

Visual Arts Enhance 12 Scriptures Project

By Doug Steiner

Beginning in the spring, Bethel followed the invitation of Mennonite Church USA by launching its own version of the 12 Scriptures Project. As part of a Christian formation effort by MC USA, congregations were encouraged to discern twelve scriptures they found as most formative (see mennoniteusa.org for information about the 12 Scriptures Project).

The process began at Bethel by inviting families or other small groups to develop a list of the twelve most formative scriptures in the lives of the individuals in that family or group.

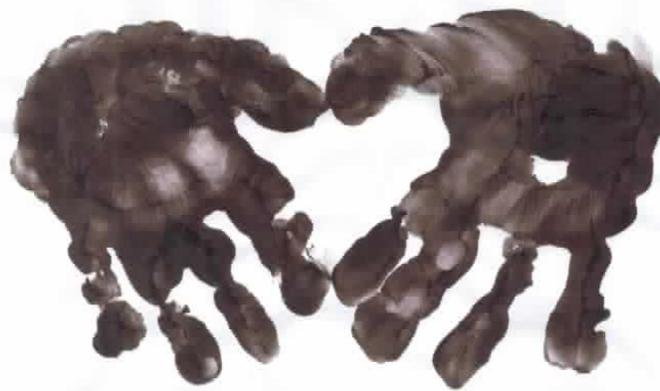
In our family, this discernment occurred around our dinner table one week night between homework assignments, work schedules and video games. Each of us quickly listed off 3-4 scriptures that have shaped us. As may have happened with other groups, our list surged above twelve and we needed to find ways to stay within the limit. One way we did this was by reminding each other that “formative” was the key term, not just favorite scriptures, or ones we read lately.

With our list of twelve, we proceeded to the next step of repeating the process in our Sunday School class. This time, families, couples or individuals read off their twelve and a tally was kept on the black board. In the Share and Care class, the scriptures listed most frequently were included in the final class list of twelve.

The final discernment for the congregation occurred during a Community Sunday hour where each class brought their list of twelve. Repeated passages became the core of our list. After a time of our

list. After a time of discernment, we rounded out the list to 12. This process generated the 12 Scriptures for Bethel as a whole.

During the summer months, a Sunday worship service was dedicated to each of the 12 Scriptures. Pastor Dave and the Worship committee brainstormed other ways for persons to connect to the scriptures, besides through reading and preaching.



Silas Maurer's contribution to the bulletin covers. This picture represents 1 Corinthians 13.

One of Dave's ideas was to create a visual that could be hung in the sanctuary. This was mentioned to the ladies in sewing group and the idea of quilt pieces was developed. Kyle Van Osdol and Mary Psolla volunteered to generate a quilt piece for each of the twelve scriptures. Each Sunday during the series, a new quilt piece was hung on the backing in the front of the church.

Kyle and Mary describe an involved process of delving into the essence of each scripture to find visual aspects of that passage. Working together they tested different color schemes, quilt patterns and designs. Kyle and Mary attest this creative process may have required the greatest amount of discernment as they challenged each other's ideas and visions. Relying on each other's skills and abilities, as well as their solid friendship to muddle through differences of opinion, each piece eventually came to life. During each worship service the quilt piece was incorporated into the theme for the service, with an explanation of piece's visual impact.

Continued on page 2...

Where do our 12 Scriptures go from here? Once the 12 Scriptures were narrowed down, we posted our final selections on the 12 Scriptures Project on Mennonite Church USA's website. The quilt squares will be pieced together and displayed. Mennonite Church USA will receive a photograph of the final product. The bulletin covers made by Bethel's children will be on display downstairs. Council will continue to reflect on these and be guided by them in the month ahead. Such a special project will not be easily forgotten!

If you will be working with children or youth in the upcoming year and unable to attend the training session, please complete the training by watching a video of the August 29th training. You may check out a DVD in the library and return the completed form to Erin's box.

Soccer Camp Success! Parents Share their Appreciation

"We appreciated the coaches stopping play, explaining what was wrong and/or encouraging the children to explain what was wrong (too many on one side of the field, bunching up, etc.)...overall a very well run camp. It was the right amount of time per evening and the right number of days long."



"We are definitely planning to attend camp next year. Our three kids always look forward to camp and really enjoy themselves!"

