

Bethel Quarterly News



Summer 2010
Volume 33, Issue 2

BETHEL HUSBANDS REFLECT ON THEIR WIVES AS MOTHERS

Editor's note: To celebrate mothers at Bethel, I've asked some of our good husbands to answer the following question: In what way or ways is your wife a good mother to your children?

Dave Link, about his wife, Michelle – What makes her an exceptional mother, in addition to doing all the mundane things that mothers get to do, is the time she has always taken to be with the children, from reading to them, going to their events, and just being there for them. She has a great sense of what is going on with our children and dealing with “issues.”

Ken Shank, about his wife, Cheryl – Her motherhood is not defined by how clean the house is or by how much food she makes at mealtimes, or clothes washed and neatly folded. It is in the time she spends listening to our children and the things that are happening in their lives.

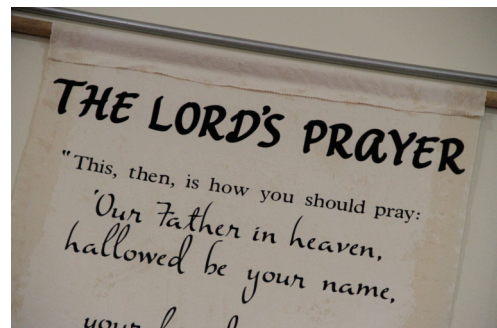
Carl Newcomer, about his wife, Elaine – Whenever any of our four children come home, Elaine makes them feel loved by expressing love and affection, and preparing the foods they like.

Randy Longenecker, about his wife, Marla – She is a steady, predictable, emotional presence, a person to whom our children can anchor themselves and feel safe, and yet freely go their separate ways.

Chuck Buck, about his wife, Carol – She is a caring, dedicated mother to our boys, and has tried to do what was best for them while growing personally, a process that will continue as time goes on.

Jerry Landes, about his wife, Barbara – Although we also buy gifts, Barbara likes to take the time to put her special touch of love in special gifts and cards for our sons and daughters-in-law. She keeps connected by email, phone and Skype. Our two families feel loved and appreciated by her.

(continued on page 8)



Thank you, Roger and Christy Headings, for the beautiful Lord's Prayer banner hanging in the sanctuary.

INTERGENERATIONAL CLASS COMBINES WORSHIP AND S.S. THEMES

This summer the Ministries of Nurture and Worship are working together to coordinate sermon topics with an Intergenerational Sunday School class curriculum. Beginning May 30 and continuing through August 29, the order of worship and Sunday School has been reversed, with worship starting at 9:30 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship and transition to the 11:00 S.S. hour.

“By having worship first to introduce the theme and story,” explains Kathy Lehman, Ministry of Nurture Chair, “we then can explore those stories in greater depth and from all age perspectives as we come together during the S.S. hour.”

The Gather ‘Round S.S. curriculum, a product of Mennonite Publishing Network, features Old Testament stories of God’s people; well-known stories such as those about Ruth and Naomi, Elijah, and Jonah, and lesser known stories such as

those about Deborah, Naaman, and Zechariah. “For me personally,” says Kathy, “seeing the adults, youth and kids interacting together is just as important to this experience as the curriculum itself. I am hoping the different age groups will become more and more comfortable with each other as the summer progresses.”

Participants of all ages are free to choose from a variety of activities, which appeal to various learning styles. “I like the fact that we will be having a variety of S.S. leaders, who will each lead in their own style, giving us a unique experience each week,” says Kathy.

The format will also provide a good opportunity to invite new families who might otherwise feel uncomfortable being separated during the S.S. hour, since this class allows all members of a family to stay together.

Shumakers celebrate 55 years of marriage June 3

Bill and Eleanor Shumaker were united in marriage on June 3, 1955 at LaGloria Mennonite Church in Premont, Texas. Amsa Kauffman officiated and H.F. Reist, Eleanor Swartz's father, had the meditation.

Eleanor's sister was maid of honor, while Bill's brother-in-law, Donald Hostetler, was groomsman. Miriam Byler played the piano, and vocal selections were provided by the Swartz Quartet (Sam and his siblings).

To get a feel for the small town informality of the occasion, Bill reports, "It was time for the wedding to begin when Eleanor's father came in from feeding his turkeys, sat down, and said, 'I'm tired.'" The ceremony was a half hour late in getting started, and was followed by a reception in the yard of Eleanor's home. "It was hot!" is what Bill remembers about that.

