



Bethel Mennonite Church

Celebrating 125 Years

Vol. 38
Issue 9
September 2015

Newsletter

Rent-a-Youth Group Work Days are Back for Fall

After a busy summer attending convention in Kansas City, the youth are back and ready to begin rebuilding their funds for their next project for the summer of 2016. After successful Rent a Youth Work Days last fall and spring, the popular fundraiser is back for another round. Fill out a form and leave it in Pastor Cheryl's mailbox for odd jobs that the youth can help you complete in exchange for a donation to the Youth Fund. They are currently looking at several options for next summer's project.

Typical jobs have included cleaning gutters, raking leaves, and they even helped the Lapps remove old plaster and lathe for a remodel. Got a job you could use a few extra hands completing? Rent-a-Youth Group!

The youth had a productive day at the Shumaker's house doing numerous jobs to raise money for their next project. Contact Cheryl Shank if you would like to Rent-a-Youth Group this fall!



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Announcements:

- ♦ **5th Quarter Pizza Nights at Bethel after the WL homegames! October 2nd, 23rd and 30th, at 9:30 p.m.,** join us for pizza fresh from the wood fired pizza oven.
- ♦ **World Communion Sunday** is October 4, 2015. November is also Mission Month.
- ♦ **Missional Discipleship Groups launch** on Sunday, October 11, 2015.
- ♦ **Annual Adriel Quilt Auction** is Saturday, October 17th, 2015. Doors open at 8 am for a preview, with the auction commencing at 10 am. You can still donate items for the auction! They need quilts, wall hangings, other fabric arts, wooden furniture, crafts, artwork, handmade jewelry, and other unique items, trips, small appliances, electronics, and services! For all of you cooks, they also have a silent auction featuring specialty baked goods and desserts as well as serving delicious treats throughout the day. Please call Terri at 937-465-0010, ext. 113 or email terri.mcgarra@adriel.org for more information on donating items!
- ♦ **Bethel's Annual Business meeting will follow a Potluck lunch after the service, October 18th, 2015.** Please turn in your annual reports by September 20th to Tesa.
- ♦ **The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, October 23rd.** Time TBA .
- ♦ **Quasquicentennial Celebration Weekend Friday, October 23 - Sunday October 26, 2015.** Plan to join us for a weekend of activities celebrating Bethel's 125 year history! If you have historical artifacts to share or display during the weekend, please contact Donna or Tesa.

Tentative Schedule of events...

Friday 10/23

- 7PM Movie Night
- 9:30PM 5th Quarter Pizza Night after the home football game with pizza from our wood fired oven.

Saturday 10/24

- 1-4PM Yard Games
- 5-7PM Wood Fired Pizza Dinner
- 7PM Tent Revival Meeting service

Sunday 10/25

- 10AM Worship Service
- Noon - Pulled Pork Lunch (from the wood fired oven) Bring sides to share
- 1PM - Bethel Historical Jeopardy
- 2PM - Concert
- 3 PM - Community Talent Show

Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women by Donna Lehman

When this group met in August, it was the last of our meetings for this 'annual' year. September marks the beginning of the 2015/2016 year, with attendees bringing sack lunches and Kyle will lead our devotions.

This month we started a new quilt which was embroidered by Julia. The quilt which was just completed was called 'Drunkard's Path,' and yes, it may have made some people dizzy while they were quilting it! Go put in your bid when it sells at Adriel's Auction in October!

At this meeting we had a garden potluck which included fresh items of the season-all delicious. The tables were decorated with school projects (this month's project and next month as well.) So if you see unsharpened pencils, 70 pg. notebooks, colored pencil packs of 12, bendable metric rulers and pink erasers, they will be welcomed by

September 8th.

Sara Ellen shared devotions on "Practicing Presence through Nurture..." taking time to learn and share as some of the Biblical persons did.

Work completed for the day was 1 comforter, 1 quilt, 17 school kits sewn and 24 filled (completed.)