"Our son LOVED soccer camp this year! he will be back next year and his brother is looking forward to coming to! I appreciated that it was close to the end of summer and it actually made him excited for school because he saw some of his school friends at the camp! Caleb had fun learning new skills and we appreciated the positive environment for learning. We also appreciated that it was not a competitive "win win win" type of camp focused only on the "best" players, it focused on skills and building the kids "up" as they learned together. Caleb looked forward to the popsicles and he thought the devotion time was cool. He really liked getting his own soccer ball too."

47 children participated in our 7/29-8/1 camp. Thanks to all who helped make it a success!

"Visual Arts" continued

Another visual idea was to have children in the primary department draw an image of that child's understanding of the scripture. These drawings became the bulletin covers for each Sunday. The children stated they enjoyed being involved in this way. It allowed the congregation to see the scripture from the child's perspective and connect with the children in new ways. The bulletin covers were posted on the board in the foyer.

The visual art projects enhanced our 12 Scriptures Project in a number of ways. It allowed us to connect with the scriptures through art and creative expression, expanding our understanding of God's message. It also allowed many individuals to be involved in the creative aspect of the project. By creating a quilt piece or drawing, individuals entered the scripture in their own ways. The creative work behind the scenes will likely remain with that person's memory of the scripture for many years to come. Thanks to all who were involved who shared their skills, gifts and inspiration with the rest of us! You helped us see God in new ways!

One Call Now Updates

Erin has been working on updating One Call Now. If you are having problems receiving your messages, please let her know and explain what the problem is.



If you are interested on being on or removed from the Prayer Chain, please contact Erin.

Youth Theme 2013: Word, World, and Church

By Pastor Rick Stoner

It seems like society has given us a script in a drama that is based on, well, death. It is a script based on consuming, where we consume goods, resources, and each other to feel good about ourselves and to find meaning. Ultimately this is a suicide script that leads to destruction. But the sad thing is that for many people they don't see Christ's body, the church, offering a compelling alternative. Perhaps we have bought into society's script. Perhaps we have grown complacent as we play our part.

Enter our youth theme for the year. This year we are focusing on what could be seen as the backbone of mission theology; the interplay between the themes Word, World, and Church. The interplay of these three elements is intended to create a praxis cycle, where the faith community reflects upon the Word and then engages its context and this leads back to the word. In this way the Word becomes a living word rather than a sterile lifeless Word because it is always drawing us to embody the story.

For our purposes we will begin with exploring what it means to **be** the church; specifically focusing on our faith community and our purpose. Then we will shift towards the Word and wrestle with images of mission in the biblical text, such as the image of salt, light, sojourners, or new creation. Finally, we will focus on our context and wrestle with different themes of our culture to see how we as the church and be

faithful to the word in our engagement with the world. In approaching our faith from this standpoint we are moving from a focus on orthodoxy (right thinking) and orthopraxy (right action) towards theopraxy (God practice). So we move from just focusing on what is "right" to God and God's kingdom. But, it is not just concerned with ideas about God's kingdom but in the practice too.

So, we find through the exploration of the three themes of mission theology, and their interaction, that we are called to a lived faith. The narrative of the gospel isn't just theological ephemera that floats about in our minds. Furthermore, we cannot be formed into anything if all we do is talk about God or think about God. The interaction of the Word, the faith community, and our missional context (world) does not leave room for passive faith. Charles Van Engen states, "Theology of mission [Word, World, Church] is a process of reflection and action involving a movement from *biblical text* to the *faith community* in its *context*?" (*Mission on the Way*, 26). Van Engen's comment highlight the cyclical movement that we are striving for; a movement as Christ's body from dwelling in the word and being formed by it to living it. And as we live it, we allow that life to inform our interaction with the word. When this happens God begins to rewrite our script and change begins to emerge as people see and hear this new story!

Youth & Mentors Kick Off!

By Kathy Lehman

The Youth and Mentors will kick-off the 2013 - 2014 season with a fun night on September 15th. We will travel to the Springfield Putt-Putt Fun Center, then saunter across the sidewalk to Dairy Queen for some post-game treats.

In October, we will begin a new series of exploring God's word and His plans for our lives as we meet together each month. This year's theme will focus on knowing God, with an emphasis on our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Meetings include group discussion followed by one on one time between mentor and youth, and end with a delicious snack time.

