

Convention Experiences



Upon returning, the group shared about what part of Convention 2013 meant the most to them as well as what they took away from the theme. The responses to what was most meaningful was:

“...the prayer walk, singing in worship, seminars, a capella with the band, listening to others, exhibit hall and recreation hall, the speakers during worship, and our group (from the leaders) the excitement of the youth as they shared about different things they learned and experienced, seeing people not seen in a while plus meeting new people...”

See Page 6 for each individual's take away from the theme.

Bethel Blood Drives Making a Difference

By Erin Dye

Have you had a chance to be part of this community outreach opportunity? Since August of last year, Bethel has hosted **four** American Red Cross blood drives resulting in **79** successful donations! One donation can go to up to **three** individuals in need of blood.

The American Red cross is a nonprofit organization that started out of a need for blood during World War II. Now the Red Cross supplies 40% of the nation's blood supply.* The Red Cross only takes in volunteered blood, and the need is dire! If each successful donation results in one pint, consider the following needs: the average blood transfusion is approximately three pints, and a single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood!* In an average donation, the Red Cross testing facilities can extract four products: red cells, platelets, plasma and cryoprecipitate. Typically, two or three of these are produced from a pint of donated whole blood – hence each donation can help save up to three lives.* By hosting a drive, Bethel helps meet these clear needs. As one Bethel volunteer, Barb Kauffman said, “There is a constant need for blood and this is a way for us, as a church, to make our facility available in our community for persons to give this precious gift to our ‘neighbor.’”

Other volunteer Dena Hostetler had similar feelings, It's important to help with the blood drives because we're working at the task the Bible gives us to care for the sick and love our neighbors, and it reminds me that you don't have to be in the medical field to be a part of someone's healing.”

Aside from meeting a physical need, when Bethel

hosts a drive, they are creating a presence in the community. Yes, Bethel people donate at the drives, but they only make up a small percentage. Many of the people who come through the door are neighbors and fellow community members. Frequent drive volunteer Janice Rabenstein shared, “It's not a place to give blood, but also a friendly and welcoming place.” Many volunteers have experienced

first hand how much of an impact a smile and warm bowl of soup can have on a donor's experience.

Being a regular host of the blood drive gives Bethel a good presence in the community.

Linda Roth, a multiple

blood drive volunteer, says, “We are part of the community. It's good to be known in the community.” Linda also had an experience to explain more about what it means to be a Mennonite church. “The blood drives reach out to people outside of the church. One man asked questions about the Mennonite hymnal—it's good for others to be acquainted with who we are and what we do.”

Jan Smucker also had a chance to represent Bethel as a faith community. “The blood drives are a good opportunity for service to the community as well as a chance to make contact and perhaps invite some people to church—I was able to invite an individual while helping.”

How will you be involved in the next drive **Friday, August 23rd from 1-7pm?** Are you willing to help save a life with your donation? Are you willing to serve others who are giving of themselves in this way? Will you be an example of Bethel's hospitality? Please see Erin, or Pastors Dave and Rick if you are willing to help!

Blood and platelet donors of all blood types are needed. Almost 50,000 fewer donations were made during June than expected.* Next drive at Bethel:

Friday, August 23rd from 1-7pm!

Host Families Needed

The International Friendship Center of Bellefontaine is looking for host families for 12 high school and middle school aged girls and 2 adults from Suzuka, Japan on August 8-12. Local families have been hosting Suzuka students since 1986! A note from the ICP:

Host family responsibilities would be to pick their girl at 8 p.m. on Thursday night. Girls will go home with their family until 8 the next morning. Students are brought to the Mayors Office at 8:00 am on Friday Morning. We will shuttle the girls from one activity to another all day long. You would pick up your guest at 6:15 that Friday night at BHS. (We will be using a BHS bus so that will be our stopping point.) Host families feed and "entertain" their girls for the weekend.

The idea being, that you show her what life in Logan County/USA is really like. It doesn't require much planning, just be yourselves! On Sunday we have a luncheon (pizza party) for host families and the girls at 12:30, until about 2. The rest of the day is yours. Then on Monday morning you return your girl to the First Lutheran Church for their departure. They do speak some English! They all had to pass an English test to be eligible to come on this trip!

