

Meeting some of our Newest Members!

By Erin Dye

Lee and Tesa Jordan became members on Sunday, August 25th. Here are some things you might not know about the Jordans!

Tesa grew up in Elida, Ohio and Lee grew up in Richwood, Ohio. They met through an online dating website. Their first date was Oct. 4, 2003 and they attended the Lima Symphony's 50th Anniversary Gala concert, where they met Hugh Downs. The symphony remains a favorite date night for them.

As you might have seen at the Hobby Evening last May, Lee's hobbies include racing as well as golfing and skiing. Tesa's enjoys music, tai chi, gardening and genealogy.

Lee works at Midwest Express and engineers racecars. Tesa substitute teaches, sings, does websites and videographies, and advertisin.

The Jordans have found a church home at Bethel as they see it as "Open, friendly, welcoming, and a loving church community." In fact one of their favorite memories over the past year include the Hobby Evening and the day they joined the church.

Lee's favorite Bible verse is 23rd Psalm and Tesa's is the Love Chapter.

Photos: (top right) Tesa with Julia and Pat Yoder and Mary Jean Horn. (bottom right) Lee with his race car on Hobby Evening.



Missions Month Snapshot

Nov. 3rd - Speaker: Pastor Rick Stoner from Mark 7:1-23
"Anabaptist Gospelization I: A Living Tradition"

Nov. 10th - Speakers: Diane Oakley Mission Moment from her trip to Haiti
Gideon Representative Mission Moment
Lunch Following the Worship Service

Nov. 17th - Speaker: Pastor Rick Stoner from Psalm 150
"Anabaptist Gospelization II: A Lyrical Language"
Lunch Following the Worship Service

Nov. 24th - Speaker: Pastor Rick Stoner from Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
"Anabaptist Gospelization III: A Polycentric Body"
Lunch Following the Worship Service

Mission Giving:

Our giving project to missions will be to our 2013-2014 Mission line items in the budget. So any \$ that comes that is not specifically designated, will go toward these ministries. The exception will be on Nov. 10 when mission giving will be directed to the Gideons. Additionally, at our noon meals this year, we will be accepting donations which will also go to missions.

Food Resource Bank

By Byron Kauffman

This past spring, the Peace and Justice Lunch Group decided to promote a sweet corn project to raise money for the Foods Resource Bank. The Foods Resource Bank (FRB) is a program that promotes agricultural projects in this country to raise money to fund training and agriculture enterprises in developing countries where poverty is prevalent. When provided with training and tools, farmers can increase their production. FRB seeks to promote sustainability, community, and food security. Their mission is as follows: "As a Christian response to world hunger, FRB links the grassroots energy and commitment of the U.S. agricultural community with the capability and desire of small farmers in developing countries to grow lasting solutions to hunger."

From early May through mid June, Byron Kauffman planted and cultivated five different plots of sweet corn. Early problems with germination caused a serious challenge with the first two plantings. A group of volunteers from Bethel



formed the hand weeding crew: Chuck Swartz, Dennis Showalter, Jerry Landes, Dave Maurer, Elam Maurer, Carl Newcomer, Dick Lindemer, and Byron Kauffman. The harvest and marketing crew consisted of Chuck, Dennis, Jerry,

Barbara K., and Byron. Besides getting the work done, these persons seemed to enjoy working together.

The crop was sold at both the Farmers Market and directly from the farm to a few individuals. A generous contribution by one of the crew members increased the total monies collected to \$750.

After market fees and some of the seed expenses were paid, \$525 was sent to the Foods Resource Bank.

Mennonite Central Committee, one of the organizations

working with the FRB, was designated as the recipient of this money gift. In turn, MCC will use the money in Sincelejo, Columbia.

Thanks to all who helped with this project.

Advent Theme: "O, the mystery of God's dwelling!"

By Doug Steiner

Advent is another excellent opportunity for the church to provide an alternative to the consumer frenzy of our culture that climaxes on Christmas Day. As the Leader writers state, "Advent's emphasis on penitence in music, (scripture) texts and visuals might be jarring even for Christians...a time to ponder the depth of evil's hold upon our lives and our world, and to reflect on what is required for redemption from this mess". Two themes will be developed this Advent year; the theme of a house or home as the place of God's presences and of human security, and the theme of the wilderness (natural/physical as well as emotional/spiritual) as the place where God both meets and redeems us. Journey with us in anticipation of this year's theme: "O, the mystery of God's dwelling!"

