

# Bethel Mennonite Church

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## Newsletter

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### Celebrating Mission Month in November at Bethel

**Nov. 2nd - "Going to Brazil"** Speaker: Jessica Rabenstein. Mission Moment: Global Crafts, and Mission Meal with fruit provided by the youth. Please dress in Bright, Bold colors

**Nov. 9th - Mennonite Mission Network** Speaker: Paula Killough, Senior Executive for Advancement. Mission Meal with desserts provided by the youth.

**Nov. 16th - Mennonite Central Committee Sharing on Immigration** Speaker: Saulo Padilla, Coordinator, Immigration Education. A Loose Change Offering will be collected. Mission Meal with desserts provided by the youth. There will be a discussion about Immigration with Saulo Padilla following the meal.

**Nov. 23rd - "Faith in Action"** Joint Sunday School in the Sanctuary with Mennonite Central Committee International Volunteer Exchange Program participants. Speaker: Member of Gideon's International and Special Music by MCC IVEP participants. Mission Moment: Mike from Our Daily Bread and Mission Meal with desserts provided by the youth.

#### Mission Month Offerings:

- Any offerings designated for "Mission Month" will be divided between Mennonite Mission Network, Gideon's International, and Our Daily Bread.
- Donations made at the Mission Meals will support the youth in attending the MC USA Youth Convention '15 in Kansas City.
- Loose change will be collected on Nov. 16th for West Liberty Cares.

### Oh that you would reveal your mystery!

By Bill Barrett

We live in a culture that downplays the value of waiting. One sad consequence of this is the increased difficulty we have embracing God's promises that seem so long in coming. We may be in danger of losing our ability to yearn for the revelation of God's mystery in our world.

Faithful preparation during Advent puts Christmas in its proper place, not as a comforting destination where chestnuts roast on an open fire, but as the completely disruptive in-breaking of the God who, through this birth, reveals the divine mystery and sheds new light on all things.

Advent proclaims that the days of evil are numbered and that oppressive regimes have only one ultimate future: utter destruction and replacement by God's reign.

The Bible gives voice to the poor, the dying, the outcast, and the silenced. Similarly, the church is called to lift out the testimony of those in our time who long for the reign of God to be revealed in their places of need. Advent tunes us in to their voices so that their cries become our cries, their hopes become our hopes.

During this year's Advent/Christmas season we are looking forward to a revelation of hope, peace, joy and love.

## Announcements:

• **The Green Hills Community Thanksgiving Service** is scheduled for November 26th at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend this service and visit with the residents afterward as we gather to give thanks for all of God's blessings.

• **What better way to get in the spirit of Christmas** than to share the joy of Christ's birth through singing! We'll gather at Bethel on Sunday evening, December 21, then go together to sing carols to people at Green Hills and in our community. Mary Newcomer would like your suggestions of persons you want to be blessed in this way.

• **The Next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held January 30th** from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Please note that the change in hours is due to many requests for an earlier donation time.

## Youth & Mentors "Decide for Peace" by Kathy Lehman

The Youth and Mentors program is up and running for the 2014-2015 year. On September 21st, the group travelled to the Putt Putt Fun Center in Springfield for a night of fun and fellowship. The evening was filled with squeals of delight whenever someone hit a hole-in-one, followed by more excitement every time someone hit the jackpot in the arcade and won streams of prize tickets, and ended with satisfied taste buds as we finished off our DQ ice cream treats.

On October 19th, we began our "serious" meetings with our first session at Bethel. Even this night started off with silliness as we played the "toilet paper share" game. This was where each person had to take however much toilet paper they thought they would "need for the game." Then each learned they had to share something about themselves for each square they took.

The theme for this year's study is "Decide for Peace". We will be using resources from Menno Media and Faith and Life Resources to help us look at what the Bible says about the subject of peace. Through the use of many scriptures, video clips, discussion questions and sharing time, each youth and mentor pair will be challenged to define their perspective on what it means to be a peacemaker.

Meetings will be held monthly, October through April. In May, we plan to celebrate the high school graduations for Michael Lehman and Alex Steiner, with our traditional Graduation Tea.