Contact Information:

Bethel Mennonite Church
416 Washington Street
P.O. Box 549
West Liberty, OH 43357

(937) 465-4587

www.bethelchurchwl.org/

www.wbtl.tv

Pastor: Dave Maurer

Youth Pastor: Cheryl Shank

Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan

Next Newsletter Deadline: Oct. 20, 2015

“Bethel Soccer Camp Offers Several Unique Community Outreach Opportunities”

by Pastor Dave Maurer

July 27-30, 2015 from 6-8 PM, Bethel Mennonite Church in West Liberty, Ohio hosted their 5th annual soccer camp for the community. This was done in partnership with the West Liberty Soccer Association who helped the congregation get the word out about the camp. The Association also set-up goals for the camp to use in West Liberty’s Lion’s Park where the Association plays most of its games.

Some may wonder, “Why would a church host a soccer camp for the community?” Well a few reasons come to mind. First, there is a strong community soccer presence for children; but many adults know little about the needed skills to be able to teach their children. This creates a natural opportunity to be the church in the community.

Second, our congregation has a number of people in it that have played and even coached soccer. We have a gifting that matches an opportunity (perhaps need?) in the community.

Third, we live in a sports crazed culture; but unfortunately in the midst of this there are many children who are belittled and denigrated by their peers and even their coaches. Because of this, soccer becomes a medium for demonstrating the gospel and planting the seeds of Jesus’ love in the lives of children, some of whom have no other contact with a church.

Fourth, coaching the camp creates space to learn names and build relationships with people outside of our church. In a small town like West Liberty, these relationships create long term informal connections with people that one bumps into at the grocery store or the ice cream parlor.

Fifth, by charging a modest registration fee (with family discounts and scholarships available), the camp allows us to provide each child with a fair trade soccer ball and a camp shirt. This means that right before starting the fall season, each child has their own size appropriate ball to take with them to practice. And through the camp we support local outreach but also third world economies. All the balls that we purchase are certified, fair trade balls. Plus, people who do not even attend

our church wear their Bethel Soccer Camp shirts around town throughout the year.

All this may leave you wondering how the camp was structured. We began each night with stretching and individual ball skills to get the kids warmed up. Then we divided the 42 children into relatively even groups in age and number. Four head coaches each ran a station four times each night that was focused on a particular skill for the night: dribbling, passing, defense, or offense. Each group then had a designated assistant coach who served both as assistants during the station time and as group guides as the children moved the group from one station to the next. After two 15 minute stations, we took a 10 minute snack break for icy pops. The children then each rotated through the remaining two stations. We ended each night together with a brief review, a devotional and a closing prayer.



Our last night began by taking a group picture in the goal with everyone wearing their camp shirts. It ended by handing out certificates of appreciation to each child and ice cream for the players and families. We also extended an invitation for everyone to come to our church Friday evening for a community pizza and movie night. For this we heated up our wood fired pizza oven behind the church and baked about 40-45 medium sized pizzas. About 50 people came and about half of them were from our congregation. This created space for social interaction between people who attend Bethel and families of the children who participated in the camp. We then showed one of the Chronicles of Narnia movies in our sanctuary. We had planned to show this as an outdoor movie, but the weather did not cooperate with us.



We are very thankful to Ohio Mennonite Conference for their grant that assisted us in building the pizza oven. We also appreciate Friendship Mennonite Church and their willingness to donate used bricks from their dismantled grill at Friendship Retreat. Some of these bricks have been incorporated into our oven and continue to serve the Kingdom in a different space and way.

Celebrating Together

Six couples from Bethel, all married in the month of August, celebrated their anniversaries with a potluck meal at the home of Barbara and Jerry Landes (44yrs.) on Sunday, August 23.

These couples are Ellie and Lowell Kauffman (61yrs), Mary and Art Newcomer (54 yrs), Barbara and Byron Kauffman (48yrs), Carole and Bill Barrett (45 yrs), and Miriam and Steve Lapp (42 yrs). Regretfully, just at the last minute, Kathy and Rick Norviel (37yrs) were unable to celebrate with us. However, we all enjoyed a chicken casserole prepared by Kathy.

