

Bethel Mennonite Church

Celebrating 125 Years

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Newsletter

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Silent Auction and Bethel Brunch Battle Help Youth Raise Funds for Convention

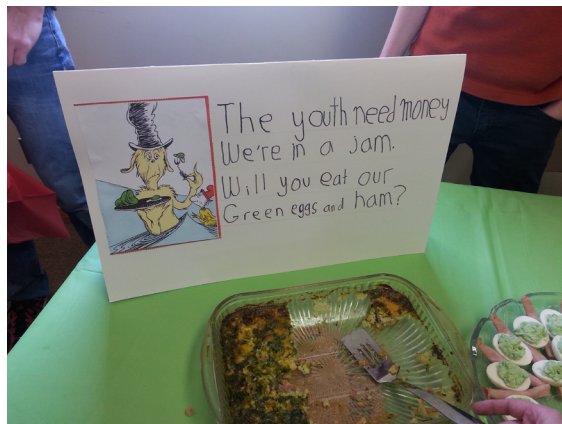
By Cheryl Shank, Youth Pastor

On March 8th, the youth hosted a "Brunch Battle," a 'breakfast food' competition (similar to the soup competition last year). Each youth chose someone from the congregation to be their 'partner' and create a 'booth.' Everyone voted on both the food at each booth, and the decorations. The brunch battle raised \$669.00. There was a second silent auction that ran for two consecutive Sundays. Items donated included a



wooden tray (won by Lori Lehman) and a quilt rack (won by Janet Bell) both made by Bill Shumaker, a gift basket of homemade jams and other home canned items (won by Dick Lindemer) donated by Dr. Harry & Kathy Graber, Whoopie Pies (won by Elaine Newcomer) donated by Beth Maurer and pie (won by Paul Hostetler) baked and donated by Jan Smucker. The combined totals of the two silent auctions (one in February and one in March) were \$580.00.

Menno's Best Coffee is now available for sale! The youth are selling 12oz bags for \$12.00. \$5.00 per bag will go towards the convention costs, and \$1.00 will be evenly split between Mennonite Mission Network and MCC. Menno's Best is grown in Peru and shipped directly to Goshen where it is then roasted. If interested in purchasing, contact any of the youth. Only caffeinated coffee is available, either whole bean or ground. We will be serving coffee before Sunday School (the coffee that the youth are selling, so you can taste it) on April 12th. There will be sweets as well, so bring along your appetites and donations!



Now as spring approaches and you see odd jobs around the yard that you'd like help with, the youth will have another 'rent-a-youth' clean-up again beginning in April. Dates to be determined!

Thanks everyone for the support you show the youth in our congregation. Just like the theme for the Mennonite Conference is, we are 'On Our Way', slowly chipping away at the estimated cost for convention.

Announcements:

♦ **The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, May 8 from 11 a.m to 5 p.m.** If you can help host, or can help with load in or load out, please let either Barb Kauffman or Linda Roth know. We also need refreshments, and of course last but not least, we need blood donors! A sign-up sheet is by the church mailboxes.

♦ **The Youth will offer “Mother’s Day” Greetings in the May Newsletter** as part of their fundraising efforts for convention. Suggested donation of \$1.25. Note: you can also make a memorial tribute to your mother or grandmother!

♦ **Make up day for the Photo Directory is April 21st!** On the first day of our shoot last month, approximately 8 last minute cancellations came in, due to illness and even hospitalization. Lifetouch has offered us the opportunity of a reshoot date, so mark your calendars for April 21st. With the celebration of our quasiquintennial year, we are hoping for full participation! If you have any questions, call Tesa during her office hours on Weds. or Fri.

Peace & Justice Update

by Barb Kauffman

The Peace and Justice Lunch group invites you to join us in an outing to the Dayton International Peace Museum on Sunday afternoon April 19, 2015. This museum founded in 2004, is totally dedicated to peace...a place to explore what peace looks like...a place that teaches non-violence through the stories of “peace heroes.”



Activities, events and exhibits offer opportunities to examine peace, non-violence and heroism in both historic and contemporary contexts.

Presently there is a Peace Corps exhibit celebrating 54 years of Global Service. The topic for April 19 is “Differing Perspectives on the Peace Corps in Africa.” Service providers and service recipients will evaluate the value and effectiveness of the Peace Corps in Africa.

There will be time to explore the museum after the presentation which is from 2:00-3:30... followed by the possibility of a meal together at a restaurant.

