

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

February 2022



BCMC Welcomes Todd Schlosser

On February 1, BCMC welcomed Todd Schlosser as our Interim Pastor, beginning a new relationship for us and launching a new phase of Todd’s pastoral ministry. From Regina, Saskatchewan, Todd graduated from the University of Regina and received a Master of Divinity degree from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 1999. Todd brings experience in pastoral ministry from serving congregations in Saskatchewan, Indiana, Manitoba, and Kansas. In 2002, Todd and his wife Lynn, whom he met at AMBS, began serving as co-pastors at Bergthal Mennonite Church which became a significant church home for their whole family. As a result of a church visioning process, Todd and Lynn chose to release the small church from paying two pastors, and Todd left his pastoral role at the end of 2006. Lynn remained as pastor there until 2013 when the church closed. Desiring for their family to relate to just one church, Todd found employment first briefly with Mennonite Mutual Aid and then as campus pastor (a senior management position) at Mennonite Friendship Communities in South

Hutchinson. Todd’s leadership and administrative skills became evident, and he was eventually tapped to become administrator there and later also worked in nursing home administration in Clearwater and then in Little River, bidding farewell to his staff and residents within the last few weeks.

Throughout his tenure in nursing home administration, Todd had always hoped to return to congregational ministry. In 2019, Todd became a member of the Western District Conference Ministerial Leadership Commission. With their children, Jonathan (at Kansas State University) and Rebecca (attending Bethel in fall), leaving home, the family decided that the time is right for Todd to again pursue pastoral ministry. Todd submitted his Ministerial Leadership Information packet to Mennonite Church USA in June, 2021, for a position in pastoral ministry.

During conversation with Todd, one gets a strong sense of a man who treasures relationship—with God, with the church, with family,

and with the broader community. He states that “God is love and is calling us into relationship with God and each other...we need to love and respect one another” and put aside separation. He believes that we should be the church together, providing a space for all to be loved and to express themselves as each discerns the meaning of scripture for themselves.

When contemplating the time ahead with BCMC, Todd says he is “not a traditional interim pastor” and is ready to do whatever the church wants and needs, working with us to “create a space where God is able to work in our lives”. He plans to focus on building good relationships with our church and its members; helping the church release any tension or strain inherent in a pastoral transition; and supporting the church as we reflect back, process, and prepare for our future.

Todd’s wife Lynn currently serves as pastor at Mennonite Church of the Servant in Wichita. In November, the family moved to 3225 Southwood Court in the Royer West area of Newton where they plan to put down roots. Together, Todd and Lynn are enjoying working on their house, spending time with family playing games or watching movies,

and are looking forward to Bethel events next year and exploring what it means to have children out of the home. The household includes two well-loved dogs and three cats. As a younger man, Todd was a competitive tennis player and still follows tennis as well as Canadian sports, especially one particular football team in Canada. He’s been attempting to immerse himself in Kansas sports as well and would welcome persuasive arguments about which teams deserve his support!

A service of installation and blessing for Todd was held Sunday, February 6, with Kathy Neufeld Dunn of Western District Conference. Kathy preached on God’s presence in times of transition. You can watch the service on YouTube by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/0-v2O8CaTc8> We look forward to warmly welcoming Todd to BCMC!

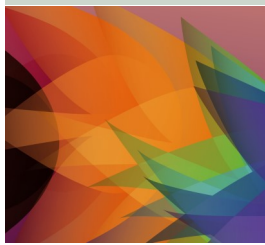
- Ada Schmidt-Tieszen,
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Inside This Issue

BCMC joins SCN.....	2
80th Birthdays.....	2
12th Birthday.....	6
More 12th Birthdays	7
Farewell to Pastor Dawn	7
Anniversaries.....	8
Christmas Pictures.....	9
Obituaries.....	9
More Christmas Pictures	11
Worship Schedule	12

BCMC Joins the Supportive Communities Network



On June 3, 2001, BCMC started the process of discernment recommended by the Supportive Communities Network (SCN), which included local speakers and group discussions, with the intent to vote whether to join SCN. On June 2, 2002, BCMC approved the Welcoming Statement which has since been printed in the church bulletin and is posted on our website. Since then, MCUSA, Western District Conference, and our congregation have all made moves toward accepting the different ways in which we all seek to follow Christ as many individuals and congregations advocate for more inclusivity of GBLTQ+ people. In November of 2020, the Inclusion Task Group was asked by the Church Board to survey the congregation on whether the church wanted to sign the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation created by the Inclusive Mennonite Pastors for MCUSA. A survey of the congregation showed that 95% of those who responded were in favor of doing so. On January 3, 2021, Epiphany Sunday, we celebrated our church's support of this resolution.

Soon after the signing of the resolution, the Inclusion Task Group moved onto its next task which was to gauge the congregation's

interest in joining SCN. After doing some initial education about SCN in February and March of 2021, a congregational survey at the end of March revealed that 92% of respondents affirmed BCMC's joining of SCN. The Church Board then took action in their April meeting to affirm our membership to SCN. Carol Wise, SCN Coordinator, suggested that Leann Toews from Goessel could represent SCN in welcoming BCMC into the Supportive Communities Network. Leann joined us in worship on August 29. She noted the important step we have taken in making a public statement of support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ individuals who are part of our churches and communities and the importance of our witness to the college and community. She presented our SCN Membership Certificate to the congregation. Austin Prouty designed the artwork shown here to represent our status. He used part of his design on a banner which we hung in the front of the church on August 29 and has been hanging at the back of the sanctuary since then. This design was used on the church bulletin. We hope to exhibit Austin's design in its entirety some time in the future.

