

Bethel News & Views

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NOVEMBER SERVICES TO FOCUS ON LOCAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

It has been our tradition at Bethel to focus on local and world missions during the month of November. We feature missionaries as speakers, receive offerings for mission projects, and include other activities as they relate to the mission theme.

This year will be no different, although plans have not yet been finalized by the Ministries of Mission and Worship. Local mission sharing by the Gideons and a new Urbana Coffee House ministry will be included as well as a time to hear Pastor Rick Stoner share his vision for mission based on his seminary studies and experiences with mission.

Ministry of Mission Chair, Kim Lehman, has also contacted Mennonite Mission Network and is hoping that a guest speaker will be available to share one of the Sundays.

Jim Amstutz, co-pastor of Akron (PA) Mennonite Church since 2001, will be with us the weekend of November 21-22. His first presentation will be on Saturday afternoon or evening (time to be determined later). On Sunday he will share during the Sunday School and worship hours, and conclude with an afternoon workshop after a rice and beans luncheon. "We want

to identify with the poor of the world, many of whom eat rice and beans at almost every meal," says Kim.

Amstutz was a featured speaker at the Ohio Conference Annual Assembly last March where he shared about the missional work of his congregation, and some of the unique ways they reach out to their community.

He is a graduate of Bluffton College and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, and has a degree in Missional Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. From 1987 to 1991 he served as campus pastor and Director of Church Relations at Bluffton. He and his wife, Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, are parents of three children.

This year's mission offerings will be divided among local missions, such as the Gideons and the coffee house ministry, and Mennonite Mission Network. More details will be available later.

Plan now to attend these events and be inspired by how God is working in our world today, locally and around the globe.

TED & COMPANY THEATER WORKS WILL PRESENT LOCAL SHOW

Ted & Company, a theater group based in Harrisonburg, VA, will present their show, *What Would Lloyd Do?* at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4 at the Bellefontaine High School auditorium.

Sponsored by the West Liberty Ministerium, tickets for the event are \$5, and may be purchased by calling the church office at 465-4587. They will also be available for purchase following services each Sunday in October. Proceeds above and beyond the cost of the show will be split between West Liberty Cares and Our Daily Bread.

The theater company stars Ted Swartz and Trent Wagler with Jay Lapp. In the 90-minute show, a struggling inner city church recruits a new pastor and music director, who discover conflict and commonality because they are from different generations.

As their relationship grows, they wrestle with issues of doubt, disappointment and hope. On top of all this, they are in charge

of a tired radio show that must be broadcast each Sunday morning. The show includes great original music and lots of humor while introducing thought-provoking themes.

Invite your friends and neighbors and plan now to attend this unique evening of entertainment and inspiration.

Running the Race . . . Walking the Walk

Various Bethelites share their thoughts on how running and walking relates to their Christian faith on page 8.

Don't miss it!

Bob and Theresa Rabenstein will celebrate 22nd anniversary

It rained all day long in West Liberty on October 24, 1987, the day Bob Rabenstein and Theresa Gwilliams were united in marriage at Bethel.

Weldon and Florence Schloneger officiated at the ceremony, Bill Barrett played wedding music on the organ, and the couple's friends and siblings made up the wedding party.

Theresa's bridal gown featured a Victorian stand-up collar and fitted bodice with lace ruffles, satin ribbon and a chapel-length train. Her colors were burgundy, dusty rose and pink, while roses and carnations were the chosen flowers.

As is true for most weddings, several unexpected things happened, Theresa recalls. "Bob was so nervous he forgot to shave," she says. "Then one of the bridesmaids got a bloody nose just before we were ready to head down the aisle. I sent her to someone else because I didn't want blood on my dress!"

A reception was held in the Fellowship Room, but things went longer than expected, so the couple did not get to ride away in the limousine provided by the Littleton & Rue Funeral Home, which was under construction by the companies that Bob and Theresa were working for at the time. "We didn't get to ride in the limousine because Mr. Rue had to

leave for a funeral," says Theresa, "but it is in our wedding video, so at least we got to see it."

