after, he moved to Newton and went to



Allen E. Gaeddert, 75, died June 21, 2021 at his home in North Newton, KS. He was born November 6, 1945 in

Goessel, KS, the son of Walter and Harriett Knowles Gaeddert. Allen was raised in the Moundridge area, graduating from Moundridge High School. Shortly after, he moved to Newton and went to

work for the Santa Fe Railroad. He married Donna Jean Lankton on May 28, 1966 in Newton. He was inducted into the U.S. Army and served during the Viet Nam Conflict. Upon being discharged he returned to Newton and continued to work for the Santa Fe Railroad until retiring in 2001. His wife, Donna, died September 10, 2000. Allen married Margret Loewen Graber September 17, 2010 in North Newton. They lived in Newton until moving to North Newton in 2019.

Through the years Allen had been a member of the V.F.W., was an avid golfer and enjoyed his dogs. Survivors include his wife Margret of the home in North Newton; son Jeff Gaeddert and his wife Elaine of Valley Center; daughter Sheryl Area and her husband Jay of North Newton; brother Jim Gaeddert and wife Leda of Kansas City, KS.; five grandchildren Cory Area, Amy Hulse and husband Josh, Alicia Gaeddert, Grant Gaeddert and wife Chloe, and Gabe Gaeddert; and six great grandchildren Rylee Hulse, James Hulse, Abby Hulse, Tristen Area, Treyten Area, and Tinley Area. Allen is also survived by Margret's children Carolyn Saxl and her husband Christopher of Napa, CA., and Christopher Graber of Ponca City, OK.; and grandchildren Charleston Saxl, Macie Saxl, and Kai Graber. Allen is preceded in death by his parents; wife Donna; and brother Dick Gaeddert.



Hartzel Wayne Schmidt died June 28. He was born October 21, 1925 to Albert and Anna Lehrman

Schmidt at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton, KS. He grew up on the family farm near Goessel, KS, and attended the Tabor Mennonite Church where he was baptized on June 13, 1943. In the fall of 1946 he volunteered as a Seagoing Cowboy to help care for some 777 horses that were to be shipped to what was then Yugoslavia. He stayed involved with grain and small dairy farming for a number of years.

On June 4, 1954 he married Ilene Schroeder in Aberdeen, Idaho. They had met at Bethel College where Ilene was working for the president and he was working in the business office. To this union were born three sons, Rodney Alan, Charles Albert, and William Jon. After marriage they joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church in October of 1954, where Hartzel was an active member of the Sojourners Sunday school class. Hartzel graduated from Bethel College in 1955 and received an MBA from Wichita State University in 1962. During the fall semester in 1969 while he attended a seminar on "Change in Higher Education" at Claremont graduate school the family lived in Montclair, CA. He was employed by Bethel College in various capacities in the Business Office for 18 years leaving in 1970, after which he worked at First Kansas Life insurance

Company, followed by real estate sales. Hartzel enjoyed doing things outdoors and with family, such as annual summer vacations in Colorado and serving as scoutmaster in scouting. Always a strong believer in community service, he served as Mayor of the City of North Newton (1977-1987) and on the Boards for Kidron Bethel Retirement Services, Bethel Deaconess Hospital and Home, Chamber of Commerce, Harvey County Economic Development, Sand Creek Watershed, and Newton/North Newton Planning and Zoning. He was Treasurer at the Bethel College Mennonite Church. From 1993 to 1995 Hartzel and Ilene served two years as volunteers in Akron, Pennsylvania, at Self-Help Crafts (now Ten Thousand Villages). In later years, he enjoyed volunteering at The Et Cetera Shop. A persistent raconteur, Hartzel always left laughs and jokes and good friends in his wake. He had a long-standing interest in genealogy, family history and Mennonite history. He and Ilene visited the former Mennonite settlements in the Ukraine, and took other trips to Europe and many parts of the United States, Canada and Mexico. During his later years much time was spent reading, working on genealogy and thinking about matters related to theology. He also spent many hours listening to and watching Great Courses DVDs, a number of which contain revelations by scientists about our universe and our planet earth. He is survived by wife Ilene, sons Rodney A. (Elizabeth Kintner) and daughters Laurel and Jennifer; Charles A (Janie Becker), son Adam and daughter Nicole (Terry) Asay, and great grand-