Following a short honeymoon just over the Mexican border to Matamoras, the

newlyweds enjoyed a longer honeymoon trip to West Liberty and back to La Junta, Colorado where they were living and working at the time.

Eleanor worked in the operating room and Bill in the laundry of the La Junta Mennonite Hospital. Their first home was an apartment in the house where Paul and Carol June Roth were living.

The Shumakers have three daughters and six grandchildren. Sharon and her husband, Mark Chupp, live in Cleveland with their two children, Loren and Emily. Patricia and her husband, Geoff Chisholm, and daughter, Anna Fu, live in Arlington, VA. The youngest daughter, Teresa, lives in Elkhart, IN with her husband, Ed Swartley and three children, Kaila, Jon Aaron, and Leah.

Congratulations, Bill and Eleanor, on this milestone wedding anniversary! May God continue to bless your marriage.

It was time for the wedding to begin when Eleanor's father came in from feeding his turkeys, sat down, and said, "I'm tired."

~Bill Shumaker, describing the small town informality of their wedding

CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES TO

*Don Hertzler
and
Ruth Harnish Shenk*

*Married June 5, 2010
in Akron, PA*

Wedding trivia of our spring milestone anniversary couples

Six other couples at Bethel are celebrating milestone anniversaries this summer:

- June 7 – Larry and Suzanne Horner (35th)
- June 16 – Tim and Pam Lehman (20th)
- June 21 – Randy and Marla Longenecker (35th)
- July 6 – Neil and Peggy Wirick (30th)
- July 23 – Chuck and Jeanie Swartz (45th)
- August 15 – Bill and Carole Barrett (40th)

Answer the following wedding trivia questions with one of the above couples. Answers may be found on page 7.

1. Whose wedding ceremony went off as planned in Kokomo, Indiana?
2. For whose wedding did a male quartet provide music?
3. Which groom sang *One Hand One Heart* from *Westside Story* to his bride?
4. Who was married at a church named Bethel, but not Bethel Mennonite in West Liberty?

5. Which couple chose to stay at the same charming inn in Louisville, Kentucky as a motorcycle club on their wedding night?
6. Whose groomsmen wore their new wedding suits to a funeral the day before the wedding?
7. Which couple spent their wedding night at a hotel in Rochester, Minnesota near the Mayo Clinic?
8. Who encountered the groom's parents in Paradise, Michigan while on their honeymoon?
9. Which groom stood in the foyer and greeted the wedding guests as they arrived?
10. Which groom climbed a tree for a pre-wedding picture and later had a bad case of chiggers on his wedding night?
11. Who went to the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania for their honeymoon?
12. Which couple waited out a flash flood on their way to Big Bend National Park for an extended honeymoon trip?
13. The fathers of which couple officiated at the wedding ceremony?

From the Pastor's desk

Facility Discernment: Next Steps By Dave Maurer

I invite us all to pray for God to reveal more fully the needs of the community and the gifts that God has given us. When we are able to see those things clearly, I am convinced that we will also be able to see ministry opportunities in our very midst to which God is calling us.

~ Pastor Dave Maurer



Hopefully you have read the Facility Discernment Weekend Workshop Discussion Reports and the Session IV Wrap-up Summary. If not, I invite you to read them with a discerning eye for what God is calling us to in the years ahead. In our May Joint Council meeting, it was clear that many felt good about this weekend, and that important topics were discussed. It also seemed clear that talking about this together and seeking God's leading in the midst of this discussion led us to look at the question of facility in new ways.

While this was a good first step in our discernment, it is clear that we have more discerning to do. The ideas of a gym/community center, fellowship room and kitchen, accessibility and the sanctuary all rose to the top, but much prayerful work must still be done in discerning next steps and what we may end up doing related to our facility.

The action sheets offered several next steps: get to know the community, congregational gifts survey, survey other churches and look more into our facility and previous discussions about it. Administrative Council will be considering how best to implement these next steps. In the meantime, I invite the congregation to consider Matthew 10:5-6 and two simple tasks.

In *The Message* we read, "Don't begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don't try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood." What would it mean for our congregation to focus more fully on our immediate neighborhoods? With that in mind, I offer these two encouragements.

First, I invite us all to pray for God to reveal more fully the needs of the community and the gifts that God has given us. When we are able to see those things clearly, I am convinced that we will also be able to see ministry opportunities in our very midst to which God is calling us.