On September 25, about 30 members of BCMC marched in the Wichita Pride Parade, carrying our banner from the old County Courthouse in Wichita at 3rd and Central to Century II. We will continue to show our welcoming status in various ways as we move forward. We have added a book to

our library: *Transforming the Bible and Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austin Hartke. We hope to learn more about how to expand our welcome and to advocate for GBLTQ+ persons in our church and community. - Karen Ediger
Inclusive Task Group

Editor's Note: We continue to catch up on 80th and 12th birthdays from 2021

Happy 80th Birthday John Zerger!



After a disclaimer of there being "not much inter-

esting" in his life, more stories emerged from a conversation with John than would fit in two articles. After deciding not to go all the way back to 1525, it seemed that June 29, 1941, would be a good starting place for John's story. That's the day John and his mother "parted ways" at Grace Hospital in Hutchinson, and shortly thereafter they journeyed to Plevna, KS, in a black 1936 Chevy. Plevna was home for John's early years, and he has fond memories of the freedom he experienced as a very young child on a tricycle, exploring the town and heading to the Phillip's 66 gas station. Scary encounters with geese notwithstanding, the bottle of pop at the end of the journey was definitely worthwhile!

The family moved to Kingman in 1946, and John had his school years there. He was always drawn to physical activities – basketball, football and track, of course, but also just spending hours with friends on their bicycles riding to the river, the bluffs, wherever the path took them.

John credits Robert Unruh with developing his appreciation for music while at Kingman High School, and particularly remembers performing "Amahl and the Night Visitors" while a student there. Credit also goes to the group that gathered evenings at the "Loafers' Bench" at his father's gas station for much of his not-so-formal education!

The decision to attend Bethel College was largely due to the fact that classmate Brian Schrag needed a roommate, and as it turned out, ¾ of his high school quartet made the trip. So the commitment was made – for one year – since John didn't have a better plan in mind at the time. Business and Econ classes with J. Lloyd Spaulding, athletics, and the College Choir filled his time nicely, and one year flowed naturally into four. Along the way, John began wondering whether or not he wanted to spend his life as a solitary figure, and decided he'd rather not. One Sandra Schrag caught his eye, and through numerous conversations at Larry's Drive-In, the relationship blossomed.

After his graduation, John found work at Hesston Corp, shared a basement apartment in Newton with Jim "Scribbles" Krehbiel, and continued to see Sandy while she

completed her studies at Bethel. They married in August of 1966, and prepared to go to Colombia. Visa difficulties delayed their departure, but eventually they made it to Bogota, via Mexico City and Panama. (There is some difference between John's and Sandy's memories of that trip, but this is John's story, so we must go with his recollection!) One clear shared memory is that shortly after their arrival, John became very sick. The doctor was called, probably by Marlene Habegger, and John was diagnosed with a strange-sounding disease. John did not speak Spanish, and although Sandy was conversationally fluent, medical terminology was not in her repertoire. It was a huge relief when the exotic condition revealed itself to be chicken pox! John and Sandy served in Bogota through 1967, 1968 and much of 1969, teaching, studying, and working with other volunteers who came through. As their time in Colombia came to an end, plans were made for a return to Kansas. John again found work at the Corp for the summer, painting a lot of yellow lines with the maintenance department, and in fall they moved to Lawrence where Sandy began work on her Master's at KU, and John worked nights at Watkins Hospital (now the Student Health Center) "finding records and filing records." Not wanting to waste the opportunity while there, John completed another degree from the KU School of Business.

In 1973, they moved to North Newton, where their son Jonathan was born in September. Brother Brian joined the family in 1977. John returned

to Hesston Corp – in the office this time – and worked there for 40+ years, through the changes to Hay & Forage and AGCO, but always doing something with materials. He retired in 2010 and has had no problem finding things with which to keep busy since then.

A favorite way to spend time is going to the Schrag Pasture, where he has planted fruit trees and enjoys feeding the fish in the pond. Following his grandchildren in their activities, especially their athletic pursuits, is rewarding also. And speaking of his grandchildren, each of them was asked to share some thoughts about their Grandpa Zerger.

From Addison: "When I think of my grandpa, I think of the sweetest man, so pure and kind. If I had to describe him in one word, I would say,,, genuine. He truly is the kindest, funniest, most amazing grandpa ever. You can always be sure that he will answer your questions with the most tiny details, or always have a pocket knife on hand for any of your troubles with tricky packaging. You can always talk to him about coins, and he will never turn down a ham sandwich. My fondest memory...is every time we visit his house, he and my grandma stand in the driveway when we leave and wave goodbye until we are out of sight."

Alli and Madey share this list:
 – going to the donut shop
 – going to the pasture

– listening to his stories of Duke, Daddy and Uncle Jon (the opossum in the garage and the trash can story)
 – He doesn't want anything for Christmas except to see his family and a ham sandwich
 – "If you can't see it, it's not enough" (butter on his bread)

– When we go to visit he is always the first one to greet us and he always says, "Well, hello, hello, come in, come in!"