Our youth - mentor pairs this year are: Alex Steiner and Dennis Sanford, Michael Lehman and Ed Lehman, Becky Wilkins and Michelle Link, Annie Steiner and Cheryl Shank, Savannah Hostetler and Jessica Stoner, and Trace Robinaugh and Sam J. Plank.

We look forward to a new year of learning and growing together.

September is Bethel's month to operate the West Liberty Cares Food Pantry. Sign up to serve every Wednesday or the third Saturday of the month! Donations of nonperishable goods can be dropped off in boxes inside the entrance to the church.

“...the gracious rule of God...”

By Pastor Dave Maurer

In the previous three newsletters, I have reflected on aspects of our purpose statement and what they mean for our congregation. This is based on the purpose statement that council adopted for the process of discerning a recommendation of what it would look like for Bethel to restructure our self. In sharing this with the congregation, we are inviting your input and reflection as well as we discern together God’s future for us. So far we have considered, “Jesus compels us to experience and extend...” This month, we consider the next phrase “the gracious rule of God.”

We know that God is the ruler of the universe and we desire to be citizens of God’s kingdom, a kingdom that crosses our human boundaries. In this we acknowledge God’s authority and God’s wisdom, God’s power and God’s might. We acknowledge our place in the grand scheme of things, that we are the created and God the creator. God is the master and we are the servants.

And while this acknowledgement is essential and an ongoing discipline for us, we also acknowledge God’s grace in all of this. This is significant because it is through God’s grace that we experience salvation and that we are able to participate in God’s rule. It is even more significant give that historically Mennonites have not necessarily given as much attention to the role of grace in our lives and the

power that it has for extending the kingdom. We have focused more on discipleship and discipline which are also important and yet require balance and perspective.

For me, “the gracious rule of God” has been playing out at home over the last few weeks. It has come out in how I relate to a new neighbor after a challenging start to our relationship. While I believe those who know the situation would agree that I have a right to be angry or upset for what happened and the mistake that was made, I am also humbled by the fact that I too make mistakes and that God has extended grace to me. Because of God’s grace for me, from the start I have been intentional about offering grace to him.

He has taken ownership of his mistake and asked for forgiveness. I in return extend grace and forgiveness to him and which takes more than a onetime act on my part. Extending the gracious rule of God takes an ongoing and intentional commitment of offering grace in all of my interactions, not just after a crisis point.

Take a moment to reflect on the gracious rule of God in your own walk and in our congregation. How have you experienced the gracious rule of God? In what ways might you imagine God calling our congregation to extend the gracious rule of God? May God guide us as we continue to follow in God’s ways.

Take a moment to reflect on the gracious rule of God in your own walk and in our congregation. How have you experienced the gracious rule of God? In what ways might you imagine God calling our congregation to extend the gracious rule of God?



Restructure Listening Session: Please plan to join us on Sunday, September 29th after the worship service for a listening session about Bethel’s restructure process. Bring a sack lunch and gather in the fellowship room to hear more about what council has been considering and to give your thoughts and feedback. More information will be coming as the date approaches. Until then please be in prayer for God’s leading as we seek to follow in God’s ways and to live into God’s purpose for us as a congregation.

Israel Trip

By Carl and Elaine Newcomer

August 16, 2013 we began our journey to Israel flying non-stop from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv. After many invitations from Garry and Ruth Denlinger (our son-in-law Ron's parents), we decided this would be a good year to go.

Garry met us at the airport in Tel Aviv and we travelled to Haifa where Garry and Ruth live. Haifa is a beautiful city with three terraced layers built on the Mt. Carmel Range overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Our first sight seeing visit was to the Discalced Carmelite Monastery on Mt. Carmel. It is believed that this is the place where Elijah encountered the prophets of Baal. There we could overlook the Jezreel Valley and plains of Megiddo fertile with fields and trees. We thought of the many battles fought in this valley and about the final battle of Armageddon that will fill this valley with blood.

We then spent 3 days in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. We stayed at the Finnish School Hostel within walking distance of Old Jerusalem. Here we met the staff that were from Finland and experienced warm hospitality and shared in their devotional period one morning.