You can pick up your host application form on the bulletin board. **Return the form to the IFC PO Box 957 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311** email IFC957@hotmail.com or fax to Vicci Elder @ 937-599-2411

VBS 2013—Breathe it In

By Miriam Lapp

More than 40 children met each morning for Bible School, June 10-14. They learned about God through stories of breath and wind. Each morning in the worship drama, Robbie (Stephen Hostetler) and Grandpa (Dave Link) told the Bible Story for the day. Becky Wilkins illustrated the story. Alex Steiner capably filled in for Grandpa one day. The church was filled with joyful songs lead by Beth Maurer and James Lochridge.

Group leaders lead discussions later about the daily scriptures and stories. During the Creative Response time the children enjoyed the cookies and juice snack and made a craft project that followed the theme of the day. The games during the Active Response time continued the themes of breathing in life, hope, courage, wisdom, and new life of the Holy Spirit.

The mission project for the week was contributing funds for the new outdoor toilet facilities for Marantha School of the Deaf in Jamaica. There were many giggles as children dropped their offerings into the hole in the model out house. We collected a total of \$939.67 for the project.

One could almost measure the attitude of the children by the joy on the children's faces and their eagerness to participate. Adults gladly gave of their time and energy. The youth, now too old to come as students, contributed significantly as staff members. I am grateful to be a part of a congregation that values the nurturing of the children in our community. Thank you all for your part in Bible School this June.

August Brunch Groups!

On these Sundays in August, we will have a new opportunity to fellowship and connect over a meal. Sign up on the bulletin board TODAY!

- Worship Service will be at **9:30am**
 - Brunch groups start around 10:40am
- Sign up to **Host** and/or **Attend**
 - Brunches will be at host homes.
 - Host provides main dish and everyone else brings a side.
- Similar to Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?, you will be contacted on July 28th where your first brunch location will be. The group can decide who will host the next two Sundays.



A Update on the Digal's From Jim Burkett

The Digals are an indigenous family that live in Orissa India. When Daniel Showalter was traveling 8 or so years ago they took in him and his friend Weston Strickler. Digals are very poor - subsistence level and usually one day away from hunger. When we inquired about what the church could do to help the family, Daniel and Weston said to assist them with enough dollars to insure that their 5 girls at least get a high school education. One of the best ways to break the poverty and abuse cycle in third world countries is to educate the girls. It hasn't been a lot of money and only a handful in the congregation participate but we have been sending them money every year for the education of their daughters. .

I recently received a letter from Simon. Additionally our friend Weston Strickler who traveled with Daniel is in India and has been in communication with me. All is well with Digal's. The little girls continue in school with average and above average marks.

The oldest daughter, Tikki, who has been in post secondary education, with our assistance, has now completed her studies and is seeking a job. And to everyone's surprise the second daughter is being married to a young man who is a "social worker." Weston tells a funny little story about finding out that she is being married. Weston speaking:

"I was sitting in the back of the house (Digal's) resting my bones in the sun, and a young boy sporting a beard came to me and said hello do you remember me. I didn't really remember him, but out of politeness I said yeah, I think so and he then tells me in good English, "I have asked Simon and Mommy for Rinkina's hand in marriage and they have agreed and I know you are also in the family and you are the eldest brother, so I must ask you also if I can marry Rinkina." I was shocked, I knew nothing of this. I looked at him and asked, "What is your 5 year plan?" Lol, after making him sweat with questions for a few minutes I told him if Rinkina's happy

then I am happy. So, I share this with you because I don't believe we have to worry about Rinkina's education anymore either. Her new husband to be has a good social work job in the big city working with orphanages."

Weston agrees that we have successfully assisted the two oldest girls with their education and passage into adult life in India - Tikki has an advance education and the potential for a good job; Rinkina has a high school education and is marrying a man who is educated and speaks fluent English.

There are three girls left in the family who need our help to complete their high school education. The youngest Sanjana (China) has been promoted to 3rd grade. The next Arpana to the 10th grade and Linkina to 11th grade (if I can understand correctly what Simon is saying).