Second, if you don't know all your neighbors on your block, introduce yourself. If you know them, make a point of talking with them and learning what's important to them. I now know most of the people in the first two blocks I walk on the way to the church, and have been struck by how such a simple thing has such profound implications. As I continue to work at this, I trust that God will reveal ministry opportunities that I would otherwise never see. May God continue to open our eyes to see the ways He desires to work through us to share the gospel with our community.

Mennonite Women in Mission: Highlights from Spring Meetings By Donna Lehman

In the past quarter this group met for their regular meetings as well as attending South Union's meeting on March 4. At South Union, there was a large group of about 45. We enjoyed fellowship with them and had a delicious baked potato luncheon.

Then we had our regularly scheduled March, April and May meetings. Mealtimes were sack lunches (March), a haystack lunch (April), and casseroles with salads and desserts (May).

With our ongoing theme, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, devotional themes were: **Water** – Jan Smucker reminded us that water is needed for our physical life, but Jesus, the Water of Life, is needed for our spiritual life; **Walking** – Annabelle Hostetler, who enjoys walking herself, reminded us that in the beginning,

God walked in the garden with his human creations, and He desires to walk with us today; **Nurtured by Nature** – Mary Psolla creatively shared pictures via computer of her and Bob's cabin project they've built, nestled in nature, and showed other nature pictures, connecting them with pertinent Psalms.

One of the highlights of the quarter was a project to provide items for Haiti relief kits. Expectations were more than met, when supplies were brought to complete 27 kits.

Work completed at the three meetings included 3 comforters, 3 health kits, 3 baby comforters, 2 newborn kits, and 27 relief kits for Haiti.

2010 SENIOR PROFILES – Kristyn * Collin * Brody

Kristyn Horn

Family: Dean and Mary Jean Horn, parents; Daniel and Tim, brothers

Activities and Awards: BHS Virtual Learning Academy; Women’s Glee Choir; CenterStage Productions drama club; academic letter for GPA above 3.25

Summer plans: Job shadow in journalism and non-profit organizations; find a part-time job; do things with friends

Future plans: At some point would like to study journalism and writing; interested in local missions and ministry

Favorite youth group memory: The service trip to Laurelville; dessert auctions and fundraisers; Sunday School class discussions; the Youth/Mentors program

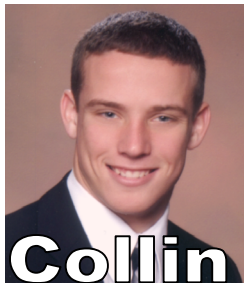
Advice for Bethel: Go beyond the texts and lesson books; Stay connected in the Body of Christ; Work together to reach out to people; Focus on God’s will

What she likes about Bethel: The family-like atmosphere, fellowship and friends, and that we are here to grow spiritually and to get to know each other and God more

Congratulations to our high school seniors!

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11
New Living Translation



Collin Link

Family: Dave and Michelle Link, parents; Sarah Harman, Lila Anane-Sefah, sisters; Royce, Logan, brothers

Activities and Awards: Senior at WL-Salem; Football, first team Ohio Heritage Conference, first team Springfield Area, second team Ohio; Basketball, second team OHC; Link Crew

Summer plans: Work at Link Construction

College plans: Attend Purdue University, studying engineering and playing football

Favorite youth group memory: Playing golf at Young’s Dairy

Advice for Bethel: Keep being open to young people by having fun activities.

What he likes about Bethel: We all laugh together and enjoy spending time together.

Brody Robinaugh

Family: Darin and Kathi Robinaugh, parents; Jason, Jordy, Trace, brothers

Activities and Awards: Senior at WL-Salem; Soccer; Newspaper staff and editor

Summer plans: Work, participate in the youth service project; begin school in mid-July

College plans: Attend Ohio Technical College in Cleveland for classic car restoration

Favorite youth group memory: The service trip to Laurelville Mennonite Camp in 2008

Advice for Bethel: Keep doing what you’re doing. I met God because of you.

What he likes about Bethel: The never-ending love and kindness shown by the church to its members and community

2010 SENIOR PROFILES – Katie * Kelsey * Elizabeth

Katie King

Family: Jim, Cindy, and Angel King, parents; Stacey, Holly, Grace, sisters; Andrew, Matt, Jonathan, Caleb, brothers

Activities and Awards: Senior at Bellefontaine H.S.; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Interact; United Way Youth Allocations; track, first team NWCC, Riverside MVP; cross country, first team CBC, All Southwest Ohio Special Mention; Gymnastics; NHS; NTHS; Bible quizzing; West Point Leadership Award; CBC Sportsmanship Award

Summer plans: Work at Blue Jacket Dairy and take a missions trip to Costa Rica

College plans: Attend Malone University, majoring in Secondary Math Education while running track and crosscountry, and diving

Favorite youth group memory: Going to Young's Dairy and the service trip with SWAP

Advice for Bethel: Keep up the Youth and Mentor program! It is a great encouragement for the youth.