Our first introduction to Jerusalem was at the bus station where an Israeli Cab driver approached us and said he would give us a tour around the Old City and then to Bethlehem. We had been told that it was not safe for us to go to Bethlehem if we weren't with a tour group so we thought that we would not be able to see Bethlehem. The driver named Moshe (Moses in English) convinced us that he was a Christian believer and showed us notes of recommendations from other tourists that he was trust worthy, so we decided to take the risk and trust him.

With our luggage stowed in the trunk of his taxi, we began our tour of Old Jerusalem. Our first stop was at the Mt. of Olives. What a sight to look over the city of Jerusalem from the Mount. Verses from Luke came alive as we looked over the city. Luke 13:3 Jesus said "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill prophets and stone those sent to you, how often, I long to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." During the triumphal entry to Jerusalem Luke 19:14 says "As he (Jesus) approached Jerusalem (from the Mt. of Olives) and saw the city, he wept over it." Here, we entered the Chapel of the Ascension that has a rock on which can be seen a footprint which according to Christian tradition is the footprint

Jesus left as he ascended to heaven.

Next, we went to the Garden of Gethsemane and thought about Jesus praying among the olive trees some of which were 2,000 years old. Luke 22:41-44 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." and being in anguish he sweat drops of blood. We went into the Grotto Of Gethsemane supposing to be the place where Jesus was betrayed by Judas and was arrested. Journeying on to Bethlehem, we saw the wall that divides Bethlehem from Jerusalem and then at a border crossing switched into a taxi cab driven by a Palestinian, who Moshe said was a believer and friend. Moshe was not allowed to cross the border because he was Israeli. While in Bethlehem, we ate a delicious mid-eastern sandwich, and then visited the Basilica of the Nativity and Church of Saint Catherine, where according to tradition St. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin-the Vulgate.

We asked several taxi drivers how they felt about the wall dividing the West Bank and Israel. One young man from Bethlehem said that he wished Bethlehem was on the Israeli side because he would feel safer. An Arab driver from Israel said they were safer because it kept low the incidence of rockets and suicidal bombers coming into Israel from the West Bank.

During our second day in Jerusalem, we had a Christian Arab taxi driver, who took us to the Garden Tomb. We arrived in time to join up with a small tour group. We saw part of Mt. Moriah which according to protestant tradition is the place of the skull where Jesus was crucified. Then we walked to the tomb of a rich man, which could have been the place where Jesus was buried. Being in the Garden Tomb was a very emotional experience,

thinking of the death and resurrection of Christ. At the tomb the group we were with burst into song "Jesus Christ is Lord". We sang along with them. We could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in this very beautiful and peaceful garden.

Our next stop was sad and depressing as we spent some time in the Holocaust Museum. It brought to mind the visit that we made to a concentration camp in our trip to Europe and the suffering the Jews went through.

We then began our journey to the Jordan River and Jericho through the hot and barren Desert of Judea. Here we saw some Bedouin Camps and took a very short camel ride. Riding a camel isn't the most comfortable way to travel. As we stopped at a baptismal site at the Jordan we had to think of Jesus going down to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist and then going out into this hot barren desert for 40 days. In Jericho the oldest city of the world, we saw the Mt. of Temptation, Elisha's Well, and the remaining ruins of one of Jericho's old walls.

Continued on page 6...



"...We left Israel with the words of a woman in Nazareth Village ringing in our ears 'pray for us that there will be no war but peace.'"

Elaine Newcomer

“Israel” continued

Arriving back in Jerusalem we went to the Western/Wailing Wall and watched as the Jewish men and women said their prayers and put notes into the wall crevices. How sad that they don't believe that the Messiah has come. We toured the Western Wall Tunnel and stood under the place where the temple was built where now the Muslim Dome of the Rock stands. Some Jews come into this tunnel to pray because it's the closest they can get to where once the Holiest of Holies was.

The third day in Jerusalem, we spent walking throughout the Old City. We walked along the Via Dolorosa, went to the Pool of Bethesda, and walked on the Rampart Wall around the Old City. In the city were many shops selling everything imaginable. The shop owners ask you to come into their shops, telling you to just look and then pressure you into buying. One learns to walk on by without looking into the shop or say no and just keep walking.

After leaving Jerusalem, we travelled by bus to Masada and the Dead Sea. Floating in the Dead Sea is quite an experience. The water was very warm, we couldn't sink, but had to make sure to keep the water out of our eyes and face. Due to evaporation and irrigation the Sea is receding.