The newlyweds honeymooned at Cove Haven in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, and then settled into their first home at 229 Miller Street in West Liberty where they still reside. They are parents to Bill, a sophomore at Cedarville University, and Jessica, a freshman at West Liberty-Salem High School.

Bob continued working for the family business, Rabenstein Electric, which he now owns. Besides being a stay-at-home mom for 11 years, Theresa has worked at various jobs including secretary for Humble Construction, Roby Company sales rep, school bus driver, and for Rabenstein Electric. Together, they are owners/landlords of eight rental units.

When asked about their hobbies, Theresa says they enjoy "spending time with our children, laughing, boating and riding our Harley Davidson motorcycles." Their goals for the next decade include "getting our children through college and discovering what empty nesting is like."

Congratulations on 22 years of wedded bliss, Bob and Theresa! May God continue to bless your marriage!

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 19, 1947 – Roy & Ruby Byler
Oct. 22, 2000 – Karl & Phyllis Smith
Oct. 24, 1987 – Bob & Theresa Rabenstein
Oct. 28, 1978 – Larry & Barbara Evans

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

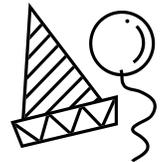
Congratulations!



Lucy Grace - Sept 4
Adam & Emily
(Thornburg) Cole

Delaney Anne - Sept 14
Jason & Lila (Link)
Anane-Sefah

BIRTHDAY PARADE



October

- 4 – Dennis Sanford
- 11 – Abigail Rabenstein
- 12 – Mary Ann Pratt
- 16 – Sarah Hostetler
- 17 – Eileen Botkin
- 22 – Greg Thomas
- 22 – James Lochridge
- 22 – Lela Faye Graber
- 23 – Doug Webb
- 26 – Joanna Hostetler
- 29 – Collin Link
- 30 – Dave Link
- 31 – David Hostetler
- 31 – Dianne Oakley

November

- 1 – Hayden Hostetler
- 1 – Samuel Evans
- 4 – Pat Zook
- 5 – Ann Thornburg
- 5 – Sandy Rabenstein
- 7 – Peggy (Dale) Wirick
- 8 – Molly Thornburg
- 10 – Dave Maurer
- 13 – Lyle Pratt
- 16 – Kathy Graber
- 17 – Jeannette Hostetler
- 19 – Matthew Snyder
- 21 – Chris Thornburg
- 22 – Ken Shank
- 22 – Phyllis Smith
- 23 – John R. Thornburg
- 24 – Katie King
- 30 – Kathy Lehman

From the Pastor's desk

My Journey to Anabaptist Identity By Pastor Dave Maurer

Beyond reflecting on Anabaptist Christianity in our worship services recently, many of us have also been gathering Wednesday nights to talk about John Roth's book, *Stories*. In his book, Roth clearly sees the birth of Anabaptism as a movement that did not suddenly appear, but that formed over time and with the Spirit's leading. As I reflect on the formation of my own Anabaptist Christian identity, I see that this has also been a journey for me and is likely a journey for many if not all of us.

My journey began before I knew what Mennonites really were. During Vacation Bible School at a nondenominational church, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Then, in middle school, while attending a Disciples of Christ congregation, I went through their pastor's class to become a member. I had been infant baptized in the United Church of Christ, so I became a member through confession of faith. But this exposed me to adult baptism.

I found myself still wanting to know more about Jesus, so as my family transitioned back to the UCC, I participated in the confirmation class. In doing so, my understanding and commitment to Christ deepened. I joined that congregation and began to sense my call to ministry. This call led me to Bluffton University and the Mennonites.

While at Bluffton, I encountered community on campus and in the Mennonite congregations I attended while leading worship through drama. In the classroom, I continued to learn more about Jesus and was deeply challenged by Anabaptist

Christianity. I was taken by this new view of Jesus and life-changing discipleship.

While in Israel-Palestine with Bluffton, I encountered devotion to Christ and the work of reconciliation that put one's life on the line. The example of Christian Peacemaker Teams challenged me to rethink my understanding of the gospel and what it means to be committed to Jesus. Yet it wasn't until my senior year that I embraced the nonviolent work of Jesus fully.