And from Justin: My grandpa is one of the kindest people I've ever met. He can put a smile on your face at any hour of the day. You can always count him in for a day at the ballpark or a trip to the donut shop. Some of my favorite memories with him have come from lunches of ham sandwiches with a side of Pawn Stars (a TV show) or driving out to the pasture to feed the fish." A theme seems to emerge. John, enjoy those grandchildren and those ham sandwiches!

- Carol Flickinger

three days after her birth, Norma has many memories of farm life and generational family connections in and around Casselton, North Dakota. Four brothers joined her family over the next 16 years. They maintain close ties and are able to enjoy reunions as often as possible. Youngest brother Tim was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease ten years ago, and time spent with him and his gift of photography has been extra special. (*Note: This interview was held prior to Tim's death in November.) Norma stated that she's been interviewed numerous times for BCMC publications, and didn't want to just cover old ground, so instead she focused on "Changes for Women in Ministry" as the theme for this one.

Growing up in the North Central Conference of the "OM" Church, there were very clear expectations about what was possible, and not possible, for women. Norma always wanted to be a teacher, and began to pursue her higher education at Hesston College. While there, the college choir and involvement with small groups were highlights, and opened her eyes to new ways of thinking about the "givens" of her home church upbringing. After taking the bold stand of cutting her hair, she had conversations with college staff who didn't necessarily share her enlightened worldview, and informed her that, her apparent gifts to the contrary, she had also "cut off" some possibilities for her future. Graduating from Goshen College in 1963 did lead her to a

**Happy 80th Birthday
 Norma Johnson!
 July 26, 1941**



Conversations with Norma Johnson cover a lot of ground, just as she has in her 80 years of

life! Born on July 26, 1941, to a mother who turned 17 just

position in Fargo, where she taught for six years before going to Kenya with Mennonite Central Committee, returning to North Dakota, and then heading to Botswana, again with MCC, where her gifts for both teaching and program administration began to be realized. Upon her return, she took a position at the MCC offices in Akron, and while there was encouraged to attend a seminar sponsored by AMBS, (at that time, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary) which led to “a little preaching” and a slow, somewhat reluctant, acceptance (on the part of churches in the area) of the notion that yes, a woman might just be a good candidate for an actual seminary degree. Still, the thought of actually pastoring a church was not yet on the horizon. Her work in church leadership, however, was just taking off. Even though there were some problems with what the “old version” of the application form assumed about candidates, Norma became the first woman selected to head a Commission in the General Conference Mennonite Church. (Her mother, it must be said, was “humbly proud” of that!) She spent ten years heading the Commission on Education, and was one of the first 11 women to be ordained in the Western District Conference, working with former BCMC Pastor Darrell Fast.

Norma also mentioned the changes in hymnals over the years, beginning with the “Red Hymnal” in 1969, through “Hymnal: a Worship

Book”, and now “Voices Together”. More than just shifting the placement of “606” and the cooperative venture with the Church of the Brethren, she notes the use of Scripture resources, the lectionary text connections, and the visual enhancements as additions she appreciates.

As Norma continues to experience new roles in her church involvement, she has also picked up a few new “later in life” interests – “coloring” with colored pencils, especially floral designs, and cryptograms! And she and Vern Preheim celebrated 23 years of marriage in August.

Norma, you continue to be an inspiration and a leader, and we thank you for your service and life here at BCMC.

– Carol Flickinger

Happy 80th Birthday Joyce Holck! July 29, 1941



Joyce joined parents Ed and Ruth Reimer on July 29, 1941, the oldest of their

four children. Growing up on the farm north of Goessel gave her many early opportunities for honing her work ethic, as well as learning practical skills. She vividly recalls “milking Birdie at 6” – the age

of six, not necessarily at 6:00! Her early school years were spent at Pleasant Valley School (in McPherson County) and Gordon Grade School (Goessel) before attending Goessel High School, graduating with the Class of 1959. Her home congregation was Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, where she was baptized as a sophomore in high school by Rev. P. A. Wedel. She particularly enjoyed music and drama in high school, and was disappointed that there were no sports for girls at that time, as she would have enjoyed participating in volleyball and baseball. Joyce went on to Bethel College, and then worked at several jobs while helping her husband through college. One of her positions was working for the General Conference Board of Missions, with Orlando Waltner and Andrew Shelly as her bosses. An early dictation session with Orlando began a steep learning curve, as the names of places in India were not yet familiar to her, and she had to check spellings along the way! Yet, being a very relational person, Joyce soon learned to recognize the places, as well as all of the workers by name.

Joyce’s two daughters, Lori Schmidt Harrison, and Sandra Schmidt Smith, both attended Bethel College, and while they were there, Joyce’s first marriage ended. She remarried two and a half years later, and after just five months, her husband was diagnosed with leukemia, and died fifteen months after their marriage. Marvin Holck came into her life on a blind date in December, 1991, at a Christmas party. (Joyce’s daughter Lori was Marv’s boss at the time!)