On Saturday, the Sabbath, we attended the Messianic Jewish congregation that Garry and Ruth attend. Hebrew and English are both spoken. We were given English hymn books so that we could follow along with the singing. We sang I Will Sing of My Redeemer, The Old Rugged Cross, and All People That On Earth Do Dwell. We took communion with them. They have communion every Sabbath. That Sabbath the worship leader was an Israeli Messianic Jew and the man who gave the sermon was a Christian Arab. We listened to Hebrew sermon translated via a small hearing devise into English for us. How special to see Jew and Arab wor-

shipping together in love.

The second week we spent sightseeing in Haifa and toured the Bahai Gardens beautifully landscaped with colorful flowers, trees, shrubs, and fountains. Another day we went to Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee.

Nazareth Village is a reconstructed site of how the Village of Nazareth may have looked in the time of Jesus. To us it felt very authentic, like we were actually back in Bible Times. We watched a carpenter carving on a log, a weaver making a rug out of wool taken from sheep raised in the village, and entered the home of a farmer and feasted on hummus, pita bread, and olives grown on trees in the village.

We then journeyed to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee. At a seaside restaurant, we had a meal of St. Peter's fish. This tasty tilapia was served with head, tail, and fins attached. As we gazed out over the sea, we could vision Jesus walking on the water, riding on a boat calming the stormy sea, Peter climbing out of the boat trying to walk on the water and beginning to sink, the disciples fishing, and Jesus walking along the shore with his disciples. Ancient Hebrews called the Sea of Galilee Kinnor which means lute/harp or violin in honor of the soothing harp like sounds of the waves and the lute like shape of the Sea.

The last several days we experienced some apprehension not knowing what may happen with the military situation in Syria. If the US began a military strike Syria was threatening to strike Israel. The rest of the time we felt relatively safe, although a rocket from Lebanon landed about 20 miles from Haifa while we were in Israel. We realize that the people in Israel have to deal daily with a possible threat of violence to them. We left Israel with the words of a woman in Nazareth Village ringing in our ears “pray for us that there will be no war but peace”.

Mennonite Women

By Donna Lehman, MW Secretary

The Mennonite Women's summer meetings had 'summer' themes: in July we had a 'boating meal' and in August a 'garden potluck.' The boating meal was hosted by Janice Rabenstein and Susie (Rabenstein) Krabill. One of the Rabenstein's summer activities through the years has been boating; so they were wise as to the type of meal you have on a boat, i.e. sandwiches, chips, fruit, and cookies. Sara Ellen assisted with the boat meal. The garden potluck is always special—what new thing will someone do with anchovies? Hostesses, who also added fruit cobblers to the potluck were Barb Kauffman, Lydia King, and Annabelle Hostedler.

Things coming up: Women's Retreat at Camp Luz, September 20-22 (Saturday only is an option). We will still be having 'School Kits' as the project for the September meet-

ing. We will also be remembering school days, so are to bring a sack lunch for mealtime with a dessert and drink furnished.

We have completed our Spiritual Journey devotionals using 'Wow' verses, and we will be using MW's devotional booklet, **Courageous Women of the Bible** this coming year for devotions.

At the end of the August meeting day; all the sudden there was a cheer from the quilters as they completed the beautiful cross-stitch quilt (Julia's) they have been diligently quilting.

Work completed: 32 school kits sewn; 27 filled; 1 quilt, 4 comforters, 2 health kits.

Remembering J (Jack) Warren Yoder

This is from the memories of his father given by Keith Yoder at Jack's memorial service on August 24th with some editorial omissions or additions.

Jack passed away Friday, August 9, 2013 at Green Hills Center, West Liberty. He was born on May 10, 1919 in Champaign County, a son of the late Dan C. And Maude (Allgyer) Yoder. He was also preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Geneva Hartzler and Marie King; two brothers, Dr. C. Richard Yoder, Dan J. Yoder, and his step mother, Belle Stoltzfus Yoder, and four nephews.

On January 23, 1948 he married Ruth Weber and she survives along with sons, Edward (Jan) of Toronto, Ontario, Keith (Mary Claire) of Atlanta and Karl of Las Vegas; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a brother Everett Yoder, and many nieces and nephews. He grew up with his family attending Oak Grove, and in 1948 became a member of Bethel.