During a class with J. Denny Weaver, he said that he is not a pacifist because it works, but because he is a Christian. At that point, my worldview shifted, and I saw that the use of nonviolence was not about effectiveness but about faithfulness, not about inaction but about actively trusting in God. With much more to learn about Anabaptism, I embraced it as part of my identity and committed to being shaped by it.

Soon I became a student at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and began ministry at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. There I began to live into this understanding of faith, and received adult baptism to solidify my commitment to this identity. In this journey, I see my gradual embrace of the core values that Palmer Becker offers in his booklet, *What is an Anabaptist Christian?* Jesus is the center of our faith. Community is the center of our lives. Reconciliation is the center of our work. May we grow together as we all continue on this journey of faith and identity.

Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women in Mission By Donna Lehman, Secretary

Twenty people were around the table at noontime when this group met for the September meeting. It was sack lunch time with dessert furnished by hostesses Jan Smucker and Donna Lehman. Dessert consisted of zucchini brownies with ice cream. (This year's schedule will have more sack lunch/dessert furnished lunches to cut down on hostess responsibilities.)

Everyone had a placemat with the hymn, *This is My Father's World*, printed on one side, but this left plenty of room for those in attendance to draw something in nature they appreciate.

President Jeanette Hostetler called attention to the upcoming MW meeting at Camp Luz in mid-September. She also asked for anyone having read a book for review. Wanda Shumaker shared about books she's been enjoying: B. J. Hoff's *The Tin Whistle*, and books by Cindy Woodsmall with Amish settings. Sara Ellen Stoltzfus shared a big book hint of how to repair a

borrowed book, which accidentally falls into a water puddle. (Best hint: don't leave a book on the trunk or hood of your car before you start to drive!)

Donna Lehman introduced the theme for the year, "For the Beauty of the Earth: Women, Faith and Creation Care." Her theme, "In the Beginning," was based on God's creation. Persons have responsibility in worshipping God because of how He has revealed Himself through creation. The family and the church have responsibility to teach God through His gift of us in creation.

The placemats were very nicely drawn with scenes such as a corn field, birds, flowers in house yards, trees, a rainbow, and mountain scenery.

Next meeting: baked potato bar with Janice Rabenstein, Barbara Schultz, and Wanda Shumaker, hostesses. Work completed: 7 school kits, 2 comforters, 1 baby comforter

Getting to know Brody Robinaugh By Rick Stoner

On the surface Brody Robinaugh might seem like a quiet guy, yet underneath that quiet exterior is a deep thinker with a sincere faith.

Brody, a senior at West Liberty Salem High School, has been attending Bethel with his family since he was in eighth grade. He says that he enjoys everything about Bethel. "I doubt that I'll ever meet friendlier, more caring, and loving people who have shaped my morals and beliefs in such a positive way."

When he has free time, Brody enjoys being outside playing soccer, working on his car, and finding cool things to take pictures of. Brody likes to listen to music that has "a lot of heart and passion put into it." So, he mostly listens to Christian rock, indie rock, or contemporary country music.

If you were to invite Brody over to eat, you should know that he most often finds himself craving pizza and/or macaroni and cheese. But if you really want to make him happy, you should make a peanut butter pie. "My

absolute favorite food has to be homemade peanut butter pie made by either my Mom or Grandma; both are delicious."

In the future, Brody is hoping to attend a quality and reasonably priced technical school, where he can learn auto mechanic skills, classic car restoration, and/or some customization. He has a couple schools in mind, but hasn't made any decisions yet.

When asked about what he would tell the church about youth, Brody said, "The only thing I'm certain that applies to all youth is that we're complicated. I know that young minds tend to make unwise decisions, but there are many that act with common sense and maturity more often than not."

So, I would invite you all to take time and get to know Brody on Sunday mornings. Or during the week you might be able to catch him at his new job uptown at the new Tigers Den restaurant. I know that I have really appreciated Brody in our youth group, and I know that God is working in his life!