The Youth and Mentor pairs are:

Seniors: Michael Lehman and Ed Lehman  
Alex Steiner and Dennis Sanford

Juniors: Savannah Hostetler and Barbara Evans  
Annie Steiner and Cheryl Shank  
Becky Wilkins and Michelle Link

Sophomore: Trace Robinaugh and Sam Plank

Freshmen: Stephen Hostetler and Gary Lehman  
Daniel Lehman and Dick Lindemer

## CROP Walk A Success by Kim Lehman

Crop Walk 2014 took place on October 5th, starting and ending at the West Liberty Lions Park. The theme was Ending Hunger One Step at a Time. Malnutrition is an underlying cause of death for 3.5 million children each year. The CROP Walk is a way that we can help save lives, and give children a chance to grow healthy and strong.

We are grateful to all who supported the walk this year, both in participation and sponsorship and are pleased to report that we raised a total of \$1300.00 for the cause!



Bethelites and other participants enjoy the CROP Walk

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Youth Pastor: Cheryl Shank

Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan

Next Newsletter Deadline: Dec. 20, 2014

# To Equip His People...

by Pastor Dave Maurer

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we commissioned people for another year of service to God's kingdom. In my sermon, I shared with you some reflections about the roles that are listed in Ephesians 4:11-12. *"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."*

Commentators differ on how they define the roles of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. But however we define them, their purpose is clearly named in the passage. They are for the equipping of His people for works of service to build up the body of Christ.

In chapter 10<sup>1</sup> of his book, "Creating a Missional Culture: equipping the church for the sake of the world," JR Woodward takes on the challenge of redefining these roles for our modern context of equipping. And he begins by first connecting each role to Jesus as its archetype, its model.

According to Woodward, Jesus' central mission was the kingdom of God. Jesus told us to pray "thy kingdom come... on earth as it is in heaven;" and in His life and teachings, He modeled and established these roles that Paul names in Ephesians 4.

Jesus was an apostle in that He was sent by the Father and He in turn sends us. Likewise, we are sent and we are called to send others as well. Thus an **apostle is a dream awakener**, one who calls people to participate in advancing God's kingdom.

Jesus was also a prophet in that He challenged the fraud and hypocrisy in the religious and political intuitions of the day. "Jesus the prophet revealed God's heart and exposed the heart of those he touched." Thus a **prophet is a heart revealer**, one who calls the church to a new social order and to stand with the poor and the oppressed.

Jesus was an evangelist in that He equipped the disciples to embrace and share the good news. "Jesus the evangelist came to lead Israel to her true calling: to be a blessing to all nations." Thus an **evangelist is a story teller**, one who proclaims and incarnates the good news.

Jesus was a pastor in that He had compassion on the people when He looked upon them and saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd. He desired for the people holiness as well as wholeness. Thus a **pastor is a soul healer**, one who cultivates a life-giving spirituality and embodies reconciliation.

And Jesus was a teacher in that He understood the scriptures and taught them to His followers. He made connections between passages like the Shema and the Levitical code: instructing them to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul and with all of your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. Thus a **teacher is a light giver**, one who immerses themselves in scripture and dwells in God's story.

Out of this, Woodward suggests that through these five roles that Jesus established and embodied, we are also called to serve as equippers of the body. His belief is that when these roles work together that we may form a missional culture to participate in God's kingdom building work in our world.

In fact Woodward envisions a polycentric approach to leadership in which a team of leaders with the differing roles work together to equip the people for missional purposes. The reality is that we clearly each have our own giftings as well as our own weaknesses. And it is in community that we are able to combine our gifts and compensate for our weaknesses.

And I wonder what it would be like for us to live more fully into this model of leadership and being the church? What would it mean for us to select our leadership with a combination of these roles in mind? How might this enhance our ongoing work of equipping "the church" to serve God's kingdom purposes within the church, throughout our community, and around the world? I wonder...