It was a pleasure to have Simba from Zimbabwe, a guest of Art and Mary's, share this time with us.

Over a delicious meal, we shared remembrances of our weddings: our ages at the time of marriage, our attendants, and our wedding music, the pastor who married us, any glitches in the service or in our get-a-ways, and where we spent our honeymoons.

We recommend this as a great way to fellowship with church friends, all of whom celebrate their wedding anniversaries in the same month.



August Anniversaries abound at Bethel. This group celebrated at the Landes' home with a potluck meal.

Noteworthy Dates

September Birthdays

- 3 – Byron Kauffman
- 7 – Chuck Buck
- 12 – Rick Norviel
- 12 – Rita Roberts
- 14 – Linda Hostetler
- 18 – Maggie Maurer
- 20 – Deanna Kauffman
- 21 – Cheryl Shank
- 26 – Dean Horn
- 26 – Suzanne Horner
- 26 – Barb Kauffman
- 26 – Daniel Lehman
- 26 – Jessica Stoner
- 27 – Jim Burkett
- 28 – Greg Hostetler
- 29 – Ellen Steiner
- 30 – Logan Link

October Birthdays

- 4 – Dennis Sanford
- 11 – Abigail Rabenstein
- 12 – Mary Ann Pratt
- 16 – Sarah Hostetler
- 22 – Greg Thomas
- 22 – James Lochridge
- 26 – Joanna Hostetler
- 29 – Collin Link
- 30 – Dave Link
- 31 – David Hostetler

October Anniversaries

- Oct. 22, 2000 – Karl & Phyllis Smith
- Oct. 28, 1978 – Larry & Barbara Evans



There are two signs
of aging...
First, you forget
things.
I can never
remember the
second...

Quasquicentennial Historical Highlights

As we celebrate 125 years at Bethel, members have been sharing historical facts each Sunday during the sharing time. This month, as I was searching through old newsletters, I came across this letter written thirty two years ago from our own Cheryl Graber Shank and thought it would be nice to revisit:

September 16, 1983

Dear Friends at Bethel:

I can hardly thank-you enough for all the support you have been showing me through your letters and prayers! As of today I have received 33 letters, two packages (from my mother and sister) and a cassette tape that Kenny and the gang put together.

I am adjusting really well. My housework is coming along and I am even beginning to enjoy it. My hands are getting a little too rough though--their water is definitely HARD! As far as the meals to--I like working the best. Ideas for American dishes are becoming difficult, so if anyone has any simple suggestions- I'll welcome them gladly. Remember though the ingredients may not be here. Tonight I am making apple crisp for supper--that's all they want. Guess we Americans tend to think of that as only dessert. ☺

I spent Wednesday (14th) touring Luzerene alone. Quite enjoyable and the city is simply beautiful. I sent one roll of film home, so if you get ahold of my mother, perhaps you can also see. On the 22nd the family may take me to a town near the Alps where there is a festival welcoming the cows down from the mountains. It is a big Swiss tradition and hopefully the weather will be nice so I can go. Then on the 25th I am able to spend the entire day in Bern (the capitol). So a lot of things to do -- and time is beginning to fly! Can hardly believe it will be one month this Tuesday. ☺

The weather here is quite nice. In the 60's -- although it rains quite frequently. But that's OK with me, I enjoy it! Although as far as cold weather goes on September 6th it got down to 0° C!! That was sort of unexpected.

Oh, I do have a prayer request. One of the trainees living near Basel had to fly home on Tuesday, cause his mother is failing in health. That's sorta of rough news to hear when you're lots of miles from home. If possible he'd like to come back in a few months. Hope he's able to.

Well, thanks again for all your encouragement and support. May God continue to bless you all.