God's GIRLS attend Girls' Jamboree By Lela Faye Graber

Bethel God's GIRLS were invited by Ohio Mennonite Women to attend a Girls' Jamboree weekend, August 7-9. Five Bethel girls and three of their friends, along with three of the girls' mothers, attended the activities at Camp Luz near Kidron.

Participants were Lela Faye and Larissa Graber and her friend Lily LeVan, Savannah Hostetler, Sandy and Ashley Rabenstein and her friends Alexa and Ally Smith, Annie Steiner, Janet and Becky Wilkins.

Deb Horst, camp director, introduced four women in the Bible who obediently followed Jesus, portraying these stories with captivating drama presentations.

Each cabin of girls also had time as a group to reflect on the biblical texts and what they learned. Singing together in worship and campfire times was exciting, joining over a hundred voices from sister churches of Ohio and Indiana.

Meals were delicious, and free time was lots of fun with crafts, boating, swimming, playing games, and going on a nature walk.

The service project introduced Bridge of Hope, a mission for a girls' school in Liberia. Offerings went to help provide for their needs. The craft sent to encourage the school girls were handmade bookmarks with decorations and a Bible verse.

Larissa's favorite memory was the scavenger hunt, and Annie's was "the time Ashley and her mom had a mouse in their canoe! I helped to rescue it." Ashley's best memory was "every day, because we were all together and could all learn about God!"

Savannah learned that "people can come from all over and be Christians, like the woman at the well. If you're poor or rich, anyone can be a Christian if they really want to be." Becky learned "that God can do amazing things."

What are our youth up to this fall?

Ben Logan High School

Boys' Soccer and Cross Country: Patrick Graber



West Liberty Salem High School

Boy's Soccer: Brody Robinaugh, Jacob Shank, Felipe Tetelbom

Girl's Soccer: Lindsey Hostetler

Football: Collin Link



Marching Band: Lindsey Hostetler, Jessica Rabenstein

Choir: Jessica Rabenstein



From the Youth Pastor's desk

Youth ministry involves the whole church By Rick Stoner

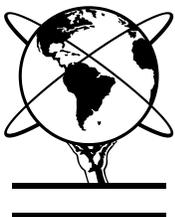
“Young people just can’t have somebody reciting lines or reading a book or teaching. You want someone who’s learning, someone who’s alive and growing with you.

That’s how you learn that you’re on a spiritual journey with somebody. It doesn’t work if that adult is at the end of the journey tugging on a rope trying to get you to come along.

A young person needs to know you’re right there with them. A young person needs to see that you’re vulnerable – that you’re struggling too.

I have to say I haven’t seen a single adult enter our youth ministry and leave the exact same way they entered. Everybody has changed . . . and that’s just how it’s got to be.”

~Nathaniel, age 15
Contemplative Youth Ministry



In the opening paragraph of his book, *Contemplative Youth Ministry*, Mark Yaconelli states, “Adult anxiety about teens may be the primary reason youth ministry exists.” Now we might think that Yaconelli is going a bit too far. I mean, we certainly are not afraid of *our* youth. That may be true, but in our world today there is a growing cultural gap between adults and youth, a gap of understanding where youth have been abandoned by many of the systems, including the church that are meant to guide them in their life journey.

When we put on our cultural detective lens, we can see that youth are seen as disposable commodities for corporations to target. Youth have money and businesses want that money. They turn status into something to be bought and turn image into the holy grail of teenage life. And so, as a church, we have to ask ourselves, “Are we trying to compete with the marketers and dress up the gospel or the church with flashy packaging?”

In our society youth are also seen as a threat, especially minorities and youth on the fringe. Schools become stations for police officers, military personnel, and other agents of the State. (Tolu Olorunda, “Review of Henry Giroux’s: *Youth in a Suspect Society*,” *Truthout*, 10 September 2009) The message youth get is that they are risky people and adults fear them. In the church we want our youth to be good and not destructive. But

Jesus asks us to move beyond good to faithfulness.