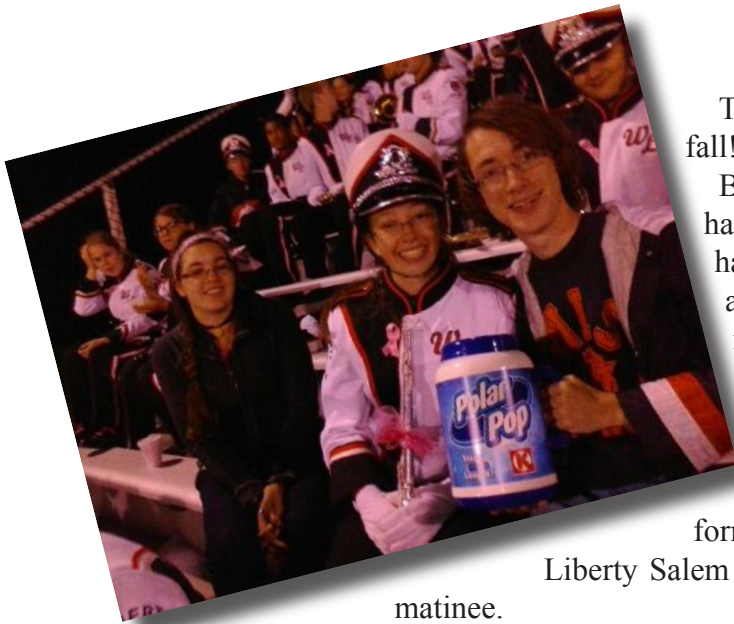


Prayer at the commissioning for Cheryl Shank as youth pastor.

1 Creating a Missional Culture: equipping the church for the sake of the world JR Woodward pg. 113-122



## Our Youth in Action



The youth at Bethel are having a very exciting and active fall!

Becky Wilkins is involved in marching band. She says, "It has been pretty fun, I enjoy practicing with my flutes and hanging out with my friends at the football games. We had a concert on October 28, which is my favorite because we march into the gym and play. I am also involved in the drama production "Pillow Talk." My character is the manager of the telephone company and her name is Ms. Conrad." Pillow Talk is a romantic comedy from the 50s based on the movie featuring Rock Hudson and Doris Day. Performance dates are November 6th and November 8th at West Liberty Salem at 7:00 p.m. On November 8th there is also a 2:00 p.m.

matinee.

Annie Steiner is student director for the production.

Savannah Hostetler is keeping very busy, enrolled as a fulltime student at WLS, but in addition to that, is also taking classes at Urbana University.

Daniel Lehman and Trace Robinson both enjoyed their first year of High School soccer. Daniel played defense, and Trace played forward. The last game of the season, Trace made his 1st goal!



Alex Steiner and Michael Lehman have had a great season cross country, placing 1st at the OHC conference meet and 2nd at the district meet. Both Michael and Alex beat their own personal records this season.

They competed at the Troy D3 Southwest Regional meet Saturday October 25th in Troy and Alex will be running November 1st at the state meet at National Trail Raceway in Hebron.



# Former Bethelite Has Growing Business in New York

by Elaine Newcomer



Carl & I spent some time in upper New York with Karl and Phyllis Smith, and Jim and Kay Burkett during October. While visiting Jim and Kay, we took a tour of their son Anton Burkett's organic farm. Anton's vegetable farm has grown from a small one person operation to 100 acres with employees. Anton sells produce shares to customers and takes produce to markets in Syracuse and Ithica.

We visited the farmer's market in Ithica and Anton's booth and bought some good tasting radishes.

His produce is very healthy looking and he has a website: <http://www.earlymorningfarm.com>. It has recipes using the various vegetables grown on the farm.



**Anton Burkett tending his booth at the farmer's market in Ithica.**

## The Big Surprise

by Mary Ann King

October 12 is a special day. It is Columbus Day, a holiday, and my birthday. This year it was on a Sunday and my housemate, Shirley King told me several days in advance she would take me out for lunch after Sunday School and Church. My daughter also called several days earlier and said her plane from Dallas would land in Dayton at noon so she would bring dessert and come later in the day. Sounded like a pleasant way to enjoy my birthday.

After church Shirley and I went to the restaurant and enjoyed the house salad, barbequed ribs and baked sweet potato. When we arrived home, Marilyn and her family were already there. Marilyn and I sat at the table and looked at a big stack of birthday cards. Then son Phillip and grandson Patrick arrived. The family was helping me work on my iPad so I was concentrating on that while several of the guys were watching the Cleveland Browns defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers. Then son John called from PA. It was so good to talk to him. During the conversation he said, "There's some noise in the background. I hear you're having a gathering at your house." By that time Shirley had let the Cupcake

Lady in through the garage and also cousin Linda Yoder Johns, who had prepared a veggie tray and a fruit tray with dips for both, a dried beef cheese ball and crackers, nuts and spread all of this on the table! What a grand surprise! The King cousins, the Yoder cousins and some church friends began arriving, each with a birthday card in hand. There were many hugs and joyous greetings as folks came through the front door to this surprise party to help me celebrate my 80th birthday. I remarked, "This is so much better than meeting your cousins at a funeral!" Knowing my background, this was appropriate. I thoroughly enjoyed the day. Even 5 of my friends from my winter retreat, Sunny-breeze Christian Fellowship came in our door! Actually, they live near Marysville and Richwood, so they didn't have so far to travel to see a Florida friend.