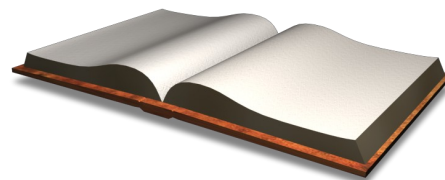
A note from Missions Committee—Once again, we are asking for gift donations for ages elementary through high school age. We'll start collecting gifts December 4th through the 15th.



Bethel Homework Help Up and Running!

By Dena Hostetler

Bethel Homework Help is set to kick off another school year! We are excited to meet the new students and reacquaint ourselves with the older ones. Our goal is to help these families by providing a safe, loving, and fun place where they look forward to coming. Anyone willing to volunteer their time, money, or snack/prize items will move us forward, toward the goal. Our prayer is that we will plant seeds of God's love in the hearts of these children. PRAY WITH US :)



Latest Youth Happenings

By Pastor Rick Stoner

Youth Summer Service Trip—SWAP

The Bethel youth will be heading down to Harlan, KY, next summer to participate in the MCC S.W.A.P. program. This program seeks to help you see rural poverty and better understand the conditions that lead to this poverty. The SWAP coordinators go into the community and meet people who need help; mostly on their homes. Then, once we get there they split us up into work teams and we venture out to different locations to work on improving peoples' homes. The cool part is that since you work at the same location all week this gives you an excellent opportunity to build relationships with people! Additionally, there is a time of worship in the evening and different speakers come in to teach the kids about poverty in the area. This trip is also special because we will be participating with the Oak Grove youth group! Our youth are really excited about this opportunity, and I think God will use this time to help us grow in our faith!



Youth Group Visits Marmon Valley



On blustery and wet Sunday afternoon (October 6) the youth group went over to Marmon Valley Farm for an afternoon of fun and team building. The group first ventured deep into the woods to the challenge course, where we were faced with a series of fun trials to build our teamwork skills. The first obstacle was lining up by birthday without talking and without using our hands! We struggled a bit on this but eventually lined up (however there might have been some people not in the right sport). Next we had to get our group across a "river" using only three wooden planks that we could place on rows of stones. Following that hair-raising challenge, we were faced the grueling challenge of having our group all swing onto a platform and then swing back, which meant we all had to get really close! Also this challenge was under a walnut tree and there may have been a few walnut casualties. Finally, our whole group had to traverse a giant rope bridge with everyone on it moving at once. Things were going great until someone whose name rhymes with Hug Diner led astray two other young men and started bouncing the rope!

From the challenge course we trekked back through the woods to the climbing wall. After hearing the safety instructions we hit the wall. Alex and Michael conquered all the various difficulty sections of the wall. And Becky, Trace, Annie, Savannah, and Barb all conquered the novice section. Doug conquered the medium and medium hard section. And I got almost three quarters of the way up the medium section and was beat by

Annie, who just wanted to climb high enough to beat me L. All-in-all it was a great day

Missions Month: “Lyrical Language of Anabaptist Gospelization

By Pastor Rick Stoner

Evangelism. It is a common word thrown about within the larger church body. We want to engage our communities for Christ. We want to become “missional.” Yet, we also stumble in our efforts to move in this direction. Perhaps it’s because we have become so jaded on the whole evangelism enterprise that we are skeptical of the word. We don’t want to be confused with the person on the street corner screaming into a bullhorn that the people passing by are going to hell unless they repent. On the other hand, if we sit back and melt into the cultural fabric what transformation will we bring to our community? What hope do we have to offer?

In an article entitled “The Folly of Empire,” Chris Hedges looks at dying empires and suggest that in these empires the populous has become passive. He suggests that we are doomed by hope. He states, “Hope and glory are endlessly served up by the entertainment industry...self-help gurus like Oprah and religious belief systems that assure followers that God will always protect them. It is collective self-delusion, a retreat into magical thinking” (Hedges, *Truthdig*, October 2013). Hedges’ bleak outlook on religion raises an interesting point for us to chew on and might just leave us with a sour taste in our mouths. You see, while I don’t agree with Hedges assessment, I find his critique to be eye opening, because I wonder what are we offering the world around us. Is our hope just a flimsy vision of something that comes later, or is it a hope that moves mountains?