Simon also mentioned that the area where they live "haven't peaceful yet," but it sounds like things are much better than a couple of years ago. He asks that we continue to pray for the family and that the Hindus and Christians in that area will find as he says "their peace mind."

Weston notes that the Digal family (now father, mother, and three girls) while being in a much more comfortable situation, continue to live on the edge of poverty. Yes they have a good house which we at Bethel assisted with (thanks to all who contributed), and their day to day life seems stable and safe, but the family is only one calamity away from being plunged into chaos and poverty. Yes, we need to continue to send money (although not as much) for the education of the younger three. Weston counsels that as long as the girls are still at home and in school we may want to be ready to respond (as we did after the Hindu/Christian violence a few years ago) if something happens that pushes the family over the edge.

Finally a big thank you to all who have supported this effort to assure that the Digal girls receive a decent education. You have indeed made a huge difference in the lives of this family.

Mark your calendars for the

2013 Bethel Soccer Camp

July 29-August 1 @ 6-8 p.m.



Currently we have **40 youth** signed up to participate! Wow! Surely this is a sign of the need for this ministry in our community. The purpose of the soccer camp is to "...encourage skill development in soccer players in an affirming environment." How will you be part of this ministry? Will you help fill up water jugs or hand out pop sickles at break time? Will you display Bethel's welcoming hospitality to the parents on the sidelines during camp? Will you give your presence to show that *this* camp is important to Bethel? Let's make 2013's camp the best one yet!

Anabaptist Gospelization Part 3: Anabaptist Framing Story

By Pastor Rick Stoner

It seems that many times we think about our faith traditions as defining labels that we can use to tell who is with us and (even though we might not like to admit it) who is against us. In a way we use our faith traditions to define ourselves over against other people. We lay out what we believe in negative terms, such as stating we believe this about baptism whereas another faith tradition believes something else. This reality is only compounded in our consumer culture. You see, Christendom in the US context was always tied to the economic system with denominations vying for the places of prominence in society. Mix in church shopping, and we create a whirlwind of faith marketing, where we must show the world why they should choose us and not the other guy (who might just be across the street). Yet, this view of a faith tradition turns the tradition into more of a club; something to belong to instead of something to live out of, and in a post-Christendom climate becomes largely irrelevant because people no longer care about the name on the sign out front.

So why care about Anabaptism? Well perhaps we can begin to view Anabaptism as our framing story. Brian McLaren defines the term “framing story” as “a story that gives people direction, values, and inspiration by providing a framework for their lives. It tells them who they are, where they come from, where they are, what’s going on, where things are going, and what they should do.” (Everything Must Change, 2007, 5-6). If Anabaptism operates this way it becomes something that guides the way we see the world and the way that we move in it. Notice a framing story view informs us of who we are and gives us a framework for how to live our lives. It is not something to sift out the insiders and outsiders. In this way we are not using it to define our-

selves over against other people.

From the point of view of a framing story, Anabaptism becomes a living tradition. A living tradition is one that interacts with the context that it finds itself in so that it is not set-in-stone or dead. As Bryan Stone points out, “A tradition that is alive and ‘in good order’ is never a static, finished, or once for all achievement but is a dynamic process that is responsive to ever-changing historical circumstances.” (Evangelism after Christendom, 2007, 41). This way of viewing tradition might force us to think about what needs pruned and what is the core of the framing story that empowers us to live out God’s mission in the world.

By using Anabaptism as a living story that we ultimately live out of, we are able to allow the richness of the story guide us instead of using it as a measuring stick to determine who’s in and who’s out of the “club”. The “traditioned” way of understanding our faith allows the core values of Anabaptism to guide our identity. These values then are not static, set-in-stone values, rather they interact with our culture to grow over time. For example, the Anabaptism places reconciliation as core to our mission, so this value of reconciliation will change as we learn about our community and as our community changes over time. This interaction between community and tradition helps the tradition to stay alive so that it does not become something that we just have to preserve or defend. So then, Anabaptist gospelization invites us, as Anabaptist followers of Jesus, to wrestle with our tradition; pruning off those things that are cultural, so that we can live through this framing story and invite others into this faith journey.