What she likes about Bethel: The people are so welcoming and supportive.

ADVICE FOR BETHEL FROM THE GRADUATES:

*Keep up the Youth
and Mentor program!*

*It is a great
encouragement
for the youth.*

~Katie King

*Keep doing what
you're doing. I met
God because of you.*

~Brody Robinaugh



Kelsey Oakley

Family: Dianne Oakley and Dave Oakley, parents; Ethan, brother; Irida, sister

Activities and Awards: Senior at WL-Salem; National Honor Society; powerlifting; track, varsity hustle award; Link Crew; FFA, State Dairy Handler; 4H; White Tiger Award

Summer plans: Work at the family farm and get ready for college

College plans: Attend the University of Findlay in the Pre-Veterinary/Animal Sciences program

Favorite youth group memory: Going on the service trip to the Appalachian Mountains (SWAP), and going white water rafting

What she likes about Bethel: The youth group and the Youth and Mentor program

Elizabeth Lochridge

Family: James Lochridge, parent

Activities and Awards: Senior at Urbana High School; FFA: National Honor Society; varsity swimming team, Most Improved Swimmer; Star Greenhand Award; second place State Science Fair; second place State Dairy Products

Summer plans: Lifeguard at the Urbana City Pool as well as attend a Christian summer camp

College plans: Attend Capital University, majoring in Early Childhood Education

Favorite youth group memory: Going with Suzy and the youth group to Tim Horton's for donuts and coffee

What she likes about Bethel: I love how much the members care about one another. It is a blessing to know my father is involved with such an encouraging church.

From the Youth Pastor's desk

McLaren: God is doing something new By Rick Stoner

One of my favorite movie series is *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. In the opening scene of the first movie a voice tells us that the world is changing. Well, when we look at the world around us, it is easy to see how the world is changing. Now, there are two ways that we, as a church, can face the challenges of change. We can either retreat into our shells and hide from change, or we can face the change and see how God is moving in the change.

Brian McLaren, a Christian author and speaker, challenges us to do the latter. Last week I had the opportunity to travel up to Cleveland and hear McLaren speak. It was a great time for reflection and growth, and I would like to share a few of my reflections with you.

McLaren invited us to consider that it would be surprising if Christianity had revealed all of its secrets in its 2,000-year history. As the world shifts and changes, so we need to develop new ways of communicating our faith. This is an exciting proposition for us as we live in this new time, where God is teaching us and inviting us to journey with him in new directions. In this way, God is inviting us to become something that we have never been before as a people of God.

If this is the case, then McLaren says we must learn to ask new questions to create

new conversations to lead us on a new quest. The idea of viewing faith as a quest is important. So many times in faith, we have been concerned with getting people “in” and across some invisible line, and when they get there, they park themselves. Yet, God is not a parking lot God, but a God who is moving through history and the world. God doesn’t want us to park, but move with Him.

Asking new questions of our faith helps us with this movement. Just consider the Biblical narrative; Jesus never stayed in one place. Mark’s Gospel has Jesus constantly on the move. Or consider the book of Acts. The full title is *The Acts of the Apostles*, not the theological formulations of the apostles as they sat around and talked about their faith. In fact, the Greek word for “acts” could be translated “praxis,” which is putting what we have learned into action.

Therefore, if we are going to be faithful in our discipleship, we must learn to ask new questions, which must lead us into action. We must get out beyond ourselves, ask questions of those around us, and invite those “out there” into the conversation. It is at the intersection of interaction that the quest will come alive in new ways.

So, I would invite us to consider what new things God is opening to us as we move with Him.

Flamingo flocking is great fundraiser for Bethel youth By Rick Stoner

Traditionally flamingos are birds that live in the warmer climates of the world. Yet, with the coming of spring, a flock of flamingos has been on the loose around town. The Bethel youth group, with the help of a few young adults, has been busy this past month placing flamingos in the lawns of Bethel attendees. The flock has traveled from Bellefontaine to West Liberty, and even made its way over to North Lewisburg. There have been some casualties in the flock, with wings coming off, bodies breaking, and even one head coming off. However, the flock has survived its travels and is now ready for some time off.