They married October 18, 1992, and Joyce gained two more daughters, Beth Holck Rosa, and Brenda Holck Spurgeon.

Joyce and Marvin joined BCMC in 1996, where she says she always found the congregation to be very welcoming, and has always felt comfortable with the choice. Marvin died on November 1, 2020, from dementia, after 28 years of marriage. Dyck Arboretum was a special place for them, and the family planted a tree there in his memory.

Joyce’s four grandchildren are spread throughout the Midwest. Molly (Smith) is a fifth grade teacher in Chicago; Ben (Smith) is a senior business major at KU; Max (Smith) is in the K-State aviation program based on the Salina campus; and Kaley (Spurgeon) is a sophomore at Maize High School. Joyce enjoys attending her dance recitals whenever possible.

Hesston Corp/Hay & Forage/AGCO occupied Joyce’s working life from 1979 until her retirement in 2006. She again expanded her knowledge of places and things unfamiliar when working in the International Department with the Romanian contact with Hesston/Fiat. (Asking Joyce about a “Kansas field trip” with a visiting French executive could yield an enjoyable story!) Growing flowers and vegetables, entertaining friends and family, playing games and cards, singing, piano, cooking and baking are all hobbies Joyce enjoys. She stresses how important friends have been in her life, walking with her through

many tough times. A special group of friends from Goessel High (including former BCMC custodian Grace Regier) continues to meet monthly for lunch and a variety of activities of their choosing.

She has lived at Schowalter Villa since April of 2011, enjoying her neighbors, and working with the annual garage sale there. She also volunteers at BCMC helping with funerals and driving people to medical appointments.

Covid restrictions have challenged her to be more intentional about keeping in touch with people important to her. Favorite Bible passages include the Book of John and some of the Psalms, but choosing a favorite hymn is not possible. There are too many good ones! A quote that has stood her in good stead: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!"

Happy Belated 80th Birthday, Joyce! Your presence among us has been a gift to us all. - Carol Flickinger

Happy 80th Birthday Jan Albertson! August 8, 1941



Janice (Jan) Siemens Albertson grew up on a farm east of Buhler. She was born August 8, 1941 to Herman and Clara Sie-

mens, the second of four children. Her love of the outdoors began when she was very young. She was happiest

when working with her dad and their livestock. Staying indoors and cleaning were avoided as much as possible. She was a 4H member for seven years. For 1st grade she attended a small country grade school with seven other children. A favorite memory is when the teacher took all seven students to the Buhler drug store and treated them to an ice cream soda—the first one she'd ever had. Grades 2-8, Jan attended another country grade school where she eventually became a cheerleader and played basketball. She graduated from Buhler High School where she met her high school sweetheart, John Albertson. They were married by Harold Thiezen in 1963. She attended Bethel College. After John graduated from Wichita State, they moved to Wichita where he was working on a Master's Degree in Music. It was during this time that they met their Canadian Mennonite friends: the Sawatskys and Pauls. The men were all music majors working on their Masters and they could all speak low German. After graduating, they kept in touch, but were busy raising families. On John and Jan's 25th wedding anniversary, they traveled to Canada and reconnected with them. Since then, they have traveled extensively with them—traveling through western Canada more than 15 times as well as traveling to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

Jan and John moved to Kansas City for their careers. Both of them worked in the Kansas City, KS school district. Jan stayed in the district for 20 years and even after retirement continued to substitute

teach for 15 years. She was a para and a substitute in the Special Ed department and worked at the State School for the Blind working with students of all ages. One day she might be taking a vocational ed student to his/her job and help teach them the skills needed, such as teaching them how to fold towels and sheets, if their job was in housekeeping. Another day, she might go to the dorm and teach the students how to clean their rooms or bathrooms. During her lunch hour, she might go and purchase groceries for a student's meal that he/she would be cooking in Home Economics. She loved her job and didn't retire from substituting until one month before their move to Hesston.

Jan and John had acreage in the country near Kansas City, KS. In 1998, they were notified that their home was in the middle of the soon to be built Kansas Speedway. They were given a set amount and there was no choice as to whether to accept it or not. After looking for quite some time, they finally decided to move their existing ranch brick home seven miles to some other land that they owned. The good news was that after the house was moved, they decided to improve it. They built a finished basement and enlarged the kitchen. The bad news was that it cost a lot more than was offered by Kansas Speedway.

John and Jan have three children. Jason is a veteri-

narian in Wichita, Janelle is a Communications Specialist in the Brighton School District near Denver, CO and JoLynn is a speech pathologist in the Lawrence Public School District. They also have six grandchildren. In 2014, John and Jan moved to Schowalter Villa in Hesston where they enjoy getting together with their neighbors. With COVID, they now meet in driveways, weather permitting, and visit and catch up for an hour or so. Still loving the outdoors, Jan has met a young, local family who walks the trail in back of their home, so much so, Jan gave them a gift after their last baby was born.