You may learn more about this museum by visiting: daytonpeacemuseum.org

Bethel-Oak Grove Mennonite

Women Busy in March

by Donna Lehman

We had full tables when this group met in March... and a ‘green’ theme. All brought sack lunches, but our hostesses served us a delicious dessert - mint ice cream atop brownies. Thanks to Elaine Newcomer and Pat Yoder. Doris Enns was to be a hostess, but was in the hospital for tests. Treasury: Our group paid half the price of a serving cart for the kitchen area as these tables are put to much use. We received a thank you from MCC for the items given in 2014.

During sharing time, Suzy Krabill and Kyle VanOsdol both had ‘show and tell’ projects, and creative wall-hangings. Linda Roth recommended an author she has enjoyed reading, Shawn Niquist who wrote ‘Cold Tangerines’ and ‘Bitter-sweet’, among others. And, Sally Harshbarger and Barbara Kauffman both shared about their winter trips... Sally and Paul to New Orleans and elsewhere, and Barbara and Byron to San Antonio for SOOP projects. Christy Headings shared in devotions: ‘Practicing Presence in Wilderness.’

More sharing time was in knotting, quilting, sewing machine projects and work completed was 2-comforters, 2-baby comforters, 2-newborn kits. 25 in attendance.

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Next Newsletter Deadline: Apr. 20, 2015

“Calling and Gifting”

by Pastor Dave Maurer

As we continue together in our journey through the Bible this year, we have now completed three months of reading (only nine more to go)! We are ¼ of the way and we have read through Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua and Job completely with bits and pieces of I Chronicles and Psalms mixed in for good measure. Seven books down and only 59 more to go!

In the midst of this, I have been a part of a number of fruitful discussions about what we have been reading and its significance for us. One thing that stands out are the characters that we encounter in the text and their journeys with God. Take for instance Moses. He lived a long life and journeyed with God through many challenging circumstances. Many of us would probably agree that Moses was both called and gifted, but do we recognize that these are not the same thing?

Moses was clearly gifted to lead the people of Israel, to hear the voice of God, and to judge in people's disputes.

These were some of his gifts, the functionality he had of what he was able to do well. But

that was not the same as his calling. He received his calling from God through the burning bush. He was called to lead his people from slavery into the Promised Land. That was his motivation, that was what compelled/drove him through the challenges, that was why he did what he did. Moses certainly used his gifts to carry out his calling, but his calling also required him to work in the midst of weaknesses as well, such as being slow of speech.

The difference between calling and gifting was one of the realities that Blaine Keene, pastor of Plain City United Methodist Church, identified when he shared with a group of us about the Fivefold Ministry or APEST (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher). When one considers the callings of Ephesians 4 and /or takes a survey (such as the free one found at <http://fivefoldsurvey.com/>) to assist in identifying one's own

calling, it is common to equate this with a spiritual gifts survey. While they are related, they are not one and the same. The Fivefold Ministry is about calling and motivation while gifting is about functionality and ability.

In considering the Fivefold Ministry, Blaine invited us into the Ephesians 4 text and named the sense of call that goes with these ministries. He also pointed out that the context of this letter was clearly to all of the people in the church of Ephesus. It was not only to the spiritual elite or to professional clergy. It was to all Christians which means that these callings are for all Christians to be living into. They are not leadership roles or positions. They are callings that we all have.

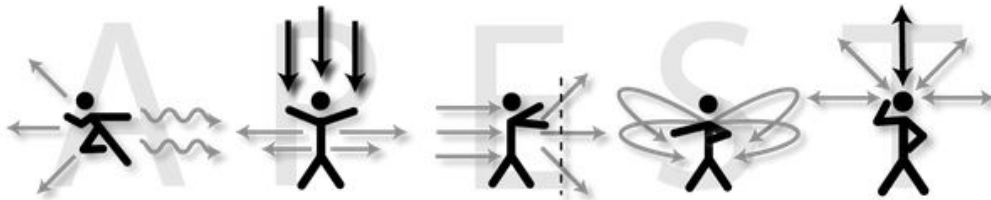
But perhaps what was most significant in Blaine's sharing was that these are callings that Jesus embodied. Jesus was an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a shepherd and a teacher. In reading through the gospels, we can find numerous examples of Christ living into each of these callings.

While none of us can fully embody all of these callings on our own like Jesus did, we together as the body of Christ are able to em-

body a fuller representation of who Jesus is when we together represent all of these callings working together. Unfortunately, many churches have tended to emphasize the roles of shepherd and teacher while minimizing or excluding those with callings to be apostles, prophets, and evangelist. Considering the Fivefold Ministry assists us in being more holistic in our representation of Jesus to the world and invites all people to live into their callings.