**Congratulations to Pastor Rick
and Jessica Stoner!**
McKenna Jaylene
arrived Wednesday, July 3rd



“...to extend...”

By Pastor Dave Maurer

In the previous two newsletters, I have reflected on aspects of our purpose statement and what they mean for our congregation. So far we have considered, “Jesus compels us to experience...” This month, we consider the next phrase “and extend.”

It is important within our faith that we experience Jesus and the gracious rule of God. But it is equally important that we join in the Missio Dei (the mission of God) to extend the gracious rule of God. It is vital that we participate in God’s activity in the community and world around us.

This begins in a number of ways. It begins through our prayerful openness to the ways that God is already moving in our community and building relationships with our neighbors. It begins through purposeful listening to the voices and stories of those that we encounter everyday. And it begins through intentionally looking for needs that people have and then considering how God may be calling us to respond to those needs.

As I have been prayerfully listening for God’s leading about how God may want Bethel to extend the gracious rule of God, I learned of one man’s wood fired pizza oven out in Kidron that became a community gathering spot for his neighborhood. In one summer, he made more than 400 pizzas

and he grew to know his neighbors in much deeper ways as they ate together and fellowshiped with one another.

As I shared this with my accountability group, we began to wonder and dream about how God might use a similar oven in our own church neighborhood. Not only is Bethel a church in a neighborhood, but also we have a history of and a gift for hospitality. Mark, Todd, Steve and I began to imagine an opportunity for us to get to know our neighbors through eating pizza together and in the process building relationships with them. From this interaction we trust that we will discern other ways that God may be calling us to extend the gracious rule of God beyond our congregation.

With the support of council and the trustees, we are moving forward with plans to build and operate a wood fired pizza oven behind the Potter’s Place. As

this is not a budgeted ministry and it will take more than the four of us to carry this out, we need the support and help of many people from the congregation. We will be sharing more about this outreach opportunity to our neighborhood after the worship service on July 28th as we gather for a sack lunch in the fellowship hall. We hope that many will come to learn more about this, join us in this ministry and that other missional teams may form with the intent of extending the gracious rule of God.

Thank you all for helping my Bible Study Group’s Bible Drive to be a success. We cannot measure success by numbers, but we did receive over 30 Bibles—which was more than we aimed for. Global Crafts also helped, and we are receiving more from the other girls’ church, Calvary Baptist. I want to say on behalf of the Bible study that we all appreciate your efforts towards helping a city in Mississippi to know Christ through the Bible being given to them. Will you share in their joy? Please pray for them, and pray that they will have joy immeasurable no matter what situation they’re in. We are grateful someone was kind and generous enough to help us reach a goal we could not reach ourselves. Thank you, Bethel!

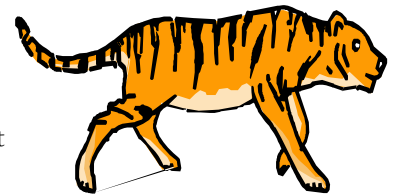
Kristyn Horn



Zanesfield Zoo By Mary Newcomer

On June 22nd about 30 Bethelites toured the trophy room at the Page and Grace Mays home to see their *amazing* taxidermy collection of about 300 animals from around the world, animals that they themselves hunted down. The Mays were very gracious hosts and made our visit educational as well as enjoyable. Afterwards, more than half our group enjoyed a potluck picnic at the home of Lee and Tesa Jordan, where Lee grilled up hamburgers and hot dogs for the occasion.

Since many interested people were unable to go to the taxidermy event in June, Tesa is arranging for another visit to the Page home in late September. Watch for further announcements about this upcoming event!



Convention Experiences Continued...

What did you take away from this year's theme *Citizens of God's Kingdom: Healed in Hope*?

Pastor Dave —the importance of remembering where our true citizenship/allegiance lies and that as we look for solutions the discussion should flow out of faith first.

Michael—The theme was citizens of God's Kingdom: Healed in Hope. I took away there is a lot of citizens (lots of people there)

Ellen—As we widen the Mennonite circle, and hear each other's stories, my faith is made richer and stronger.