As for the flockers, we had a lot of fun sneaking around town and placing the flamingos in the various yards. We learned that flamingo flocking is an exciting business, where one is constantly in danger of being discovered. You have to be very stealthy when placing the flamingos. For example, when we were up at Green Hills placing the flock in David and Sarah Hostetler’s yard, Bill Rabenstein had to sneak through the

shadows to make sure that the coast was clear before we could go in, because they had a light on in their living room and the curtains were wide open.

Yet, our band of merry flockers was caught a few times: once by Chuck Swartz because their dog wouldn’t stop barking; another time by Gary and Kathy Lehman’s neighbor, who drove down to check out what we were up to; and then Pastor Dave Maurer caught the crew as they were making their getaway. Bill, our wheel man, got so into the flocking that he and Brody Robinaugh decided to flock me even though no one had ordered the flamingos for our yard.

As a first-time fundraiser, the flamingo flocking was a great success and a lot of fun. We raised \$480 in net profit, which is great! I think the success of this fundraiser demonstrates Bethel’s ability to have fun with each other. Thank you so much for supporting our youth!

YOUTH SERVICE TRIP

Chicago DOOR

(Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection)

June 27 – July 2

Opportunities to:

- Learn about the city
- Get to know city people
- Hear people’s stories
- Learn about the challenges they face on a daily basis
- Learn about poverty
- Serve people in need
- Get to know other youth from around the country

Pray for:

- Safety in travel
- Good attitudes
- Open eyes and ears
- Serving hearts
- A wonderful serving and learning experience!

May God open our hearts to his work and may we be transformed as we point towards Christ’s transformation.

~Pastor Rick Stoner

From the church historian

75 Years of Bethel Bible School! By Donna Lehman

The first West Liberty Community Bible School was held in 1935 – at Bethel, 75 years ago! We have several Bethel members who took part as young girls when that Bible School began. Here are some memories of those early two-week sessions.

Wanda Shumaker – The Superintendent of the Children’s Home, Laban Swartzendruber, started Bible School for all children (up to the 8th grade) from West Liberty, and many children came. We met at 9:00 outside of the church according to grades, then marched into the sanctuary for group singing led by Christine Smucker. Then we were dismissed to classes. The smaller children went to the basement with classes separated by burlap curtains. The older children met in the ante rooms (small rooms in what is now the front of the sanctuary) and in the sanctuary. We studied *Paul’s Missionary Journeys* and made our own booklets. I don’t recall if we had recess, but do remember there was NO FOOD!

Ruby Byler – I remember the summer that I went to Bible School; it seems that our class had only girls, if I remember correctly! Lena Stoltzfus was our teacher and we studied the *Life of Paul*. We learned Bible verses, and Mary Byler learned whole chapters! We met in the main part of the church where there were curtains and chalkboards to separate the classes. This was the first Bible School in the community, so it was attended by children from the three Mennonite churches as well as community children. There was a program on Friday night that filled the church.

Mary Kay King – At the time Bible School began, there weren’t many church activities for children, so Bible School was a big deal, a time to talk and play with friends. So it was a “high point” for my summer. The Bible School lasted two

weeks and ended with a Friday evening program. The church was wall-to-wall people. All the classes performed, with the program probably lasting several hours. And remember, there was no air conditioning!

We don’t have an accurate count of the attendance of those first days of Bible School, but there could have been close to 200 children attending. Remember, this was prior to our having our present Sunday School addition, balcony area, hallway, kitchen and Fellowship Room. Many of the students were from the Children’s Home. Actually, a year earlier in 1934, Mr. Swartzendruber had a Bible School at the Home, feeling it was needed by the children; so this move was instrumental in Bethel’s starting one in 1935.

About six or seven years later, some of the other churches started their own Bible School, which was held in the West Liberty Grade School building on West Columbus. In about two more years, the various churches started Bible Schools.

In 1990 Bethel tried an evening Bible School from 6 – 8:30 p.m. It made staffing more available, but the smaller children were tired and there was conflict with evening activities. In recent years, the Junior High group has started having a weekend campout. This also frees these youth to be helpers at recess and in other ways for the daily Bible School.

Some other changes from 75 years ago: There is a curriculum, which we have always used through Mennonite Publishing; the two-week time got whittled down to one week; the attendance has declined from that 200 figure down to about 50; and, unheard of in the 1930s, some recent Bible School offerings for projects have been averaging \$700 to \$800! And, sorry Wanda, but today’s Bible School DOES HAVE SNACKS!