Leadership remains on a journey of learning and understanding the Fivefold Ministry and discerning what God may be birthing within us. We welcome your participation in this journey of discovery and pray God's leading as we find our way.

If you would like to hear Blaine's presentation, you may find it at www.wbtl.tv or by requesting a DVD from the office.



Two Bethelites Mark 80 Years

A very special person had his 80th birthday on March 31st. Willie Yoder!! Maybe some people don't know Willie -because of his medical conditions he's been unable to attend Bethel for quite some time.

Willie had a very active life -owner of Yoder Aluminum Products. But in his spare time he has always had plenty to do. He was West Liberty's Santa Claus for about 50 years; the voice of West Liberty sports at basketball and football games, instrumental in the Youth For Christ program when it was active in the area back in the '50's and '60's, and auctioneer for benefits.

Having had that kind of active lifestyle, what do you do when you're housebound (besides running your business via phone, etc.?) Last winter he decided he'd put many of his childhood memories on paper through poetry...an inherited gift, his mother was poetic. So, in honor of Willie and his 80th, here's a poem from his collection.

The Coal Oil Lamp

I remember when I was a very young lad,
There were four of us boys and all the fun we had.
We lived in a house with no indoor plumbing or electric lights,
So we never stayed up very late at night.
But a night, before we would all settle down,
Mother sat in her chair and we would all gather round.
She would always have a good book from which she read
Before we boys would go upstairs to bed.
One of those books I remember very well,
Was about a family up north -some of their story I'll tell...
One of the boys, Addison I believe was his name,
Was caught out one night when a blizzard came.
He finally found a cave and crawled in there,
Next morning he found he'd been sleeping with a bear.
Oh, I remember many stories my mother read
By the old coal oil lamp before we went to bed.

- submitted by Donna Lehman

On March 25th, Bob Rabenstein also marked 80 years! Janice managed to pull off a surprise birthday party for him that included 41 family members and friends, by tricking Bob into thinking he was surprising her for her birthday, which was on the 10th. Their son played a key roll by calling Bob and suggesting that they 'surprise mom' by taking her out inbetween their two birthdays. Bob kept so quiet about it, that Janice wasn't sure he had gotten the call! But the ruse worked, and Bob was pleasantly surprised at Der Dutchman by many loved ones.

Many happy returns to our newest octogenarians! In case you missed the signs downtown, both Willie and Bob were honored for everyone on 68 to see!



Noteworthy Dates

April Anniversaries

- April 5, 1997 – Mary & Bob Psolla
- April 14, 1957 – Janice & Bob Rabenstein
- April 20, 1996 – Janet & Joe Wilkins
- April 27, 1996 – Dena & Todd Hostetler
- April 30, 1994 – Sandy & Steve Rabenstein

April Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 2 – Jacob Shank | 22 – Kip Louden |
| 3 – Christy Headings | 23 – Kristyn Horn |
| 5 – Maddie Thomas | 23 – Ashley Rabenstein |
| 6 – Carole Barrett | 24 – Bill Hooper |
| 6 – Roger Headings | 24 – Annie Steiner |
| 9 – Mark Thomas | 28 – Carl Newcomer |
| 18 – Jeff Hooper | 29 – Mike Roberts |
| 18 – Karl Z. Smith | |



Quasquicentennial Historical Highlights

As we celebrate 125 years at Bethel, members have been sharing historical facts each Sunday during the sharing time. Our church historian, Donna Lehman has been researching and putting them together. In case you missed a Sunday in March here are just a few of the highlights. Eventually, all of the facts shared will be on our church website: www.bethelchurchwl.org along with any graphics we have shown to accompany them.

†Bethel was holding nightly meetings in May of 1923, but after all the people had gone home -probably around 11:00 p.m., there was a lightning bolt which struck the building, and nothing could be done to save it. According to the Fire Department, the building was in ashes in about an hour. (Photo bottom left)

†Very few items could be saved from the inferno. The pulpit (the large pulpit on display in the South West hallway), the oak table on the N. East side of the hallway, the altar Bible; and of the 13 sewing machines the women used for sewing projects -4 were saved! (Photo bottom middle)

†The meetings which were being held continued at So. Union. Would they rebuild? Bethel people went to several different churches during this time. Roy Byler, who was just a child at the time, had said he remembered of seeing the mess that was left of the church, and their family attended Oak Grove after the loss, and Bethel's pastors helped out at those other churches. It made a severe problem for the Orphan's Home, as they didn't have any way to transport the 40-50 children to the country churches, so sometimes there was church held at the Home. (Photo of South Union, bottom right, provided by Arnita Yoder.)