One of Jan's favorite Bible verses is John 3:16 which she has taught to all of her grandchildren. They appreciate four part singing and she favors the Charles Wesley Hymns that were sung often at the Methodist Church they attended in Kansas City and where John directed the choir for over 30 years. They agreed from the beginning that the family would attend church together. It was such a pleasure to get to know Jan a little better. Her positive outlook and love of life shine through. They are happy to be back in south central Kansas and it is a privilege that they are members of Bethel College Mennonite Church. - Kathryn Simmons

Happy 80th Birthday Janet Voth! October 8, 1941

Janet Klaassen Voth was born in Mountain Lake, Minnesota October 8, 1941. She comes from a family with a long history with



Bethel College as well as with current and former members of the Bethel College Mennonite

Church. Her father, Nick, was a teacher and her mother, Marcella, was a nurse. Her grandfather, Isaac J. Dick was in the second college graduating class of Bethel College (there were only three students in the class). Janet is the oldest of four siblings: Elaine, Joel and Mark. While living in Mountain Lake, Justina Neufeld came to Mt. Lake as a refugee, so they have known each other a long time. Janet's father was an Industrial Arts teacher before becoming a principal. While her father was working on his Master's Degree, Janet would help him with his research to predict enrollment increase by helping him compute numbers. Marilyn Kliewer Harrold was the school secretary for her father. Janet's parents moved the family to Hillsboro in 1955, to be closer to Bethel, to encourage their children to attend there. Janet first became interested in the sciences while attending school in Mountain Lake and it continued in Hillsboro where her chemistry teacher was also a Chemistry Professor at Tabor College. She was the first female in at least 12 years to take physics at Hillsboro High School in 1958-59. In 1959, her parent's wish was granted as Janet attended Bethel College. She graduated in 1963 with a major in Chemistry and Minors in Math and Physics. Her first

quarter at Bethel, she was one of four girls in Math, by the second quarter she was the only one that remained. During her time at Bethel, she met Orvin in the lab. On May 31, 1963 they were married by her grandfather with Elbert Koontz, pastor at First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, being part of the ceremony and Rosalind Enns Andreas the soloist. Alice Loewen Kreider provided the organ music. While Orvin finished at Bethel College, she taught 3rd grade in Sedgwick.

Orvin and Janet spent their next two years of marriage working for Mennonite Central Committee in Newfoundland where Janet taught science and math to students in grades 7-11. One of their homes during this time was only 100 yards from the ocean. Janet and Orvin fell in love with this Canadian province and have been back at least eight times. Upon returning to the states, Janet and Orvin moved back to North Newton. Janet taught Science and Math first in Halstead and then in Hillsboro, KS. The National Science Foundation funded her Master's Degree through Notre Dame. During this time, she and Orvin were also youth sponsors at BCMC with several other couples over a six year time span. After almost 10 years of teaching, Janet decided it was time to go in a different direction, so she went to work at Dunhill of Wichita, an employment agency, and worked there four years. She then changed jobs and went to work for CertainTeed in McPherson where she was part of the Technical Team Research and Development group, creating new recipes for vinyl pipe, siding and windows, Quality Control testing of incoming raw materials, as well as a Rep to ASTM (American Society for Testing

and Materials) where she attended conventions and wrote procedures for handling Raw Materials, which are still being followed. She stayed with them for 9 ½ years when she was terminated right before she and Orvin left for a vacation in Australia and New Zealand. Upon her return, CertainTeed hired her back but in a different division.

From 1992-1997, Janet moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where she worked in a chemistry lab. Janet and Orvin had a long-distance marriage where they would travel back and forth during major holidays. She was also active in the Moravian Church which was supportive of the LGBTQ community as well as practicing infant and adult baptism and community involvement. Her position at the lab was eliminated in 1996 and since she had committed to staying in North Carolina till 1997, she taught for one year in a high school program for at risk freshmen. This is where she met Crystal, and Janet and Orvin began a new journey as foster parents for Crystal and then for the children of Crystal's friend, Jessica. Jessica is the mother of Jon and Ian, both of whom Janet and Orvin are still parenting. Jon's friend, Christian, also lived with them for five years. From fall of 1997 to March 29, 2007, after working in the incoming raw materials group of the quality control department 9 1/2 years, she retired from Abbott Labs/Hospira. Besides returning to Newfoundland on various occasions, Janet enjoyed her time on the Bethel College Board from 1987-1999. She chaired the Alumni Outstanding Awards Committee for 20 years with Harold Moyer as executive secretary. Circle of Hope is also very dear to her heart. Another

cherished memory is the 2014 Bicycle Trip that she, Orvin, Jon and Ian and Christian took, bicycling, or riding in the van. Orvin rode all 3700 miles on his bike. They left Newton May 23 and arrived in Fairbanks July 23. They joined WarmShowers.org on this trip and in turn have put their name on the list to host bikers coming through the area. Before COVID, they had around 70 bicyclists, from all over the world, stay in their home in one summer. Another favorite activity they both did before she went to North Carolina was to host around 10 BC students in their home one Sunday evening a month. This is when the cafeteria is closed so they decided to offer a spaghetti dinner to different students once a month. They did this for around 15 years and got to know a lot of different students and became known as the spaghetti people.

Her favorite hymn, which is not in the new hymnal, is "Oh Power of Love". It was the theme song of Men's Chorus in Mountain Lake and what greater message is there than to share and express love. Thanks for sharing your story and learning about all the different connections to so many BCMC members as well as sharing your love and support to so many different people over the years.