children Arlo, Alec and Amelia; William J. (Lori Voran) and daughters Becky and Rochelle; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Miner Seymour, an affable designer/builder and family man known for his sense of joyful creativity,

died July 9, 2021 in Newton, KS after six years of progressive dementia. He was 72. He was born in Columbus, OH on Valentine's Day, 1949, to Miner W. and Anne Rutherford Seymour. He graduated from Columbus Academy in 1967 and Vanderbilt University in 1971. He attended Bethel College Mennonite Church. Miner's first job in high school was working below the deck on the S.S. Badger, the last coal-fired passenger/car ferry steamship operating in the U.S. The Badger crossed Lake Michigan to Wisconsin twice a day. After graduating from college, he worked in the field of medical economics, then went on to pursue his interest in architecture. After meeting Valetta Goering over a pair of broken eyeglasses in a medical clinic in Columbus, Miner followed her to the Pacific Northwest where they married, and he studied architecture. In 1985, they returned to Valetta's hometown of Moundridge, KS, where he built their family home and welcomed their only child, Kate. Over the years, he put his design and construction skills to use with a focus on environmentally sustainable home design. He also helped build homes for Mennonite Disaster Service and Habitat for Humanity. The essence of Miner was his cheerful imagi-

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nation. He remained playful throughout his adult life and delighted in helping others find similar joy. At one point, he created a sand beach at the edge of the family apple orchard for nights around the bonfire and soaks in the stock tank swimming pool" with friends. Miner's creative drive led him to study art

and poetry as an adult at Bethel College, graduating with a bachelors degree in 1990. In 1992, Miner started a concert series called "Old Settlers Inn" which attracted singer-songwriters from all over the country performing sold-out shows for 17 years. Old Settlers Inn concerts are still aired on KMUW's New Settlers Radio Hour. Miner's fondest

memories centered around his family's 115-year-old cottage on Lake Michigan where he spent every summer of his life enjoying water sports, building sand castles and skipping rocks with Kate and other children, and enjoying sunsets over the lake. Miner was preceded in death by his parents along with his only two siblings,

Emily Berand and Nancy Billington, and his brother-in-law, Howard Knight. Survivors include his wife, Valletta, daughter, Kate Seymour, son-in-law, Todd Lawrence, granddaughter, Ruth Seymour, sister-in-law, Wanda Knight, brother-in-law, John Berend, and seven nieces and nephews.

Worship schedule (Check church website, bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org, for updates and details on worship and other events)

Sunday worship is at 9:30 am, unless otherwise noted. Faith Formation is at 10:50 am. Everyone is welcome!

Note: Any given Sunday's events may be subject to change. "The Kaleidoscope" can be viewed online on the website.

September 5, 2021—Labor Day—Sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms

September 12, 2021—Backpack Blessing and Child Dedication—Sermon by Renee Reimer
Congregational Meeting at 1 pm by Zoom

September 19, 2021—**Peace Sunday**—Service planned by the Witness Commission—Sermon by Mel Lehman
Mel Lehman founded, and is the director, of the non-profit organization Common Humanity in 2009. Common Humanity is based in New York City and seeks to build understanding, respect and friendship with the Arab and Muslim world. Mel Lehman has worked in international humanitarian issues for several decades, including two decades at the National Council of Churches. He has traveled extensively in the Middle East.

September 26, 2021—Sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms

October 3, 2021—Fall Fest Sunday—There will be no services at BCMC—Join the Bethel College Community for a service at Memorial Hall on the Bethel campus

October 10, 2021—**World Communion Sunday**—Sermon by Nathan Koontz
Youth Group Fundraiser at 5 pm—details to be announced

October 17, 2021—Sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms

October 24, 2021—details to be announced

October 31, 2021—details to be announced