In the body of Christ we need to move beyond these images and perceptions of youth, and beyond just doing youth ministry to sell the gospel or have good youth. If we want to practice youth ministry as a spiritual discipline, we must learn to let down our guard and be vulnerable with young people (and for that matter, with each other). We must see young people through the eyes of God, and acknowledge that they are deeply spiritual beings longing to journey with us on the path of faith.

How does this happen? It happens when we stop worrying about the future or dwelling on the mistakes of the past and join together with youth in becoming fully present to what God is doing in our midst right now.

So, let’s walk together with youth on this faith journey. Let’s learn together what it means to follow Jesus. This can be as simple as asking a young person how they are doing, and taking the time to really listen to them. Or it might mean stepping out in faith teaching Sunday School. Whatever it means for you, we must remember that ministry (including youth ministry) is a whole church thing. And, as we minister together, I think we will all be transformed, because Jesus is calling us to become something that we have never been before.

Shank family hosts Brazilian exchange student

This fall Ken, Cheryl and Jacob Shank are hosting Felipe Tetelbom, 16, a sophomore exchange student at West Liberty-Salem High School who is from Porto Alegre, Brazil. He will reside with them for the first semester.

Felipe’s family includes his mother who is a social worker and two older brothers. He has played soccer for 10 years and is playing for the team at WL-S. Felipe’s many other interests and activities include travel, bicycling, volleyball, swimming, skiing,

attending sporting events and pop music concerts, listening to pop music, computers, theater, and photography.

Though Felipe’s family is Jewish he is interested in attending church with his host family, and has attended youth activities at Bethel with Jacob.

Through this exchange program he hopes to gain knowledge and experiences that will contribute a lot to his life, he says on his application.

Let's get acquainted with the Bill and Carole Barrett

Bill and Carole have been attending Bethel for over 30 years, but it's probably time we all re-acquaint ourselves with them. Read on, and discover some details about their lives you didn't know before.

Both Bill and Carole were born and raised in small Michigan towns. Carole was the oldest of four children born to Thomas and Audrey Frydel, now deceased. Bill was a middle child with an older sister and younger brother. His parents, Howard and Pauline Barrett, are also deceased.

Carole graduated from Anchor Bay High School and completed three years of college at Eastern Michigan University. After Bill graduated from Milan High School and attended one quarter at the University of Michigan, he also finished his degree at Eastern Michigan, which is where the two of them met.

Carole caught Bill's eye when she was a cheerleader and he was in the marching band. On their first date in December of 1968, they attended church activities the whole day. "Bill played organ for several services at a Catholic Church and directed a Baptist Choir," explains Carole. "Later we listened to records of Gregorian chants. I should have known then that music was going to be a very important part of our lives."

The Barretts were married on August 15, 1970 and lived in Ypsilanti while Bill finished his studies before moving to West Liberty in 1971. Bill taught music at West Liberty-Salem Schools, until 1980 when he opened the Band Aid Shop in Bellefontaine where he rents, sells, repairs and give lessons on any instrument you want to learn to play.

Carole has had various secretarial jobs over the years, beginning in high school where she worked at her hometown elementary school and for an insurance agency. In college she majored in secretarial science education but decided that teaching was not for her.

After their marriage, she was a department secretary in the College of Business at Eastern Michigan until they moved to West Liberty. She was employed by Adriel School in the

1970s before the boys were born and while they were small. Later she worked at Consolidated Care as an office manager, receptionist, billing clerk, and then Administrative Assistant until being downsized in January of 2009. Currently, she is Program Coordinator in the Care Coordination Office at Mary Rutan Hospital, and works in the music store when Bill is short on help.

The Barretts have two sons. Bill Jr. is married to Stephanie Starr and has an eight-year-old stepson, Seth. They make their home in Yucca Valley, CA where Bill is a high school music teacher, school activities coordinator, the county schools performing arts coordinator, and director of a community choir. Son Jim, a mechanic for Crown Forklift Systems, is married to Amber Gibson. They are parents to Gracie who is almost five years old, and live in West Liberty.

Carole was raised in the Lutheran Church and Bill in the Methodist Church but they decided to attend Bethel in the 1970s. Bill has played organ and directed the choir in several churches in Michigan and Ohio. Carole has been active as a Sunday School teacher and committee member in all the churches she has attended.