- Kathryn Simmons

**Happy 12th Birthday
Emerson Gering!
December 30, 2008**

Meet Emerson Gering! Emerson is the youngest child of Deb and Jon. His older siblings are Emma and Ben and his pet cats are Jovi and Toledo.



Emerson turned 12 years old on December 30, 2020. Emerson is a 7th grader at Chisholm Middle School and is on their football team as the wide receiver (someone who catches the ball). He also plays piano and trombone. In his free time, he enjoys playing volleyball with his sister Emma, playing outside with his dad, watching Bethel College games, and playing video games.

Emerson is very grateful for his family. One of his happiest memories is watching the Seahawks play in the Superbowl with his whole family. The Seahawks won and there were lots of delicious snacks to enjoy (puffy Cheetos being the best one!).

If a fear of heights wasn't holding Emerson back, he would bungee jump because it looks like a fun activity to try. He also loves to travel and is looking forward to traveling more in his lifetime.

Some of Emerson's favorite things about Bethel College Mennonite Church are the people, the Wednesday night activities, and all the food that we all get at church. He also enjoys that church is available online so he is able to watch from home. One vision he has for BCMC is for the church to get a fountain to place in the middle of The Gathering Place.

- Renee Reimer

Happy 12th Birthday Mabel Wall! May 1, 2009



Mabel Wall turned 12 May 1, 2021, and is the daughter of Karin and John, and younger sister to Abram. She spends her time as a 7th grader at Chisholm Middle School playing the trumpet, working with her school's student council, and taking six dance classes through BCAPA (Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts). Two things that are important to know about Mabel are that she is creative and funny. When she has an idea, she plans it out and makes it happen, like her summer garden for example! She has also found that when there are tense situations around her, she is able to lighten the mood a bit with her kind humor.

Mabel is a big fan of nature and if she had the choice, she would choose to live in the midst of trees in the forest or somewhere on the Croatian coast because of the crystal-clear waters. Before the start of the school year, Mabel took a trip with her family's camper to Colorado to go trout fishing. Using her creative mind on this trip, she watched a couple of YouTube videos and cooked up a delicious trout for supper one evening

for all to enjoy.

At Bethel College Mennonite Church Mabel really enjoys the Wednesday night activities because it gives her an opportunity to be with friends in community and to hang out with people she might not otherwise see. Thank you for being a part of our church community Mabel!

- Renee Reimer

Happy 12th Birthday Addison Zerger! September 4, 2009



Addie Zerger is a 6th grader at Santa Fe 5/6 Center, is the granddaughter of John and Sandee, daughter of Heather and Jon, and sister to Justin. Addie spends her time playing softball (at the time of the interview they were undefeated—interview took place in summer of 2021), having sleepovers with friends, playing with her dog Millie, filming and editing videos, and playing volleyball and basketball. Out of all of these activities, Addie's favorite is softball because she feels closest with her teammates. On her softball team she is the catcher. She has learned that there is only so much she can do to help her team win because they

all have to work together to make that happen.

One wish Addie has for the world is for pollution to be nonexistent. She believes that we need more people to help end pollution in order to make an impact in the world.

A phrase of advice Addie heard on YouTube that has really stuck with her is, "What happens in the dark always comes to light." She finds this phrase meaningful because it's a good reminder that at some point others are going to find out secrets so it's important to be mindful of what you do and say.

One of Addie's favorite things about Bethel College Mennonite Church is that she gets to see her grandparents at church and that the rest of the people attending are really nice. She has noticed that people go out of their way to talk to others. One wish she has for BCMC is that on a really nice day (when it's not too hot or cold) that we have an outdoor worship service together.

- Renee Reimer

Farewell to Pastor Dawn Yoder Harms



We bid farewell to Pastor Dawn Yoder Harms on January 2, 2022 with a service of release and blessing and a reception in the BCMC Fellowship Hall in the afternoon. Following is Pastor Dawn's resignation letter to the congregation. *Sept 26, 2021*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ at BCMC, I am writing to let you all know I will be ending my time as

Lead Pastor at BCMC on December 31, 2021.

On November 1, I will have completed five years of ministry in this congregation. This time has been marked by many joys and also by difficult challenges.

As I have reflected on the complexity of these past five years, the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1 have come to mind: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. When I began ministry at BCMC in 2016, it was clearly time to engage fully in the life of this congregation. And now, five years later, it is time to rest.

I want to assure you that this decision is not being made in a time of crisis or because of any particular incident; it is one that has been pondered prayerfully for many months and is being made from a place of growing clarity and peace.

As I anticipate leaving BCMC, I am grateful. I have experienced challenge, satisfaction, and growth. I have been blessed to work with a gifted team of pastors, staff, and church leaders. Most significantly, I have come to love this congregation and the people in it. I will miss you all tremendously.

While I have no immediate plans for the future, I do look forward to having more time to tend to family, my garden, and myself, with trust that God is in the unfolding--not only in my life, but in the life of this congregation. I welcome your prayers on this journey as I hold you in mine.

In peace and with gratitude,
Dawn Yoder Harms

From the Litany of Release and Blessing on January 2, 2022 were these words:

“As the family of faith at Bethel College Mennonite Church, today we give thanks, Dawn, for your five years of ministry among us. We bid you farewell, and we ask God to bless our journeys ahead – yours and this congregation’s work to move forward.”