Peace & Justice Group meets twice monthly

In January of 2009, a group of persons interested in peace and justice issues began meeting for lunch and discussions on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Bethel Fellowship Room. Attendance has varied from 3 to 13, with folks coming from all four local Mennonite churches.

Some of the issues discussed or taken action on include the Middle East, immigration, veterans, community garden, Haiti and Chile earthquakes, and *Drumming for Peace* with Leo Hartshorn. Resource persons have included Rachel Kauffman (immigration), Jim Roynon (Palestine), Penny Butts (*Bridges Out of Poverty*), Fred Suter (alternatives to the draft), and Glenn Gault (veterans).

The group also watched a video titled *Why We Fight*, planned a Poverty Sunday emphasis at Bethel, and wrote letters to legislators about health care reform, and to Gov. Strickland asking for commutation of the Getsy death sentence.

At present, the group is exploring the idea of a program called *Every Day, Three Acts of Peace*, which came from a Christian school in Calgary, Alberta and a website (www.onethousandactsofpeace.org). If you have ideas for Acts of Peace we could do at Bethel, please pass them along to Bill Shumaker, Byron or Barb Kauffman, or join the Tuesday lunch discussions. Everyone is welcome!

(This article was compiled from a report by Bill Shumaker, Peace & Justice Coordinator.)

Answers to Wedding Trivia Questions on page 2

1. Horners
2. Longeneckers
3. Bill Barrett
4. Lehmans
5. Horners
6. Wiricks
7. Longeneckers
8. Barretts
9. Chuck Swartz
10. Neil Wirick
11. Lehmans
12. Swartzs
13. Longeneckers

An imaginary day with my father

Editor's note: For our Father's Day feature, I've asked several persons to share how they would spend a day with their fathers.

Ellen Steiner – Our day would start with hiking or cross country skiing on the trail by my parent's house, followed by a stop at Timmy's (Tim Horton's) for a coffee and doughnut!

Donna Risner – We would go for a ride to some interesting place from Dad's childhood or early adulthood. No doubt we would "stop by" a cemetery to say "hello" to some of his deceased relatives.

Sarah Hostetler – If Dad were here today, I would like to reminisce. "Remember, Dad, when we kids went with you to the cornfield, each with a hoe, to cut thistles? It was hot, dirty work but then you took us to Dolph Yoder's store in West Liberty, where you treated us with the best 10-cent sodas ever made! The work was worth the reward."

Elaine Newcomer – My father and I would drive to the farm and trim and mow the yard. In the evening we'd have our traditional root beer floats and play Rook or read.

Terri Steiner – Given that my father has Alzheimer's, I would simply like a relaxing day, a cookout, and some unconfused conversation on the porch swing, topped off with getting some ice cream.

Mary Yoder – My Dad loved to take drives in the country, and he would point out where

various people used to live as he checked how the crops were growing. A day together now would include a long drive, with me showing him all the changes that have taken place over 14 years, and we would end up at a special new restaurant.

Lisa Wenger – If Daddy were still here, we would spend the day talking and driving around just looking at farms and horses and things. I would listen and take in all the old stories, and would wait for that kiss on my cheek and hear him say, "Love you!"

Chuck Swartz – We would go to Yankee Stadium and watch the Yankees beat the Red Sox!

Miriam Lapp – I'd cook some of his favorite foods. He said recently that he was hungry for beef tongue. We'd talk of his childhood and CPS days and I'd read out loud to him.

Annie Steiner – The best way I could spend a day with my Father would be to go fishing and to a water park, and then go for ice cream.

Mary Jean Horn – We would go to the farm to feed and water the horses, then give them apples or carrots and brush them. Dad would putts around the barn before we went home to some ice cream and lots of conversation. Later we might even go antiquing to see what treasures we could find, or watch some old reruns of Andy Griffith or Perry Mason on TV.

BOOKS RECENTLY ADDED TO THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Facing Your Giants, by Max Lucado – "The God who made a miracle out of David stands ready to make a miracle out of you."

A Rustle of Angels, by Marilyn Carlson Webber & William D. Webber – "As you read, you will find yourself wondering about or re-examining the possibility of having entertained an angel 'unawares' yourself."

Abigail, by James R. Shott - #7 in the *People of the Promise* series – "What it may have been like to become David's wife and to walk beside him as he moved from outlaw to great king of Israel."