Bill's spends a lot of his leisure time doing musical activities, and he loves to sing with his granddaughter, Gracie. Carole enjoys listening to Bill's musical groups as well as reading, sewing and spending time with Gracie.

We're glad you're part of our church family, Bill and Carole!

Sunday School teacher honored



On a recent Sunday morning Carole Barrett was honored for over 30 years of teaching the nursery S.S. class at Bethel.

Her students from last year, Miles Hostetler and Maggie Maurer, presented her with floral bouquets.

Some of Carole's first students have gone on to become pastors and college professors. A teacher never knows where her influence will end.

Thank you, Carole, for serving the church in this way!

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Randy Longenecker

Recipient of the American Academy of Family Practice
Exemplary Teaching Award for 2009

Randy has been Program Director for The Ohio State University
Rural Program – Mad River Family Practice since 1997

Back in the day...

Being green before being green was cool!

By Donna Lehman, Church Historian

Several months ago, the trustees cleaned out the closet under the back stairs, and had items which persons could pick up that were being “thrown” out. Among these items was a box of TIN CUPS. Perhaps you picked up one of these tin cups, and wondered *what?* and *why?*

Well, to answer your question, many long years before Styrofoam or paper cups were IN, these tin cups were put to use. I talked to several persons who remembered the use of these cups: Wanda Shumaker, Ruby Byler, Betty Lehman and Ruth Ellen Yoder of South Union.

One of the times of use was during Mission Meetings. Now, imagine, if you will, churches without fellowship rooms or kitchens. People brought sack lunches to these meetings, and then coffee was served in the TIN CUPS. (The meetings were usually held at South Union, as this was the biggest church.)

The girls who were teenagers at that time got to serve the coffee. Wanda remembers it as a time that she actually got to drink coffee for the first time! Sorry, those who were making the coffee

in those days are no longer here to ask: how did they make coffee to fill all those TIN CUPS? How did people keep from getting burned holding a TIN CUP?

So, if you were a recipient of a TIN CUP, value it. They were probably to more mission meetings than you. Also, use them, because Mennonite Church USA is being challenged to be Styrofoam free!

(Note: There is still a TIN CUP in preservation in the podium in the south hallway.)

Mennonite Creation Care Network Goals



MCCN will encourage the church to:

CLAIM our biblical and theological foundations regarding care of God’s creation.

DISCOVER the ties that link all created beings to each other and to God.

CONFESS the harm our habits have caused the natural world.

ACT faithfully to restore the earth.

Bethel’s new Creation Care Advocate will work at creation stewardship

At the Mennonite Church USA Convention this summer in Columbus, Randy and Marla Longenecker attended a seminar on creation care in the congregation led by Luke Gascho, director of the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, a program of Goshen (IN) College. Gascho is also author of *Creation Care: Keepers of the Earth*, published by Mennonite Mutual Aid in 2008.

Later, after signing up to receive information from the Mennonite Creation Care Network, Marla was asked to serve as a volunteer Creation Care Advocate, a liaison between the network and her local congregation, Bethel.

This means that she will occasionally share information from MCCN with the congregation, and information about what’s going on at Bethel with MCCN. After agreeing to serve as an advocate, Marla shared the feature story from the April 2009 *Bethel News & Views* where persons shared ways that they

practice “being green” at home and in their communities. This story has now been posted on the network’s website as an encouragement to other congregations. Check it out at www.mennocreationcare.org.

One of the first things MCCN has asked Marla to do is rate our congregation’s creation stewardship by assessing a listing of ten creation tasks, such as: “Stewardship of creation is integrated within the framework of the congregation’s mission and core values,” or “There is an intentional plan to include visual and physical aspects of nature to enhance worship and community gatherings as a reminder of the Creator and our role as stewards of the earth.”

“I know that many of us are already recycling and trying to ‘be green’ at Bethel,” says Marla. “Now it’s time to involve the congregation in taking better care of God’s creation. The first step in that process is assessing where we are at.”