Love in Christ,

Cheryl Graber

* Oh, I am singing in the church choir. We have to perform this Sunday!
OH NO!! ☹

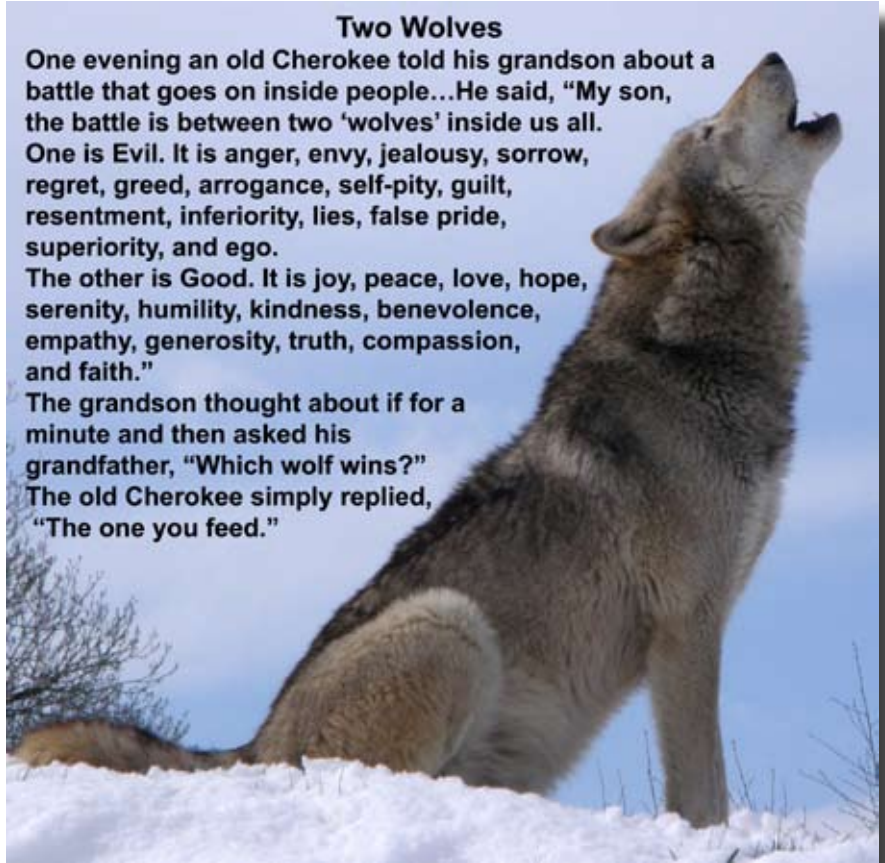
Feeding The Good Wolf

by Tesa Jordan

A few months ago, a dear friend of mine died. He was my musical mentor, and was like a second dad to me. He even walked me down the aisle to Lee, because my own father was no longer living. It was a quite big shock to get that phone call. I knew he had been in poor health, but hadn't realized that he was failing, because we had been estranged from one another for the last year. He was getting on in years and the last time he visited my home, he was very disrespectful to me and another guest. When he refused to apologize, I chose to distance myself from further abuse, even knowing his behavior that day was mostly due to senility. I was tired after years of dealing with his ego and making excuses for him when he did similar things in public.

The bigger shock however, came the next day, when his executrix called me and informed me that I was a beneficiary in his estate. I was honored, humbled, and admittedly, secretly excited at the prospect of what that might mean financially. In the next week, I even let myself imagine some of the things I would do with my inheritance, not yet knowing what it might turn out to be! As it turns out, while his estate is modest, there are several items of significant potential value that the executrix is not handling in a logical and fiscally responsible way. She has also been caught in several lies regarding the estate, and plans to try and settle the estate unethically. I became frustrated and began seeking ways to have her removed as the executrix. Indeed, if I wanted to pursue it, my friend and attorney told me I had a good chance to succeed. The other beneficiary and I got together, and decided to try and persuade the executrix to change her mind. To say this went badly is to grossly understate what happened...and indeed, it made things monumentally worse. I came home from that meeting bruised and raw, and feeling sucker-punched. What a train wreck! How unfair! Why was this happening to me? Then I took a hard look in the mirror and saw something dreadful there...the Bad Wolf staring back at me. Anger, evil, jealousy, sorrow, regret, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, and ego...were all there... but most of all, greed. Greed had made me lose sight of the true gift my friend left me... which wasn't money at all, but letting me know in the end, that even in spite of our estrangement, he still valued our friendship. Talk about being humbled!