The Western District Conference minister’s parting words in the litany:

“Dawn, may God bless and guide you on the next steps of your journey. May you ultimately form new, caring relationships in a new and beloved community, wherever that may be. May God bless the rest that you seek and the work you will undertake next. May God bless and guide this congregation into a hopeful future as it continues kingdom work and seeks new leadership. May God bless and guide each of us in the new relationship that we now will share. Amen.”

- *Monica Lichti*



Anniversaries



Di Rempel Suderman and Lee Suderman celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 6, 2021. They were married July 6, 1996



Rachel (Habegger) and John Pannabecker celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 31, 2021. They were married May 30, 1971.



Elaine (Andersen) and Steve Schurr celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 12, 2021. They were married June 12, 1971.

Also celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries in 2021:

- ◆ Keith and Donna (Esau) Woolery— Married May 16, 1971
- ◆ Francis and Margaret (Claassen) Toews— Married December 18, 1971



Carolyn (Cotton) and Don Penner celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 20, 2021. They were married August 20, 1961.



Jane (Herstine) and Jake Friesen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 3, 2021. They were married September 3, 1961.

Pictures from the Interactive Christmas Eve Program—December 24, 2021



More pictures on pages 10 and 11

Clark Eugene Wiebe—

Aug. 12, 1942—Aug. 19, 2021

Clark Eugene Wiebe was born to Herb and Hildred (Schroeder) Wiebe in Hillsboro, KS. He had one older sister, Clariiece. He spent most of his childhood years on a farm east of Hillsboro. He and his family attended the Hillsboro First Mennonite Church where he was baptized in 1957 by Rev. Elbert Koontz. After graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1960, he attended Bethel College for two years. Clark then did 1-W Service as a pharmacy clerk at the Denver, CO General Hospital. Before moving to Denver, he married Anna Marie Toews Aug 19, 1962. Denver was where their first child, Janelle, was born in 1964. After 1-W service Clark attended Emporia State and graduated with a major in Industrial Arts in 1966. He taught Industrial Arts for two years at Scott City High School. In 1968, Layne David was born in Scott City. Clark and Anna Marie returned to the Hillsboro community in the summer of 1968 to farm. Clark taught in Florence by day and farmed at night. Eventually, he chose farming. Clark retired from farming in 2004 and started Wiebe Woodworking. That came to an end with a disease initially thought to be Parkinson's, but only recently diagnosed as PSP (progressive supranuclear palsy), a rare neurological disease. Clark and Anna Marie moved to Kidron Bethel Village. The disease soon disabled him so he could no longer walk and he moved to Bethesda Home. Clark is survived by his wife, Anna Marie, of 59 years, daughter Janelle (Troy) Weeks, of Middleton, Idaho; son, Layne (Karen) Wiebe, of Lenexa, Kansas; grand-daughters; Jade, Raven and

Allegra Weeks; Paige & Brooke Wiebe, and one sister, Clariiece Schroeder, Hillsboro; Sisters-in-law Sharon (Leland) Kliensasser; Lora (Ken) Justice; and niece and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law Dean Schroeder.



Louise Irene (Duerksen) Koehn—May 26, 1921-August 31, 2021

Louise was born near Inman, KS to David Rose Duerksen and Marie Wiens Duerksen. She died at the Kidron-Bethel Village, North Newton, KS at 100 years old. She married Earl Dwain Koehn, originally from Pawnee Rock, KS, in the Bethel College Mennonite Church in 1950. Earl died in 2007. They lived in a home built by them in North Newton from 1953 to 1995, when they moved into an apartment at Kidron-Bethel. Louise and Earl had three sons. Dennis, Chicago, IL; David in Fort Bragg, CA; and Brent in Elkhart, IN. She had three grandchildren: Rosabeth Koehn, St. Louis, MO; Emily Koehn, Petaluma, CA; and Timothy Koehn, Oakland, CA. Louise was preceded in death by her three younger sisters: Viola Ediger (2015), Elda Duerksen (1953), and Darlene Goertz (2015).

For many years Louise was an active member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church. She served as the congregation's first female deacon. Louise graduated from Bethel College in 1944 and returned to the college in 1947 to serve as Director of Food Service. In 1952 she resigned from Bethel to devote herself to raising her sons. In 1963 she began training to become a librarian.

She served in that profession at Walton Grade School for four years and then twenty-one years at Bethel College, where she retired in 1986.



Ethel Elizabeth Dick Kaufman—May 26, 1924—October 2, 2021

2021

Ethel E. Kaufman 97, died at Kidron Bethel, North Newton, KS. She was born in Newton, KS the daughter of David and Elizabeth (Gerbrandt) Dick. She graduated from Buhler High School in 1932 and then attended Bethel College where she earned a bachelor's degree. She married Rev. Waldo Kaufman during her junior year at Bethel and together they enjoyed 52 years together prior to Waldo's death. Ethel learned press lino-type while at Bethel on work study and she continued using this skill in Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. She retired from Mennonite Press in Newton. Ethel is survived by her brother Ray Dick; niece Elaine Schmidt; nephews Keith, Gary, Greg, Russell and Loren Dick. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother Harold H. Dick and nephew Duane Dick.