Bethel Fire – May 12, 1923



Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry Serves Locals In Need

Wed., Mar. 25, the Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry came to the West Liberty to disperse food. The truck was parked between the Methodist Church and United Church of Christ. Those in line needed a photo ID and to sign a form.



Then they were able to choose either a few items or cases of marshmallows, mustard, 3 kinds of salad dressing, frozen dinner rolls, bags of frozen Tyson chicken legs, and many breads

and cakes. Some in line also come often to WLC Food Pantry. The Green Hills transport bus brought 4 ladies who left with bags and baskets full of food, too. More helpers are needed to serve folks in need on the 4th Wednesday each month at noon. The next Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry will be April 22nd.

WBTL.TV is Global

Since launching WBTL.TV at the end of January, we have had 452 unique hits to the site, from the U.S. and from all over the world. Most of our hits are in Ohio, but there are viewers in Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, California, Utah & Arizona.

Now here's the shocker...we are getting hits from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Korea, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Denmark, South Africa, Ukraine, Portugal, Bulgaria, France, Iceland, Canada, Macedonia, Lithuania, Turkey, Poland, Australia, Ireland, Japan, China, the Russian Federation, Venezuela, Pakistan, Greece, Phillipines, the United Kingdom, India and the Netherlands. If you haven't done so yet, take a moment to check out WBTL.TV yourself and share the link with a friend.



Byron & Barb Kauffman Serve at SOOP this Winter - by Barb Kauffman

Our 2015 SOOP adventure took us to San Antonio, TX for the month of February. We stayed in a very large house, La Casa, owned by the San Antonio Mennonite Church. Stacey Merkt from the church arranged all of the volunteer assignments. For 2 weeks out of the month, there were 6 couples, 1 week 4 couples and 1 week 3 couples.

We worked with 3 different organizations, all of which involved food—both preparing and serving food. The San Antonio Food Bank, “Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope” serves 58,000 persons every week through their network of various partner agencies. They fight hunger in South-west TX through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy.

Haven for Hope, “a place of Hope and New Beginnings” was opened in 2010 for people experiencing homelessness in Bexar County, San Antonio. It is located on a multi acre campus and partners with over 85 agencies to provide both a residence

and many services which guide persons from homelessness to housing through a recovery oriented system of care.

The Catholic Worker provides food for the homeless but has no overnight accommodations. They care deeply for those who come through their doors, and have needed to plead with the city to continue their services. In addition to our off site jobs, we helped deep clean La Casa which houses youth in the DOOR program in the summer. Yard work was also on our list...and we were introduced to agave plants.

Showing hospitality to immigrants, who had just been bonded out of a detention center in near by Karnes TX, was both sobering and rewarding. To become more aware of the plight of these migrants, to interact with them, and to discover ways to intervene was a highlight of our experience there in SA. We anticipate working with the “Interfaith Welcome Coalition” of SA from a distance.

Getting to know Stacey and the other SOOP couples was a joy—truly another rewarding and enriching volunteer assignment. (Byron and Barb are on the far right in the photo above with the other SOOP couples.)



Adriel Welcomes Interim President and CEO Todd Hanes

Adriel is pleased to welcome Todd Hanes as Interim President and CEO as Kay Wyse has stepped down from the CEO position. Todd brings to Adriel a strong belief in the mission and lives this in a unique way, as an adoptive father. Todd is not new to Adriel as he previously served as principal of Adriel School where he was devoted to empowering youth to overcome the obstacles in their lives and get the education they needed to graduate and live meaningful lives.



He is a graduate of Bluffton University and has a Masters of Educational Administration from the University of Dayton. Beginning his career in the school system, he became a Superintendent in 1995 serving until 2005. Todd was also Executive Director of the Ohio Department of Education in Columbus and Associate Superintendent of the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio.

Former Bethel Pastor Alvin Yoder Returns as Guest April 26th

Pastor at Bethel from 1997 to 2007, Alvin Yoder will return on Sunday, April 26, to deliver a message during the Quasiquicentennial celebration. The service will be followed by a potluck in the fellowship room.

Since leaving Bethel, Avlin pastored in Michigan for 7 years (while remaining a Buckeye fan!) In May 2014 he and Ruth Ann retired and moved to Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in western PA where their son Michael is the Executive Director. They are living on campus and working as part time (around half time) volunteers, doing a variety of tasks. The arrangement gives them considerable time flexibility for family and travel.