The other beneficiary who stands to benefit even



Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people...He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

more, also lost sight of our friend's true gift. Her actions before, during and after that fateful meeting may end up costing us any financial gain we might have stood to inherit, and I have now been forced to hire my friend and attorney, just to protect myself. So now, instead of inheriting money, I may end up paying my inheritance all out in legal fees.

In tears, I called and apologized to my friend, and attorney, for taking advantage of our friendship, as I had sought free legal advice from her prior to the meeting with the executrix. I realized that I was putting money ahead of our friendship and that stopped me cold in my tracks. I notified the other beneficiary that I am out of the game of trying to coerce the executrix to do what we feel would bring more money to the estate. I have put the matter into God's capable hands—even though that's where it's always been—I have finally released it to Him. Yet even since making the decision, I have seen the bad wolf circling, and heard him whispering... "You can fight this and get more money!" But I must trust that whatever my Heavenly Father wants me to have in this earthly life, He will provide for me, just as He always has provided. It remains to be seen how the estate will settle, and it won't be known until after the New Year...but in the meantime, I'm feeding the good wolf.

Peace & Justice by Barb Kauffman

Members Byron and Barb Kauffman served in San Antonio last January through the SOOP program. Barb also serves on Peace & Justice and has an update to share on how the program is progressing.

This is an update on how members of the San Antonio Mennonite Church (SAMC) in conjunction with the San Antonio Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) and the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) continue to be involved with refugees from Central America who are escaping violence perpetrated by drug cartels and gangs. Upon being released from detention centers, families are transported to SAMC properties and offered food, clothing, medicine, phone access, legal services, and a place to stay the night before they will depart to their destination city.

In an article written by Jonathon Beechy, he tells about marching to a detention center with others from SAMC and hundreds of other persons to request both the release of women and their children and also, the closure of the detention centers. "We marched to challenge the incarceration of innocent women and children who have committed no crime. As I walked, I fell in line with a young mother of three. One of her children had been recruited by a drug cartel, and she fled to save her life and that of her children."

This family had been released just 4 days ago. Jonathon told her about his wife Ruth, who visited women in the detention center on a weekly basis. "And then, we both wept as she told her story of despair and on-going detainment with her children. She told me how Ruth came to visit her earlier in the week, and brought her words of encouragement and hope and somehow against all odds, she was released. The odds of the two of us meeting in a crowd of hundreds aren't good enough for lottery betting, but they are marvelous for seeing God's love and care."

Since January of 2015, the SAMC has assisted with hosting over 800 Central American refugees released from family detention centers in Texas. In July 2015, the government, being faced with increased pressure, decided to release all refugees "found to have a positive fear finding." This resulted in an influx of families being released. Combining their efforts, SAMC, IWC and RAICES are now caring for nearly 15 families every night.

Donations for backpacks as well as other needs are graciously accepted.

If you care to make a donation, you could write a check to Bethel with "backpack" in the memo line, and we will gladly send your donation on to help SAMC and the other groups as they assist these mothers and children---refugees from Central America.



More soccer photos!

We served 42 eager to learn campers this year at soccer camp.

Below, campers running drills, and the 2015 Soccer Camp Photo.



Outdoor Worship, Baptism & Annual Church Picnic

On August 30, 2015, the morning began looking like rain. But not ones to be put off by a little precipitation (which never came) everyone gathered at the large shelter house in Lion's Park for our annual outdoor service which happily included the baptisms of Stephen Hostetler and Elam Maurer. The service also included special music as a group quickly learned a rendition of Unclouded Day. (Thanks to Kim Lehman for making our Willie Nelson bandana with braids which James Lochridge wore as a very good sport!) Below are some pictures of the day. Top: the boys share their testimonies, middle: special music, bottom: Baptisms in the river!