This draws us back to evangelism. Perhaps it’s time to change directions. Perhaps it’s time to shift from

technique to something different. Perhaps it’s time for the gospel to become lyrical. A song is a powerful thing. Songs stick with us, get inside us, and make us move. Thus, I propose that we shift from evangelism to gospelization, which is a theopoetic way of approaching the gospel. Matt Guynn describes theopoetics as, “an artful way of working with language and worldview. The theo-poet uses the occasion of the poem to creatively suggest, ambiguously hint, generously intimate in ways that create space for the reader or the public to face the unknown, engage Mystery, to dream and be transformed” (*Theopoetics: That the Dead May Become Gardeners Again*, *Cross Currents*, 2006, 2). In the lyrical language of gospelization we can begin to allow the gospel to come through us in ways that invite people into mystery.

Ultimately the song of the gospel must be sung into our hearts so that we can begin to sing it to the world. This gospel song flows from the core of our being. Remember Jesus said to the Pharisees, and the disciples, in Mark 7 that it is what comes out of us that defines us (my paraphrase). So have we allowed this gospel song to liberate our cold rigid heart enough so that we are so overcome that the song spills out of our lives? What are we holding on to that prevents us from looking “silly” as we sing this provocative tune? Is it pride or hubris or some stoic version of the gospel that requires us to have a stiff upper lip as we sit emotionless in the service each week? My desire through this missions month is to explore with you the lyrical nature of the gospel so that we can begin to sing the gospel song; we can begin “gospelizing.”

Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women

By Donna Lehman, MW Secretary

This group’s new year began in September with plans in line for the year ahead. The ladies were given the new Program Books for the 2013-2014 year with the theme, “Courageous Women of the Bible.” At the September meeting, we used the theme “School Days” with attenders bringing sack lunches—but, unlike our school days, the lunches were topped off with Klondike bars. Also, we began a new quilt, which was embroidered by Bessie Lehman. Terri McGarry was a guest and she encouraged baked items, etc. for the upcoming Adriel Benefit. Kyle introduced the theme we’ll be using this year, her Biblical woman of courage was ‘Hulda.’

The October meeting, the beautiful fall season

was used for decorations—leaves, pumpkins—and potato casseroles were served with Jeanie and Donna hosting. Those with last name initials L through R brought salads/desserts. Tesa had the devotional, ‘Seeking Justice,’ the problems of OT ladies, but God willed that women have rights.

Next month we’ll be having a Pasta Meal with Barb Evans, Kathy Graber and Doris Enns hosting (S through Z are to bring salads or desserts) Project: Health kits.

Average attendance 24; items made/contributed, 1 quilt, 5 comforters, 9 school kits, 9 health kits. 12 school kits bag sewn for Pr. Jr. Dept.

Looking Back in History

By Donna Lehman, Historian

In the fall of 1953 (60 years ago) Bethel welcomed a new pastor, Edward Stoltzfus.

Also, the fall of that year, a large tent was placed in the Dwight Neer farm (S.E. of West Liberty) and for three weeks revival meetings were held in the tent—which could have seated 5,000. George R. Brunk II of Virginia was the speaker. (Do any of you have memories of attending any of those meetings?)

(40 Years Ago) The Primary Junior Department had a fun Halloween Party at Pat Zook's barn and the Mennonite Youth Fellowship did a neighborhood leaf rake.

(30 Years Ago) Russ and Beth Miller, Bethel members, with others start a new church venture in Bellefontaine—Bellefontaine Christian Fellowship (now Jubilee).

(15 Years Ago) MCC had a corn drive for Northern Korea. Area farmers were challenged to donate 50 pounds corn bags at Shepherd Grain in West Liberty. Also, 15 years ago, Pastor Alvin Yoder began a series of sermons on our Vision Statement, "Worship, Serve, Invite and Nurture"

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
30 – Kathy Lehman

"...by the power of the Holy Spirit."

By Pastor Dave Maurer

In previous newsletters, I have reflected on aspects of our purpose statement and what they mean for our congregation. In sharing this, we are inviting your input and reflection as we discern together God's future for us. So far we have considered, "Jesus compels us to experience and extend the gracious rule of God..." This month, we consider the last phrase "by the power of the Holy Spirit."

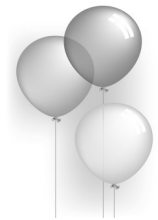
God has called us to be in relationship with Him and to experience what it means to be a part of His kingdom. We are also called to extend that kingdom within our world through our words and actions as well as through inviting others to join in this kingdom movement. But none of this is done by our power alone. God chooses to work with and through us, thus we have a part in this; but it is not by our power that God's kingdom advances. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2, we read the story of Pentecost, the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit was a movement like wind and tongues of fire. With the Holy Spirit came the ability to speak in different languages. As the disciples proclaimed the

gospel message, the church grew. Verse 47 ends with the words, "...And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." It was the Lord who added to their numbers. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that this movement was growing.