Annie—We are all citizens of God's kingdom and God's beloved children, so we shouldn't judge people by what they look like, who they are, what they're like, or what they've done.

Jerry—We are to learn what the dream of God is and then look for ways to make this dream come true.

Becky—It's important to treat everyone like they are citizens of God's kingdom because they are.

Going Back In Time...

By Donna Lehman

1968—45 years ago:

Paul Harshbarger and Jerry Landes were serving (alternative service) at Frontier Boys Village, Colorado Springs, CO.

1973—40 years ago:

Mid-July, Tim Lehman counseled for a week at Camp Luz; then Ed Lehman counseled for a week. (Karl Yoder, Tim Martin, and Dan Steiner attended the MYF Camp at Luz)

1983—30 years ago:

Doug Steiner was serving time with Mennonite Voluntary Service in Miami, FL; working in a half-way house for men released from prison.

1988—25 years ago:

Janet (Kauffman) Wilkins served in a Voluntary Service program; serving at Redlands Migrant Camp in Homestead, FL. (a home for physically and mentally handicapped adults)

Savannah—We are all citizens of God's kingdom. I didn't realize just how many people would be there! It feels good to be surrounded by other youth that worship like me!

Barb—I appreciate the sense of belonging to a larger, diverse group of Anabaptists who are striving to be followers of Jesus.

Doug—Jesus announced that his mission was to reach out to the disenfranchised, and we are called to do the same. This was counter-cultural in Jesus time, and continues to be so today (we just don't seem to get some of the commands of God).

Dennis—This year's theme heavily emphasized welcoming the sojourner (immigrant). I did not realize so much of the Old Testament is about immigrants/sojourners. Also, studying the US history of relating to immigrants, especially Latinos gave me a new perspective on their plight .

Art & Mary—This year's theme "Citizens of God's Kingdom - Healed in Hope" helped us view immigration and racism through the eyes of God and Jesus, rather than the myopic lens of nationalism. I want to remember that all human beings are made in the image of God, created with value and with the capacity to impact society positively.



1993—20 years ago:

Sam J. Plank was on the staff at Camp Luz.

2003—10 years ago:

Twelve youth plus their sponsors served at Chapel Hill Church, Tampa, FL. In the heat of the summer, cleaning, painting, trimming the yards for an upcoming Day Care Center for Chapel Hill Church (a multi-racial church-neighborhood)

2008—5 years ago:

Sixteen Bethel youth and sponsors served a week in July at Laurelville Mennonite Camp in Pennsylvania. This group worked on various clean-up jobs—from carpentry work to gardening and cleaning up fences, weeds, and vines from the area.

Kudos to all who have served/continue serving the Body of Christ in various ways.

“There Ain’t None Like Good Old Joshua!” A story on facing the Giants By Kristyn Horn

There is a time in high school, during the choir, “Women’s Glee” at Bellefontaine High School, that we sang a wonderful rendition of a traditional spiritual. It was “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho.” The story within this song focuses on the greatness of Joshua, a leader of the people of Israel. Sure, they just had to march around 7 times, right? Nope! But it was more than that! Imagine giants, and fear that makes you feel like “grasshoppers in your own eyes.” Think of how tiny grasshoppers are compared to the tallest person to ever live that we know of, which would be almost 8 feet. That is the fear – we see something so big in front of us that we want and that God gives us permission to get (Jericho) – and we run in fear because of the huge obstacle course we must run through (the battle against the giants).

In Numbers 13 and 14, the Israelites looked in fear when staring at God’s promise so close to their fingertips. Another consequence waited for them because they refused to risk going after a promised possession no matter what it cost. God would be with them – He promised them that as well as the land. But two young men, (or I assume they were young), stood up to the 10 others and said they could do it indeed. This reminds me of Sunday school in maybe the kindergarten and first grade classroom at Church. There were two or three to one. Since Katie King didn’t come early enough due to milking the cows, she missed out on the action... Boys against girl, in a tackling contest. Who started it, I don’t know. But the boys said they could tackle each other. I wanted to prove I was stronger than I really was and that I could do it. One boy really thought this was a great idea. (He must have thought to himself, “I can’t lose. So why not tackle a girl?”) Well, you know what happened next--when the teacher wasn’t looking, I got tackled. The point of this story is that we all should stand up and make the right choices – but only on God’s side. If God told me to tackle the opposing battle of boys, I am sure I could do it. I was facing the giants. So always make sure it’s the right choice, by choosing to follow God’s instructions. Don’t face the wrong giants. Make sure you and God are on the same side. And choose to follow the right battle plans. You learn a lot in life by being tackled and losing in your own challenge.