Walking the Walk and Running the Race

Editor's note: Since fall is a great time to walk (or run) outdoors, and take hikes to see autumn's splendor, I decided to interview a few of our most faithful walkers (Julia Yoder, Dennis and Sharon Showalter, Marla Longenecker) and runners (Dan Risner, Lane Thomas, Dena Hostetler, Katie King, Michael Lehman) at Bethel to see what keeps them walking and running

How did you get started walking or running?

Dennis: Sharon and I began walking a month before we visited Heather in Colorado Springs. We knew she was going to take us on several hikes including up Pike's Peak and through the Garden of the Gods.

Michael: I got started running because my friends were doing it and whenever we ran a mile at school on the track I always finished in the top three.

Lane: My older sister ran cross country, so I did too, starting in the seventh grade.

Dena: Last November I began jogging as a way to lose weight. I started on the treadmill that was collecting dust on my back porch. The timing was ideal because just as spring was dawning, I was increasing the length of my runs. It felt great to be outside!

Katie: I started running my sophomore year for track. During gym people would tell me I should run because I would always try really hard and am competitive and wanted to win!

Dan: I came home from work one evening in 1978, put on my tennis shoes and ran one telephone pole and back, fell in the grass and grasped for air. The next evening I ran two telephone poles and back, and by the end of the week I was running a mile. Six months later I ran a marathon!

Describe your walks or runs.

Julia: When the weather cooperates I like to put on my pedometer and walk a 2.5-mile loop

around town or at the park.

Marla: Most days I walk 3-4 miles through the B-town cemetery, park, and nearby residential neighborhoods.

Dena: I jog around our "neck of the woods" 4-5 days a week for an average of 25 miles per week.

Dan: I like to run 20 or 25 miles a week on country roads and early in the morning.

Dennis: We often walk around Lions' Park a time or two.

Michael: I usually run 2-5 miles every day with my cross country team at the Ohio Caverns. Every Saturday and some Tuesdays we run in meets, which is exciting, but hard.

What parallels do you see between walking/running and the Christian life?

Dena: One parallel I see is pressing on toward the goal even when times are tough (and those hills are very steep!). Another is realizing that the little disciplines directly affect the performance. (Yes, every stretch or good food choice makes a difference.)

Marla: There will be setbacks, but you pick yourself up and start over. The rewards keep you going.

Dan: The Christian life and running need to be a 365-day adventure every year to get the full benefits. In the Christian walk we also often face circumstances that tempt us to stop running the race and give in to the evil one. But you tell yourself, you need to finish the race.

Lane: Only with discipline can we grow stronger.

Julia: While walking I feel close to our Creator as I enjoy the seasonal changes along my route.

Michael: I am excited about running the CROP Walk and raising money for God!

"I enjoy jogging immensely! Not only am I losing weight, but I can feel my body growing stronger. I want to be a good example to my children of how to lead a healthy life."

~Dena Hostetler

Hymns for Walkers and Runners

When we walk with the Lord . . .

Guide my feet while I run this race . . .

Take my feet and let them move . . .

We will walk with God my brothers . . .

Come walk with us, the journey is long . . .

Just a closer walk with thee . . .

I want to walk as a child of the light . . .

Logan County CROP Walk – Sunday, October 4, 2009



Fall acquisitions to the library By Marla Longenecker, Librarian

DON'T MISS

Jesus for President Politics for Ordinary Radicals

By Shane Claiborne
& Chris Haw



Presented in an
imaginative format, this
book will provoke your
Christian political
imagination

My six-year journey as Bethel's librarian has taken me through many good books along the way. Over the next few months I will be orienting Jeannette Hostetler to the tasks of running a library. (See story below on this page.) We continue to get donations of books, DVDs and CDs, and here are some of the latest.

Paul and Sally Harshbarger have donated the Mennonite Church USA Convention DVD set. If you didn't get a chance to attend the convention or if you want to hear any of the speeches again, take time to watch any or all of the highlights.