Including the Holy Spirit in our purpose statement serves as a visible reminder of the third part of the trinity in our faith and life together. But it is also a reminder that while we are called to do our part, it is not by our own power that we do this. We cannot rely on our abilities to accomplish God's kingdom purposes. God works through us and through the gifts that God has given us, but it is by God's power not our own that the kingdom advances.

Take a moment to reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit in your walk and in our congregation. How have you been empowered by the Holy Spirit? In what ways might an increasing release of the Holy Spirit in our midst influence living more fully into God's kingdom principles? May God guide us as we continue to follow in God's ways.



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
21 – Holly King
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

Reflections on Roy Byler

February 9, 1918-October 7, 2013

Memorial Service at Bethel Mennonite on October 10, 2013

By Ed Lehman

I have attended Bethel with Roy Byler my entire life.

At home on the farm, our family sat together for 1,2, and often 3 meals everyday. Church was often discussed and Roy was in the same Sunday School class with my dad.

I am acquainted with all 5 of Roy's children that filled the church pew, several rows in front of our church pew filled with 7 children.

I remember Roy as a farmer, construction worker, song leader, substitute Sunday school teacher, handyman, repairing and doing building projects for myself and others. Also winter VSworke in Brownsville, TX along with Ruby.

By Deb Byler

One of my earliest memories of Dad is of him giving us horsey-back rides. We would beg him to give us rides and he would carry us around the dining room and the living room and take us into the kitchen to see Mom. Those were really special times and special memories for me of Dad.

Dad was a man of faith and he seemed at peace about dying. When I heard on Sunday that he was not doing well and that he would probably not live more than two or three days at the most, I thought he would hang on because he was a very determined man. But he died on Monday morning. He didn't hang on and I think the reason was because he was ready to go. His body had given out and Mom had released him and it was time to go.

Dad was very committed to the church. He loved the Bible. He loved his Sunday School class. He used to ask me questions about the Bible. He would think frequently about the Bible and what it meant and he would save his questions and when I came we would talk about those things. I didn't have all of the answers for him, but we had good conversations.

Dad was committed to missions. His mother and grandfather had given him that legacy that he continued to carry on.

Dad had a sense of adventure. When I was between the third and fourth grades our whole family traveled out to California. We took three weeks and there were five of us children and Mom and Dad – seven of us in a car. We took a tent and a pack on top of the car and we took time together as a family. We still talk about the fun we had together on that trip. Dad wasn't afraid to go into

Roy would give the church a "summary" of his work with VS. I've often seen Roy taking his daily walks around town, after he really retired.

I remember Roy as he would often share his wisdom with the congregation. When he would stand up to share, you never knew what he was going to say (and once he didn't either so he sat back down). Roy's words to us as a congregation were meaningful and insightful, and often down right comical.

There have been many times the Bethel pastor would include Roy and Ruby in the sermon.

I nominate Roy Byler for the Bethel Hall of Fame.

something even if he didn't know how it would turn out. We had not camped before and so this was a real adventure. But it was a special time.

Dad was a good business man. As a farmer he knew what risks to take and his risks paid off.

Dad was wise in many ways, particularly financially, but also in many other ways. I called him for advice on different things that I was thinking about doing. I have thought many times, and I will continue to think, "What would Dad do." Because I know him well enough to know what he would do, I believe his wisdom will carry me through.

Dad had a sense of humor. He was a quiet man, but he had a dry sense of humor that I really enjoyed particularly as an adult.

Dad was a Dominoes player. We loved to play Dominoes with Dad. When I would visit Mom and Dad and it was just the three of us playing, if Mom got ahead, Dad would say, "Let's let Mom win." That was our way of ganging up on Mom and that is an example of Dad's sense of humor.

As I was coming to West Liberty on Monday, knowing that Dad had just died, I was listening to music, playing some of my favorite CDs. I listened to one song that talks about saying goodbye. I don't know that it was meant for death, but to me that day, that's what it meant. It says, "I don't like to say goodbye. I don't want today to end. But we will be happy together tomorrow, together tomorrow again." As I listened to that song, I thought of Dad. And I know we'll be together tomorrow again. So I just want to say, "Dad, I love you and I'll see you."

By Dan Byler

The following is taken from Dan's sharing at the memorial services.