Keith's memories: "Family was an important part of what shaped who my father was. The strong sense of family came from Grandpa Allgyer and became even stronger when at an early age, his family lost their mother. The bond he had with his brothers and sister was evident throughout our lives as they always made time for each other and were there for each other when needed. Whether it was family visits on Sunday evening, or at Christmas with all of us piling into Grandpa's little house; or the summertime Allgyer reunions, which helped us catch up with our cousins and their families. I know how he loved our Mom with all his heart; there was never any doubt that they were faithful partners for 65 years through all the ups and downs, and especially over the past 4 years when he needed her most.

Farming was an integral part of his life from the beginning. He loved to farm and especially loved his cows. Early this was evident in working with his father, and then after the war he went on a cattle boat with almost 400 Holstein heifers to Poland to help those folks begin to rebuild their lives after their devastation. When he returned, he continued that passion as he worked with Carl Gray who bought and sold dairy cattle. That was also how Mom first heard about Dad. Her family had moved to West Liberty when at church they were asked to pray for a young man who was in a coma after being kicked in the head by a cow. His name was Jack Yoder. A few years later they married and moved to our farm home and for over 50 years he lived his passion. He had the perfect temperament for being a dairyman. Everything he did was to ensure the cattle received the best care possible and in return he received great production. He was honored in the early 1960's as the electrified farmer of the year by DP&L for being one of the first to have a bulk milk tank. I think as farm children, we were the lucky ones, because each day we got to work side by side with Dad. Following the loss

of his arm (because of a farm accident September 1979) we were so indebted to those who helped him continue to do the farming that he loved for another 10 years.

Faith was the cornerstone which brought everything into focus. That began at an early age from the example of his Grandfather and continued to deepen with his family and remained strong even in the face of adversity. I was reading through a diary he kept as a young man and there were multiple entries regarding studying the Bible or his S.S. lesson and learning lessons of patience and obedience. Church and faith were a large part of our life growing up and helps define what we believe today. I have been told by several folks here at Bethel there may have been strangers who came through the doors, but they left with a new friend having been welcomed and made to feel at home by Dad. There were also notes in his Bible late in life where he was still striving to be who he thought God wanted him to be. He never stopped looking to deepen his faith. He also wrote about two people whom he admired and wanted to emulate; one, his father-in-law, Newton Weber and second, Chauncey Kauffman (his long time S.S. teacher). They were strong influences in his life. Faith was what shaped him and along with his passion for the land.

In completing an application at age 16 for a semester away program his junior year of high school, my son Luke had to answer this question: "Who is someone you admire and why?" Luke answered, "The person I admire was a person who, when faced with the adversity of losing his arm did not allow that to shape his life, instead with great faith, courage, perseverance and a passion of what he loved, provided an example for all of us on how we live. He is my grandfather."

We'll miss our Dad, but know the eternal celebration has begun for him and all the family and friends who have gone before for a life well-lived."



Read more memories about Jack on page 8.

Our Tribute to Jack By Mary Psolla

When Jim (my late husband) and I first moved our family to West Liberty in 1970 and began attending Bethel, it did not take long to become friends with Jack and Ruth Yoder. We found them to be very welcoming and accepting of others. They were very involved in the life of the church and interested in those who attended and especially enjoyed keeping up with the children and young people.

When Jim died and Bob became a part of my life, they were just as accepting of him. Jack and Bob had a common interest in farming.

It's a little difficult for me to describe Jack as separate from Ruth because I think of them as "Jack & Ruth," a devoted couple—devoted to serving God and the church and devoted to each other. Ruth remained a faithful caregiver to Jack through their times of difficulty.

Bob and I saw Jack as a humble, quiet man who was also strong, physically, emotionally and spiritually. He loved life, loved God, loved his family, loved being a farmer and achieved many goals in caring for his animals and God's good earth. He was a man of vision, looking ahead and being prepared for the future.

Jack was a great example to us in the way he lived, the way he accepted and overcame hardships. He showed us he had the willpower and determination to "never give up."