The new series by Kim Vogel Sawyer: ***Bygones*** (a woman's journey to faith, family and love); ***Beginnings*** (a woman's search to belong); ***Blessings*** (a young woman with a tender heart and healing touch struggles to find her way)

Lord Heal My Hurts, By Kay Arthur – a devotional on God's care and deliverance that also deals with anger, bitterness, and forgiveness

Husbands continue reflections (continued from page 1)

Dennis Showalter, about his wife, Sharon – When Daniel and Heather were small, she would do projects with them frequently to increase their knowledge and curiosity. She was always interested in their activities and attended all school and church events. She still stays actively involved with them, buying or making things they like and appreciate.

Doug Steiner, about his wife, Ellen – She has taught Alex and Annie the tremendous value of reading, not only for enjoyment but also as a way of exploring new ideas and stories

through literature. She also shares her sense of justice and peacemaking and is a champion of Jesus' instructions to care for the "least of these." She often takes the kids to serve at the food pantry or Our Daily Bread, and shares news articles or current events to help them consider the complexities of justice in today's world. She also adds many personal touches, which are the foundation of a loving home, to their lives.

Art Newcomer, about his wife, Mary – They know without a doubt that she loves them and their families.

Remembering our mother, Ruth By Roger and Christy Headings

Ruth was born in Accident, Maryland on Buzzard Day (when the buzzards return to Hinkley Ridge, OH) in 1924. We always had a good laugh about her birthday being on Buzzard Day. Ruth was one of 15 siblings; three of seven sisters and three of seven brothers are still alive and well.

Ruth came to West Liberty when she was a young lady to work for a short time at Adriel and meet Sanford. After she returned home to Maryland, she and Sanford began courting. The rest is history, except for some hilarious tormenting of Sanford by her brothers.

Growing up in such a large family and with limited means, Ruth became a veteran garage saler and bargain hunter to help provide for her own children, grandchildren, and anyone she believed could benefit from her gifts. She loved to see the looks of joy on the children's faces at receiving even a small toy or gift.

Ruth was well known for her love of making pies and cookies, especially pies for the youth dessert auctions. She loved watching her birds, and working in her flower and tea gardens. As a young mother she would shoot blackbirds as stress relief, but over time she asked her children to shoot them in order to keep the blackbirds away from her songbird feeders. This became a regular request each year, and almost a tradition.

When Ruth started to have more health problems and was unable to go on any shopping trips, she became determined to fulfill the family's needs by becoming our "prayer warrior." Her final wish was that the message at her funeral would be simple enough that all her great-grandchildren would understand the message about Jesus' life and sacrifice for us, and her "prayer baton" would be passed on to them. She has left us with many cherished memories.

Harold E. Hostetler: Beloved Brother and Uncle

Harold E. Hostetler, 89, of West Liberty, passed away on May 8, 2010 in his home. He was born in Champaign County on Nov. 9, 1920, a son of the late Stephen and Mamie Byler Hostetler. He also was preceded in death by two sisters, Norma Hostetler and Pauline Towles; and a brother, Earl Hostetler. Survivors include five sisters, Eileen Botkin, Ella Mae (Lowell) Kauffman, and Nellie (Richard) Lindemer, all of West Liberty, Ruth (Richard) Craig of Angola, IN, and Rose Smith of Columbus; a brother Paul (Linda) Hostetler and many nieces and nephews. A 1938 graduate of Salem Local School, he was a WW II Air Force veteran serving from May 1942 to November 1945.

Following his military service, he worked 41 years as a parts manager for the International Dealership in Plain City.

He enjoyed flying airplanes, restoring tractors, hunting, mushroom hunting, and spending time with his nieces and nephews.

He is remembered with great affection by his family, and will be greatly missed by them!

My Tribute to Grandma Miriam Horner By Katrina Horner, granddaughter

A grandma's caring spirit can never be replaced;
a grandma's loving words can never be erased.
Your wispy gray curls will greatly be missed,
along with the smile from those lips that I've kissed.
Your smell lingers on in the depths of my heart.
I'll never forget it though death's made us part.
Your bright colored clothing always showing your cheer;
your warm-hearted wishes which made you so dear.

In baking I joined you oh, so many times;
the taste of cream pie a favorite of mine.
For hours upon hours we watched all those shows;
Dr. Phil, Price is Right; oh, how the memories glow!
Open the door and what do you see?
Grandma just sitting there smiling at me.
Simplicity and beauty were combined each day;
it was a part of your life in every single way.