"...I learned about family from Dad and Mom. I see a lot of families these days in Thailand where I am working that aren't doing so well. And it reminds me of the blessing of family where love is demonstrated – not talked about in a lose way but demonstrated in acts of service to each other; in caring about each other. And Dad demonstrated this with how he took care of us when we were growing up. I really appreciate that.

There is something I would like to say about Dad's faith, which he passed along to us. Hebrews says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed by faith our ancestors received approval." Our faith is something that needs strengthening as we grow and mature. And that's something I saw demonstrated in Dad's life. He didn't just accept the faith he had received from his ancestors, but it was tested. It was tried. It was questioned. But yet he was in a circle of people that could accept those questions and talk about them. It's been mentioned about Dad's Sunday School class. I think that probably that was a highlight of Dad's week – looking forward to the Sunday School class, a place where there were people of faith discussing difficult things of faith. I'm not an athlete; I've never been one. But I know that athletes train, and they go through a lot of pain so that their bodies become strong. I think that's the way that Dad saw his faith – something to wrestle with; something he knew would be strengthened if he discussed

the difficult things of our faith. I received that inheritance from Dad and Mom. And I'm really thankful that my faith has been strengthened in the same way. There are a lot of difficult questions in our world, but God is with us as we walk together, and I pray that we will continue to support each other as we discuss things of faith that aren't always easy to resolve. Dad died with a strong faith, and that's the faith that I received from him.

Dad spent most of his life within perhaps a 15-20 mile radius of where we are today. And yet he was not bound by this geography. He was a man who thought about all of God's creation – the whole world. As has been mentioned, Dad and Mom and all of us did a lot of traveling when we were growing up. I'm not sure what all God was doing in me during that time, but I know that I developed a love of our world, not just our locality. And I think that that's good. Dad was rooted in this community – strongly rooted here. But yet he had a broader vision, and I like that. We need roots. If we go here and there and everywhere, it's just not that good if we don't have the root. And so I'm thankful for growing up in this community and in this church, but that God has now given me a mission family too that I can share life with, it's really special – to have root in a community of faith, but also have a worldwide vision – and that's one of the heritages that I got from Dad.

...But I learned something from Dad and Mom – if you are faithful with the people you have close to you, God then takes that and He multiplies it again and again. That too is a heritage that I have received, and I'm trying to pass it along to other people as well. If we are faithful with the people around us, then God will take what we do and multiply it. So I pray that God will use all of us and multiply the things we do through our faith. May God bless you.

November and December Wedding Anniversaries

November 10, 1957 – Sam & Mary Lou Plank
November 28, 1070 – Paul & Sally Harshbarger
November 28, 1998 – Dennis & Tara Sanford
December 7, 1986 – Mary Jean & Dean Horn
December 22, 2001 – Sarah & David Hostetler
December 28, 1984 – Darin & Kathi Robinaugh
December 29, 1974 – Polly & Mark Thomas

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



*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



November 2013

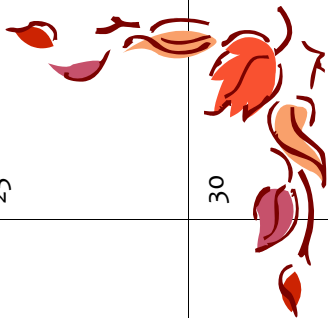
BS=Bible Study

BHH=Bethel Homework Help

Menno W=Mennonite Women

JOICO=Joint Council

ODB=Our Daily Bread

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:1-7</p>						
3 Missions Month	4 Mastersing- ers practice	5 9:15a Women's BS 12p P& J lunch 3p BHH	6 6:30 Adriel Live (Bethel youth group) 6:30p QUEST	7 3p BHH 7p JOICO	8 (Pastors Rick and Dave away ...	9 8a King's Daughters
10 Missions Month 12p Meal ...Pastors return) 3p God's GIRLS	11 Mastersing- ers practice	12 9a Menno W 3p BHH	13 6:30p QUEST	14 9:30 Tea & Prayer 3p BHH 7p Ministry of Wor- ship	15	16 8am Men's Break- fast
17 Missions Month 12p Meal TBA Master Singers 6p Youth & Mentors	18	19 9:15a Women's BS 12p P& J lunch 3p BHH	20 6:30p QUEST 7p Youth BS	21 3p BHH	22	23 
24 Missions Month 12p Meal 3p God's GIRLS	25	26	27 4:15 ODB 6:30 Community Thanksgiving Ser- vice	28 Thanksgiving Church Reserved 9-5	29	30