Joshua had to be a great leader: motivational--to get the people moving and on their feet, ready to go into the land; prepared; a great listener—to obey what God told him (some of God’s plans would seem so strange to us, even if we knew Him well); and devoted—loyal to his people.

What makes a great leader? Joshua knew God well, followed His rules, and even was distraught like God was when the Israelites again didn’t listen. Did you know that the Israelites claimed to be fully obedient to Moses? But they also promised to be obedient to Joshua, just as to Moses. They were determined. Something made the Israelites ready to listen, “only be

strong and courageous,” and know that the Lord was with Joshua just as He was with Moses.

What was different? Certainly something made them ready to charge into the city, march for 7 days, and – before that – to spy out the land in order to know the city was delivered into their hands. Their city, at last, was Jericho – the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey, and delivered into their hands due to the melted hearts and the overwhelming fear of the people of this great, big, fortified city.

They knew then that this was it; their chance to take over what was rightfully theirs at precisely the timing God had in mind with someone whom they could follow to battle their own giants and win. Important people God used were the following: Caleb was known for his leadership and choice to stand up and speak to the people that they could do what God told them to do. Hoshea (whose name changed to Joshua) was in the process of learning how to lead by being like a right hand man to Moses. He was his aid. He learned leadership from the leader who could not go to the Promised Land himself. Rahab was known as either the prostitute on the outskirts of the wall to Jericho, or possibly an innkeeper. The thing that I believe most people might not realize is that even though someone may not be a Christian, or even may be something like a prostitute, God can turn their life around by one right choice, even if she or he makes the choice by lying to people about something they know isn’t true. God used Rahab, so that she might live among the Israelites with her whole family. It is recorded that Rahab lived “among the Israelites to this day” (the time the book was written). He used her in one great big way for a huge purpose: He used her to show the spies that God would surely deliver Jericho into their hands, and let them live even when guards searched for them.

God used the spies to keep an oath, or promise, even in battle. They kept true to their word, and so the promise was not broken. Rahab kept her end of the deal too. God uses all kinds of people. We are hearing testimonies of others and learning from other people and generations what it’s like and what it takes to be a good leader in today’s society under God’s guidance and provision.

I will let you know what we’re studying next. Let me know if you’d be interested in sharing part of your testimony to the Bible Study group, because we could all learn from others through stories passed down through generations and sharing of each others’ experiences.

Thanks for continuing to show interest in our group’s studies, ministry involvement, and the mission to grow closer to God. We grow by studying His Word and Christian and spiritual topics, mentoring, growing in each other, and ministering to others, because they are God’s people. Let us know when or if you could use some cheering up, help, or a visit.

July Birthdays

- 3- Julia Yoder
- 10- Ella Mae Kauffman
- 12- Jeff Steiner
- 13- Alex Steiner
- 13- Brody Robinaugh
- 17- Ruby Byler
- 18-Mary Yoder
- 19- Miriam Lapp
- 20- Hayden Sanford
- 20- Sharon Showalter
- 23- Darin Robinaugh
- 25- Elaine Newcomer
- 25- Madelyn Sanford
- 27- Beth Maurer
- 30- Dena Hostetler
- 30- Doug Steiner

August birthdays

- 2 – Janet Wilkins
- 3 – Michelle Link
- 3 – Bill Shumaker
- 10 – Patrick Graber
- 12 – Mary Psolla
- 18 – Art Newcomer
- 23 – Cody Buck
- 23 – Harry Graber
- 23 – Jane Core Thomas
- 24 – Pam Webb
- 26 – Sally Harshbarger
- 29 – Sam J. Plank



Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women

By Donna Lehman, MW Secretary

Since the last Newsletter, this group has met twice (though not in June because of Bible School). Both the May and July meetings had water themes: in May we had a 'Beach Party' and in July has a 'Boat Meal.' Our hostesses for the Beach meal were Kyle VanOsdol, Ellen Steiner, Barb Evans and Christie Headings. The meal consisted of tortilla roll-ups, blue (water?) jello, desserts, and table decorations of sea shells, etc. Our 'Boating Meal' in July was hosted by Janice Rabenstein, Susan Krabill, and Sara Ellen Stoltzfus. Boating has been a long time summer enjoyment by the Rabensteins, so we enjoyed the type of meal you'd be able to take along on a boat, i.e. sandwich, chips, fruits, and cookies (we also enjoyed some of the boating photos).



In our devotional themes, we looked at WOW scriptures of 'Times of Distress,' many Psalms vent these feelings, and also 'Godless Chatter/ Idol Worship;' Paul gives advice that this type of living will spread; we need to look to Jesus.

Average attendance 20; work completed: 4 comforters, 2 -health kits, 15 school kits sewn.

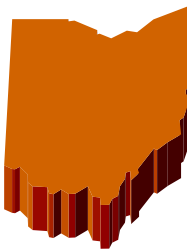
Our project at this time is School Kits, and we welcome any contributions toward this: Needed for each kit: 4 spiral 70 page notebooks, 1 box 12/20 colored pencils, 1 large pencil eraser, 1 soft plastic metric ruler and 8 unsharpened pencils. Note this is a change as it used to be 4 pencils.

July and August

Wedding Anniversaries

July 4, 2005	Lee & Tesa Jordan
July 6, 1980	Neil & Peggy Wirick
July 18, 1964	Carl & Elaine Newcomer
July 21, 1979	Greg & Jane Core Thomas
July 23, 1965	Chuck & Jeanie Swartz
July 27, 1968	Mike & Rita Roberts
August 6, 1994	Greg & Joanna Hostetler
August 6, 1966	Jim & Kay Burkett
August 8, 1981	Jeff & Suzan Hooper
August 11, 1978	Rick & Kathy Norviel
August 15, 1970	Bill & Carole Barrett
August 18, 1973	Steve & Miriam Lapp
August 19, 1961	Art & Mary Newcomer
August 19, 1967	Byron & Barb Kauffman
August 21, 1971	Jerry & Barb Landes
August 29, 1954	Lowell & Ellie Kauffman

Wanda Stopher New Regional Pastor



Take from the July issue of the Perspective

As was reported in the June 17 issue of *Perspective*, Regional Pastor Matt Hamsher has accepted a call from Longenecker Mennonite Church to become the congregation's lead pastor beginning Aug. 1. After processing this change, the Ohio Conference Leadership Team has asked Regional Pastors

Ralph Reinford and Wanda Stopher to transition from half-time to full-time status beginning Aug. 1. The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team has approved this plan.. Accordingly, Ohio Conference congregations have been reassigned to two regions. For the most part, Ralph Reinford will be working with congregations in the eastern part of the Conference, and Wanda Stopher will be working with congregations in the western part of the Conference. In addition, Conference Minister Tom Kauffman will serve as regional pastor to four congregations. A list of the congregations in each region and a map showing their locations is included with this issue of *Perspective*. Pastor/peer groups and cluster groups will remain as before. (A list of the congregational clusters can be found in the "Directory/Staff" section of the Ohio Conference website: www.ohiomennoniteconference.org.)

Conference Minister Tom Kauffman said that several factors were considered while determining these new assignments:

- Wanting congregations and pastors to have as much continuity of relationships with regional pastors as possible
- Considering both the number of congregations served as well as the geography traveled in making the distribution
- Attempting to keep cluster and pastor/peer group relationships from being disrupted

THANK YOU!

Please see the thank you card from Adriel staff and youth for making it possible for them to attend the Sanctus Real concert July 8th. This came about after a donation was made to Shine FM to help with start up costs for the concert, and then Bethel received 20 tickets to the show. Bethel graciously donated them to Adriel, and it was greatly appreciated by all in attendance!