So Shirley King had the satisfaction of having pulled off a great surprise for a grateful housemate and sister. This time one outsmarted the other but it was a most well received gift. Thank you also to the many Bethel friends who sent birthday cards. At last count there are 94. What a memorable time!

## November Anniversaries

Nov. 10, 1957 – Sam & Mary Lou Plank  
Nov. 28, 1070 – Paul & Sally Harshbarger  
Nov. 28, 1998 – Dennis & Tara Sanford

## December Anniversaries

December 7, 1986 – Mary Jean & Dean Horn  
December 22, 2001 – Sarah & David Hostetler  
December 28, 1984 – Darin & Kathi Robinaugh

# Noteworthy Dates

## November Birthdays

1 – Hayden Hostetler  
1 – Samuel Evans  
4 – Pat Zook  
5 – Sandy Rabenstein  
8 – Molly Thornburg  
8 – Silas Maurer  
10 – Dave Maurer  
16 – Kathy Graber  
17 – Jeannette Hostetler  
22 – Ken Shank  
22 – Phyllis Smith  
24 – Katie King

## December Birthdays

3 – Eleanor Shumaker  
5 – Linda Roth  
5 – Josiah Maurer  
10 – Tesa Jordan  
13 – Jason Robinaugh  
13 – Joe Wilkins  
14 – Lowell Kauffman  
14 – Pam Lehman  
19 – Mary Newcomer  
22 – Kay Burkett  
22 – Gary Lehman  
23 – Kelsey Kauffman  
25 – Daniel Horn  
27 – Emily Kauffman  
27 – Mary Lou Plank  
28 – Ed Lehman  
28 – Dick Lindemer

## Bethel History

### by Donna Lehman

With the coming of another new year, its good to look back at our past. So, let's go back in time to:

- ♦ **December 2009:** (5 years ago) Joe and Miriam Horner moved to Indiana.
- ♦ **November 7, 2004:** (10 years ago) Carl & Elaine Newcomer, Dan and Donna Risner, Jeff Siefert, Dean Horn and Alvin Yoder returned from a mission trip to Guatemala Oct. 22nd to 31st, and reported on their trip in the worship service. There were 5 who also went from Oak Grove and they were accompanied by Deb Byler.
- ♦ **December 20, 1999:** (15 years ago) Open House at Bethel for Sam & Eleanor Swartz' 60th Anniversary.
- ♦ **November 27-30 of 1994:** (20 years ago) Glen Sell of Gateway Ministries led in renewal meetings at Bethel.
- ♦ **December 11th, 1994:** In the evening, the children presented a Christmas musical "Wise Guys and Starry Skies." Thanks for the leadership of Bill Barrett and Peg Wirick.
- ♦ **November 1989:** (25 years ago) The 50th performance of The Messiah was given at South Union. (This means they would have started giving these performances in 1939!)
- ♦ **November 1989:** James Lehman starts gathering

information to write a Bethel History Book.

- ♦ **November 1964:** (50 years ago) Ralph Smucker from Goshen, IN is voted in as new Pastor. (Ed Stoltzfus had left in May; interim Pastors were Loren King and Chauncey Kauffman.)

## Mennonite Women by Donna Lehman

This group met on September 9th and October 14th. This was the beginning of our new year, so the new booklets were distributed, outlining different projects, meals, and responsibilities for the year. For our September meeting, we had sack lunches with ice cream bars for dessert. The project was 'school kits,' so the tables were strewn with school items. Attendance was 25.

For October, we had an Mmmmm good meal of chili soup (thanks to Christy Headings and Janet Bell) with side dishes from those with last name initials A through M. And, how can you resist the beauties of fall? Christy and Janet had the tables decorated with fall leaves and gourds of various kinds. Devotions this year are the "I Ams' of Jesus and "Practicing Presence of Christ in our Lives.' Attendance was 26.

Work completed: 19 school kits sewn and filled, 14 health kits sewn, 10 filled, and 2 comforters. Anyone still needing a booklet for the MW year's activities, please see Donna Lehman.



# Bethel Homework Help Resumes

by Dena Hostetler

We are starting another year of our 'after school adventures' with Bethel Homework Help.