Your worn Bible was your way;
you had faith in every day.
Just to see the smile on your grandchildren's face
definitely made life always worth the race.
Remember all those times we had
grasping from that sweet orange tree?
Remember all those times we had
sitting, chatting, building me?

Not only a woman, but a mother and wife;
not only a woman, a grandmother for life.
I truly respected you in every single way;
I truly looked up to you every single day.
I look at myself hoping to be like her;
if I could only be half of what you were.
Your Girly I'll always be, though now we are apart.
Grandma, I'll always love you; you'll always be in my heart.



God's GIRLS and Abraham's Lot wrap up busy year

It was another great year for God's GIRLS as we swung into action in September with seven girls – Larissa Graber, Savannah Hostetler, Annie Steiner, Becky Wilkins, Ashley Rabenstein, Rachel Snyder, and Larissa's friend, Lily Levan. Barb Landes and Jane Core Thomas returned as co-leaders for the year, and Jessica Stoner joined them to learn the ropes for next year.

We had several service projects this year beginning with participation in the annual CROP Walk in Bellefontaine. It was a great day for the walk and the girls did a super job walking. Next, we paid a visit to Green Hills, where we treated residents to a nail soak and fresh coat of nail polish. The girls brought many different colors of nail polish and some residents had a difficult time making a color choice, but everyone enjoyed the pampering.

During the year we had a variety of special activities, which began with our attendance at the Ted & Co. program at Bellefontaine High School. Next, we had a blast as Jerry Landes joined us for a repeat performance of his non-competitive games. Our final guest was Lela Faye Graber who presented the Myers-Briggs personality indicator and helped us understand our individual strengths, talents, and gifts.

Other activities included our annual "Cookies in a Jar" fundraiser, which keeps us busy for several meetings as we make preparations and assemble the jars. We also made Buckeye jewelry, a fleece blanket, decorated a small knick-knack box, made a

picture holder, and discussed fashion issues and nail care/manicures.

As is tradition, the year wrapped up with two great events, Daddy Date Night and the Mothers' Tea. On a beautiful April afternoon, the girls and their dads traveled to Young's Dairy for a round of Putt-Putt golf, followed by yummy ice cream.

And once again, the hats and gloves made an appearance for the Mother's Tea, which was held at Barb Landes' home with delicious food from the Swiss Haus and Mary Newcomer serving as hostess. It was a lovely gathering with the picture holders the girls had decorated being used as favors, each mother/grandmother sharing reflections about their daughter/granddaughter, and teacups being presented to Becky, Annie, Savannah, Larissa, and Lily, who were our graduates. Thanks to all the girls for an awesome year! ~Jane Core Thomas

Abraham's Lot boys' group has been meeting twice a month since January at the home of Gary Lehman, coordinator. The guys in the group are Matthew Snyder, Trace Robinaugh, Daniel Lehman, Stephen Hostetler, and Hayden Hostetler.

Meetings consist of a devotional time, projects, snacks, and games. During devotions we learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and topics such as how followers of Christ should treat others, and sportsmanship.

Projects this year have included disassembling some ordinary household items; drag racing Hot Wheels cars on a racetrack set up down the stairway into the kitchen in a tournament set up similar to the NCAA Sweet 16 to determine an overall champion; shaping snakes out of a block of balsa wood, and finishing them with paint to look like a particular species of reptile; and a "kit bash" where the guys were given a collection of model car parts which they made into such odd creations as a winged car.

The most played game this year was one the guys made up themselves: *Flashlight Hide and Seek*, in which all the lights are turned off, and the "hidiers" hide while the "seeker" counts and then tries to find the hidiers armed only with a flashlight.

~Gary Lehman

Bethel Mennonite Church

416 Washington
P.O. Box 549
West Liberty, OH
43357

Phone:
937.465.4587

Email:
Pastor Dave Maurer
bethelpastor@
2access.net

Pastor Rick Stoner
bethelyp@2access.net

Secretary
bethelsecretary@
2access.net

We're on the Web!
See us at:
bethelchurchwl.org

About the newsletter:

This newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the church secretary.

Its purpose is three-fold:

~**Inform** the church about events

~**Acquaint** persons who attend Bethel with each other

~**Inspire** us to Christ-like living

**Vacation Bible School
June 14 - 18
Bethel Mennonite Church**

**MEET
GOD
ON THE
MOUNTAIN!**

Come and bring your friends!