Martha Friesen Graber—Sept. 26, 1919-Oct. 4, 2021

Martha Friesen Graber died at home at age 102. She was

the widow of Eldon W. Graber. They shared 43 years of marriage together. Born in Turpin, OK, she was the daughter of Gerhard Friesen and Marie (Schmidt) Friesen. She graduated from Bethel College in North Newton, KS with a degree in Home Economics. Martha had many jobs over her lifespan, many related to child development or academic support at various Mennonite colleges. She and her husband served with MCC in Nigeria, Africa. She was a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church and participated in AAUW as well as other service organizations. She was named Outstanding Older Kansan in 1986, and Outstanding Member of the Newton Area Retired Teachers Association in 1989 among other honors. Martha is survived by five children – James Graber (Mary Fraker), Ken Graber (Patty Torbert), Loel Graber, Karolyn Graber Cook (Ted) and Marilyn Graber. She also has 11 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband as well as two grandchildren.



Mary Ann Unruh Gertsen—January 13, 1928-October 25, 2021

Mary Ann was the sixth and final child born to Susie Hiebert and Henry Unruh. She was baptized at Bethel College Mennonite Church in May 1942 by J.N. Smucker. She graduated from Newton High School in 1946 and from the University of Wichita in 1950. In June of 1951 she married William Marvin Gertsen. Early in their marriage Mary Ann taught middle school for three years, then following the birth

of their three children, Jane, Bill, and Karen, she did some substitute teaching. Later she worked at Wichita State University in Administration of Justice, Vice President of Academic affairs and the Dean's office of College of Health Professions. From 1968-1975 the family of five lived in Stillwater, OK and from 1975-1991, Marvin, Mary Ann and Karen lived in Wichita. Mary Ann and Marvin's marriage ended in 2004. Mary Ann was involved in numerous activities at BCMC and the wider Newton community such as Christian Endeavor, Minnie-Beths Society, Camp Wood, Et Cetera Shop, Warkentin House, RSVP program, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and church commission work. (The above narrative was taken from Mary Ann's 80th birthday story for the 2008 *Kaleidoscope*)



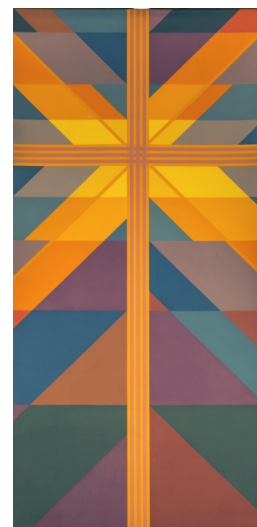
Howard Roy Lohrentz—May 21, 1935-January 15, 2022

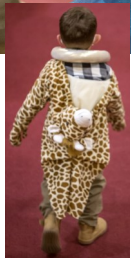
Howard was born in Moundridge, KS, son of Peter and Emma Lohrentz. Growing up on the family farm he was the third of five children. He attended Moundridge schools graduating in 1953 and then attended Wichita State University. Baptized in 1951, he became a member of Hebron Mennonite Church in Buhler, KS. He transferred membership to Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton, KS in 1964. Howard was very active in the church throughout his life. From 1954 -1956 Howard worked in Alternative Service stationed in Denver, CO. There he ran the mimeograph machine and performed maintenance at Denver General Hospital. In 1957 he started dating Evelyn Franz whom he married on June 4,

1960. They built their house in Hesston in 1964 and made it a home for 50 years. Howard worked for 30 years at Hesston Corporation advancing to senior product engineer. He finished his professional career at Bossert as a sales engineer. Howard always remained interested in farming, tools and machinery. He had a passion for genealogy and ancestry, sharing the story of his family history and their place in anabaptist history. Family and friends were always paramount for Howard and Evelyn. He is preceded in death by his wife Evelyn, sister Ellen Voran and brother Vernon Lohrentz. Those who survive: Children, Janelle (Denis) Levitt of Tucson, Greg (Jane) Lohrentz of Manhattan; Grandchildren: Matthew, Melanie, Alexa Kate and Amanda; Great grandchild Charlotte; Brother: Ken Lohrentz of Lawrence; Sister: Joann Ewert of Modesto, CA.

More pictures from the Christmas Eve Interactive Service—See next page

The Christmas Enactment Service was in the BCMC sanctuary and livestreamed. Costumes were encouraged and provided for all attendees. Pictures are courtesy of Weldon Schloneger.





Bethel College Mennonite Church
P.O. Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

Return service requested

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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.

February 6, 2022—Worship with sermon by Western District Conference Minister Kathy Neufeld Dunn—Installation of Interim Pastor Todd Schlosser

February 13, 2022—Worship with sermon by Pastor Renee Reimer

February 20, 2022—Worship with sermon by Pastor Todd Schlosser

February 27, 2022—Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz

March 2, 2022—Ash Wednesday

March 6, 2022—Lent 1—Worship with sermon by Janeen Bertsche Johnson

March 13, 2022—Lent 2—Worship with sermon by Pastor Nathan Koontz

March 20, 2022—Lent 3—Worship with sermon by Pastor Renee Reimer

March 27, 2022—Lent 4—Worship with sermon by Pastor Todd Schlosser