The kids come bounding down the steps around 3:00 p.m. ready for a snack. After eating, we pair students with volunteer tutors and begin our first afternoon session. After 45 minutes of working on school work, we take a much needed break. During this time we play games or do activities to help 'shake out the sillies!' Then we start the second afternoon session of homework. Following the second session, it's 5:00 p.m...time to go home!

Our goal is to allow parents to pick up their child and go home with no worries. Hopefully Tuesday and Thursday can be less chaotic and more family oriented evenings because the homework is all done.

As with any program, it takes many people working in different capacities to be successful. As the Director, I am very thankful for our manager, Elaine, the volunteers, the people who donate snacks and supplies and those who pray for us.

May God use us profoundly as we serve these children and their families this school year!



Snack time is a favorite of the Bethel Homework Help students.

## Peace & Justice by Barb Kauffman

We met on October 7, 2014. Dave Maurer, Bill and Eleanor Shumaker, Chuck and Jeanie Swartz, and Barb Kauffman were present. We reviewed the Purpose of our meetings:

- a) become aware and stay current with issues and/or persons who deserve attention
- b) raise awareness of these situations within this group and Bethel church
- c) facilitate opportunities to respond

Pastor Dave handed out the format for the Peace Sunday service on October 12, 2014. He also outlined the plans/speakers for Missions month ~ November 2014, and reported that a gift of \$2000.00 was sent to EMU for the Iraqi student studying there for a Master's in the Peace program.

Barb invited those in attendance to choose a topic of interest and prepare a short update for each gathering. Topics which we have been concentrating on recently are:

- The Israel/Palestine situation---Bill
- Immigration---Chuck and Jeanie
- Assistance for Veterans---Barb
- Syrian situation---Byron

MCCwash@MCC.org is helpful for updates /resources on many issues.

This site currently offers an opportunity to sign a letter to President Obama and the Congress titled "Faithful call to address Climate Change."

Our next meeting will be held on Nov.4, 2014 at noon in the fellowship room.

# From the Editor

Tesa Jordan

It's no secret that I am a snowbird. If it were up to me, I'd spend the winters in the south, just like the birds. I enjoy the glorious colors of fall, and the cooling temperatures, but after the Holidays are over, I'd just as soon be outside in the warm sunshine, tending my garden. Yet there is a season to everything, and so I shiver through the long winter, and anxiously await the first robin sighting every spring.

One of my favorite Christmas Holiday rituals is watching "It's a Wonderful Life." Easily, this is hands down, my all-time favorite film. I enjoy both the simplicity and the complexity of the story, and while many of the mannerisms and notions of the film are old fashioned, I love that the story itself is timeless.

On a recent Sunday when Lee wasn't feeling well, I attended church alone, and requested prayer for him that morning during our sharing time. When I came home and told him that we had prayed for him, he harrumphed and said, "God has better things to do with his time than to worry about me." Well that got my dander up, for sure! Shaking my finger as I looked at him, I said, "His eye is on the sparrow..." but even then, he looked unconvinced.



Then a few days later, I saw this on Facebook, and thought, wow! Yes, this is what God offers us 24/7. Whatever we need is there for the taking. That is the key though...we must reach out and take what He's offering. And unlike the sign, (if someone takes one of the tabs it's gone) God's sign just continually regrows a new tab for the next person that needs it.

But back to the movie. There is a point at which George Bailey feels his family and friends would all be better off if he'd never been born, and with the help of Clarence the Angel (Second Class,) he is granted that wish. "...You've been given a great gift, George: A chance to see what the world would be like without you." George has the opportunity to see what becomes of the people in his life without him. To George's amazement, many people's lives, people he doesn't even know, are affected by his never having been born. Of course, his children no longer exist, his lovely wife is a spinster, and not only does his brother Harry die in childhood because George wasn't there to save him from drowning, but also, Harry wasn't there to save 100's of lives in the war later on.

Ultimately, George realizes that his life really is worth something, and with a newfound passion for life, his vision of the world without him dissolves and reality returns.

After my conversation with Lee, it occurred to me that we are all George Baileys! We all have a powerful impact—directly and indirectly on our family, friends, and yes, total strangers, and even sometimes the world—by how we treat one another, and by what we say and what we do.

This holiday season, I want to become more aware of the influence and impact that my thoughts, words and actions have on others. By our choices, we can all be like a heavy weight holding others back, or a great gift, giving wings to one another's hopes and dreams. I want all of the people in my life to know how much they matter, not just to me, but to God, and that His offer is always there, to take what you need.

**Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Matthew 6:26**