Several key resources have been added to the library. *Isaiah*, the latest in the Believers Church Bible Commentary series, by Ivan D. Friesen, will help you in your study of that book. *The Hymnal Companion* will be useful for worship leaders and planners.

I especially want to recommend *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality* by Ronald Rolheiser. The author explains what Christian spirituality is all about and how to apply it to daily living. He describes the four essentials of a healthy spiritual life: private prayer, social justice,

mellowness of heart and spirit, and community worship. The simple language and style make it easy for the lay person to read and understand.

Practices: Mennonite Worship and Witness is John D. Roth's final book in his three-volume series on Mennonite identity in the 21st century. He examines the traditions of Anabaptist-Mennonite worship, focusing on how worship is related to ethics and the church's mission. He also explains how our worship practices and routines form us in ways that we are not aware of.

The first two books in the series, *Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice and Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be*, are already part of our church library. The latter is the focus of this fall's book study led by Pastor Dave Maurer.

Katie Funk Wiebe is a popular Mennonite writer, who in her 80s, has written an autobiography about her life and search for identity. *You Never Gave Me a Name* is the author's story of the influences and hurdles that led to her becoming a writer, speaker, biblical feminist and lay theologian in the Mennonite community and beyond.

Welcome to Jeannette Hostetler, our new librarian!

"I've always liked to read," says Jeannette Hostetler, who has agreed to take over as Bethel's new church librarian. "I can't really think of any favorites because I like everything – biographies, romance, history, magazines, newspapers."

However, she does admit that she enjoyed Jan Karon's Mitford Series so much that she bought the whole set and read through them a second time! Currently, Jeannette is reading *Clementine Churchill*, about the wife of Winston Churchill and written by her daughter, Mary Soames.

Other current favorites are *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, and *Much to Be Done*, diaries of Victorian women in

Canada (including one of Jeannette's relatives) by Frances Hoffman and Ryan Taylor.

Jeannette's other hobbies include collecting dolls and working in her flower beds. Though officially retired, she still works one day a week and during vacations as laboratory supervisor at Oakhill Medical.

She also likes to travel and is planning a trip to Boston, Vermont and Maine this month to see the fall color and visit her husband, Jim's cousin. In November she hopes to get together with six college friends in Nashville.

Jeannette and Jim are parents to two adult sons, including Greg who also attends Bethel with his wife, Joanna, and children, Lindsey and Hayden.

"I love all kinds of books! I can't really think of any favorites because I like everything!"

~Jeannette Hostetler
Bethel's new librarian



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Todd Hostetler

Bethel Homework Help will begin this month

Bethel Homework Help, a big success in its first year, will once again be providing elementary students within our community with the homework help they need to be successful students.

The focus of BHH is to "provide free homework help in a caring environment to West Liberty-Salem students" in third, fourth and fifth grades.

As soon as teachers identify those students who might benefit from after-school tutoring, the program will begin operating on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the church basement.

Once again the program is looking for volunteers who can donate their time as a

tutor or who can provide nutritious snacks. Donations of school supplies such as glue, crayons, and markers, are also welcome.

For more detailed information or to volunteer, contact Dianne Oakley, director, at 465-0315, or Elaine Newcomer, manager, at 465-3366.

Last year's board members have agreed to serve again this year. Steve Lapp is chair and other members include Peggy Wirick and Dennis Showalter.

Your continued prayers and support are also encouraged as the new season begins. Won't you thoughtfully consider how you might contribute to Bethel Homework Help this year? You can make a difference!

SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday - Saturday, February 18 - 20, 2010

*Family portrait sittings for our new pictorial church directory
More information will be available in December
Scheduling of appointments begins in January*

About the newsletter:

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the church secretary.

Its purpose is three-fold:

~Inform the church about events

~Acquaint persons who attend Bethel with each other

~Inspire us to Christ-like living

**COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

Wed., November 25, 6:30 p.m.

Green Hills Foundation Hall

Speaker: Pastor Dave Maurer

An offering will be taken for

West Liberty Cares

**Labor Day Festival
STUDENT AID FUND
Sausage Booth Report**

\$3,040.99 net profit

**Thanks to all the willing
volunteers!**