Vendor Breakfast By Kim Lehman

The breakfast took place Friday, August 30th. It's another year, I can't really decide when we started, but I do know it was an idea of Art and Mary Newcomer. I've never really taken a count of how many "vendors" we serve, but we have found out that a "few" aren't vendors from the Labor Day festival. They live a few blocks over from the church and saw our sign out front.

And this year was special because we had some monetary donations just because they have come for several years to our free pancake breakfast. The money will go towards the Syrian Relief.

Thank you to our Bethel family that may have come to eat...but got put to work instead. And to those who came to work...and then did more than their share...Thank you to Art and Mary who continue to help with this out-reach from beginning to end.

Mark your calendars! The annual CROP walk will be Sunday, October 6th .

Congrats to our newest members and recently baptized!

Tesa Jordan and Leslie Suzanne pledged membership and Dave and Beth Maurer shared about them. Darrin Robinaugh and Lee Jordan were baptized by pouring and Dennis Showalter and Mary Newcomer shared about them.

Becky Wilkins and Savannah Hostetler were baptized in the river. Their mothers and mentors Michelle Link and Jessica Stoner shared about them.



The Wheel on the School

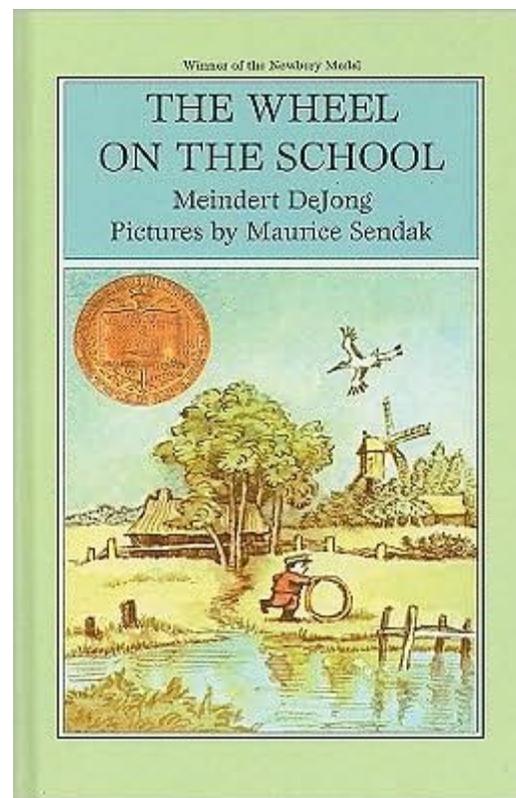
By Beth Maurer

The small town of Shora, a fishing village in Holland, has no storks, and the children of Shora decide they want to bring the storks back to Shora. The children figure out that they need to put a wheel on the top of the school for the storks to make their nest. Lots of adventures follow in this family friendly play that will be performed at the Holland Theater on November 1 and 2.

The book, The Wheel on the School by Meindert DeJong was adapted into a play by Kate Piatt-Eckert just for the Holland Theater. Since the Wheel on the School is set in Holland, the Holland Theater is the perfect place for the first showing of this play.

The play is a Windmill Production directed by Thelma Matthews and Paula Strebbig, and the cast is made up of various community members from the Bellefontaine area, including our own Maggie, Beth and Elam Maurer. Elam's character Eelka (pronounced Ale-ka) is one of the 6 school children who are working hard to find a wheel for the school. Beth will play Eelka's mother, and Maggie is one of the Tin Peddlers's four daughters. All are looking forward to the experience of being on the stage in front of family and friends.

The play will be performed November 1 at 7:30 pm and on November 2 at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased soon by calling the Holland Theater at (937) 592-9002 or online at <http://www.showclix.com/event/3773286>



Additional Small Group Options this Fall

If you are not already a part of a small group, please consider joining one of these groups. Please note that in an effort to be small groups, space is limited; but if there is more interest than space, we will work to create additional opportunities.

Name: QUEST **Leader:** Kim Lehman
Time: Wed. 6:45-8PM - Beginning Sept. 11th
Duration: 9 weeks **Location:** Ed & Kim Lehman's home
Limit: 10 **Content:** Scripture/Sermon Reflection

Description: "As believers in Jesus Christ, our journey of faith is a Q.U.E.S.T. in which we Question, Understand, Explore, Share, and Trust. By doing these things, we search for a faith of substance that is rooted in Jesus Christ and can support us in times of trial as well as guide us in times of uncertainty. This small group is meant to be a place in which we can talk together about matters of faith, life & scripture so that we can learn from each other and grow in faith. It is a place to aid us in our quest. Our weekly discussion will be based on the scripture and the sermon from the previous Sunday."

Name: TBD **Leader:** Jerry Landes & Bill Shumaker
Time: Thurs. @ 7pm - Beginning Sept. 5th **Limit:** 12
Duration: Completion of the book **Location:** Landes'
Content: "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong

Description: Karen Armstrong provides an impassioned and practical guide to helping us make the world a more compassionate place. The twelve steps she suggests begin with "Learn About Compassion," and close with "Love Your Enemies." In between, she takes up self-love, mindfulness, suffering, sympathetic joy, the limits of our knowledge of others, and "concern for everybody." She shares concrete methods to help us cultivate and expand our capacity for compassion, and provides a reading list to encourage us to "hear one another's narratives." Armstrong teaches us that becoming a compassionate human being is a lifelong project and a journey filled with rewards.

Continued on page 10...

“Additional Small Groups...” continued

Name: Fusion Partakers **Leader:** Cheryl Shank
Time: Sun. 6:30-7:30PM - Beginning Sept 8th. Twice a month
Duration: Through Thanksgiving **Location:** Ken & Cheryl Shank's
Limit: 12 **Content:** “He Still Moves Stones: everyone needs a miracle” by Max Lucado

Description: Author Max Lucado invites us to relive these stories with him. To be reminded that the God who spoke still speaks. To know that the God who forgave still forgives. The God who came still comes. He comes into your world. He comes to do what you can't. He comes to move the stones you can't budge. He still moves stones." Our discussion will be based on the reading for the week (12-14 pages) and the scripture/discussion guide provided in the book.

Name: TBD **Leader:** Doug Steiner
Time: Sunday 7:00 – 8:30 pm **Duration:** 9 months?
Location: TBD **Limit:** 12
Content: “The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality” by Ron Rolheiser
Description: The book is by Ron Rolheiser. He names essential aspects of Christian spirituality. Our discussion will explore these aspects, not only for our lives but to also help us understand others better in their spiritual journeys.

Bethel Mennonite Church

416 Washington St.
 PO Box 549
 West Liberty, OH 43357

Email Addresses:
Pastor Dave Maurer
 pastor@bethelchurchwl.org

Pastor Rick Stoner
 associate@bethelchurchwl.org

Administrative Assistant,
Erin Dye
 secretary@bethelchurchwl.org

We're on the web!
 Check out:
 bethelchurchwl.org

**The Master Singers
 Community Chorale is
 inviting persons with
 choral singing
 experience to join
 them in signing
 Messiah, Part I and
 several choruses by
 Felix Mendelssohn that
 focus on the theme of
 hope. Rehearsals at
 Bethel will begin on
 Monday, September
 23rd at 7pm.
 Performance will be
 Sunday, November
 17th**

October Wedding Anniversaries

Oct. 19, 1947 – Roy & Ruby Byler
 Oct. 22, 2000 – Karl & Phyllis Smith
 Oct. 28, 1978 – Larry & Barbara Evans

September

2 – Darryl Snyder
 3 – Byron Kauffman
 7 – Chuck Buck
 12 – Rick Norviel
 12 – Rita Roberts
 14 – Linda Hostetler
 18 – Maggie Maurer
 20 – Deanna Kauffman
 21 – Cheryl Shank
 26 – Dean Horn
 26 – Suzanne Horner
 26 – Barb Kauffman
 26 – Daniel Lehman
 26 – Jessica Stoner
 27 – Jim Burkett
 28 – Greg Hostetler
 29 – Ellen Steiner
 30 – Logan Link

October

4 – Dennis Sanford
 11 – Abigail Rabenstein
 12 – Mary Ann King
 16 – Sarah Hostetler
 22 – Greg Thomas
 22 – James Lochridge
 26 – Joanna Hostetler
 29 – Collin Link
 30 – Dave Link
 31 – David Hostetler



*The purpose of our
 newsletter*

This newsletter is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November

Its purpose is three-fold:

- Inform** the church about events
- Acquaint** persons who attend Bethel with each other
- Inspire** us to Christ-like living

