



# Bethel Mennonite Church

Vol. 39  
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June 2016

## Newsletter

### Youth Mission Trip to Illinois

by Youth Pastor Cheryl Shank

In about 2 weeks the youth; Annie, Becky, Daniel, Michael, Trace... and Michelle and I will be heading to Menno Haven Retreat Center in Tiskilwa, Illinois.

We head out on Sunday the 19th. We will be working around the camp, but as of this past week, I have not been told what the specific jobs will be. Our group is ready to handle anything. You will need to come to the church service on the 26th to get a full update from that service week.

Please keep the group in your prayers as we travel and participate in the week of service. Thanks for all of your support.

Bonne Journée! --Cheryl



This year's Senior Graduates, Savannah Hostetler, Annie Steiner & Becky Wilkins show their windchimes; all gifts from the Youth Pastor, Cheryl Shank. The three girls were honored with a Graduation Tea in May.

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## Announcements:

♦ **Soccer Camp** is July 25-28, 2016 at Lion's Park nightly from 6-8 p.m. Oak Grove Associate Pastor Alex Dye has agreed to be our head coach this year. We still need volunteer coaches and coach assistants. Please sign up in the lobby if you can help!

♦ **Potluck & Congregational Meeting** Duane will present another exercise for the congregation following a potluck after church on June 12th. Please bring a dish to share and come ready to participate in the activities.

♦ **Coordinator needed** to plan movie nights. The coordinator will choose the movie, recruit snacks and if in conjunction with pizza, coordinate helpers to run the pizza oven and make the pizzas. Please let Tesa know if you are willing to help in this community outreach project.

♦ **Our Daily Bread** at **June 22nd 4:15 p.m.** Please sign up to help serve. We have been running short on volunteers the past few months.

## Contact Information:

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**Transitional Pastor: Duane Beck**

**Youth Pastor: Cheryl Shank**

**Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan**

**Next Newsletter Deadline: June 20, 2016**

## Bethel / Oak Grove Mennonite Women aka Women Sewing in Love by Donna Lehman

A group of 27 met for the Mennonite Women May 10th meeting. However, we will now be known as "Women Sewing in Love" a new name, but the same work and challenges as before. We enjoyed a salad buffet and with the season of Spring, our hostesses Barb Kauffman and Mary Ann King had the table beautifully decorated with REAL spring flowers!

Birthdays for May and June were noted: Ruth Yoder, Mary Kay, Sara Ellen, Jan Smucker and Janet Bell. Doris Enis shared devotions on "Creativity in Loving People." Sometimes this is difficult without

God's creativity in sharing His love (John 3:16).

We completed 2 comforters and 700 labels/Box Tops for Education were sent to the Hopi Mission in Arizona. There will not be a meeting in June because of Bible School, but in July, lunch will be 'sack lunches' and the project is 'bar soap.'



**Photo (above):** Jerry Landes made good use of the corner on West Liberty Fire Sale day (May 21st) to sell plants and baskets from the Adriel Greenhouse. Proceeds go to both Adriel and the MACAW program. Jerry reported in excess of \$750 in sales that Saturday!

Bethel also has some of the greenhouse's flowers freshly planted on the grounds. Thanks Linda Hostetler, Paul & Sally Harshbarger, Janet Wilkins & Tesa Jordan for digging & planting.

## Noteworthy Dates

### June Birthdays

18 -- KJ Shrock  
21 -- Sam C. Plank  
25 -- Barbara Landes  
26 -- Sara Ellen Stoltzfus

### June Anniversaries

June 2, 1979 -- Dave & Michelle Link  
June 3, 1955 -- Bill & Eleanor Shumaker  
June 3, 1972 -- Dennis & Sharon Showalter  
June 12, 1952 -- Ken & Jeanette Hostetler  
June 16, 1990 -- Tim & Pam Lehman

# On the Road Again

by Chuck and Jeanie Swartz

This spring we took two eleven day trips covering 5000 miles. For the first trip we went to Virginia and celebrated Easter with Heidi at the Elkton Evangelical Methodist Church where she sings in the choir. We also got to visit with Chuck's sister, Jan Erb and husband and a niece who had come from Hesston, KS, to Harrisonburg. The niece was moving to that area near her sister.

From there the three of us drove to see Jeanie's brother, Don Davis, who lives in Ponte Vedra, FL. We enjoyed visiting, walking on the beach, and good seafood and Mexican food while there. Don is in his fifth year of complete remission from multiple myeloma.

After taking Heidi back home, we were back in Ohio four days, and then we left for Texas. After traveling for two days, we finally got to the Franklin and Brenham areas. Jeanie has cousins in both places, and her 96 year old aunt had just had a birthday in Brenham. We had good visits there with relatives we don't get to see often.

Pearland, TX, was our next stop to visit a high school friend and his wife. Pearland is in the southern part of Houston and driving through the middle of Houston is no picnic! The next day we four drove to the Hill Country to visit the beautiful and very old Catholic churches built by Czech, German, and Austrian settlers dating back to the mid

1800s. These are called The Painted Churches and were built as replicas of the churches from their native countries. The artistic gifts of those who built those churches were simply amazing and beautiful. Among some of the churches we visited were St. Cyril and Methodious, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Mary's Church - Praha.



That day we drove 300 miles through very little towns like High Hill, Dubina, and Flatonia where the churches were sometimes the largest building in the area.

The Texas wildflowers were in bloom during our trips, and we enjoyed such beautiful fields of color. We saw many bluebonnets and Indian blankets especially.

The next day we met some more friends and enjoyed visiting and eating great brisket, sausage, and pork at a barbeque restaurant in Chappell Hill. Of course, we always bring plenty of sausage back to Ohio.

The heavy rains began as we were on our way home. Some of the very areas we had been through in Houston suffered huge amounts of water and many places were flooded.

We had wonderful trips and were so thankful for safe traveling, good fellowship with relatives and friends, and beautiful sights to enjoy. We didn't like missing four Sundays at Bethel, and it was good to get home.



**Photos:** St. Marys' Church in Praha (Top) and St. Cyril & Methodious (Bottom)

# Ruby Byler ~ In Memoriam

by Barb Landes & Tesa Jordan

In April, 20+ of our Bethel seniors (those 80 years young and above) were honored at a Senior Celebration Tea. Little did we know that day, that it would be one of the last times our oldest member, Ruby Byler would grace our presence. On Sunday, May 19th, while en route to a Cincinnati Reds game with Paul and Sally Harshbarger, Sally's phone rang with news that Ruby wasn't doing well. Sally called the church and asked Barb Kauffman to go and stay with Ruby in her stead. Before Barb arrived at Green Hills, Sally's phone rang again, with Ruby's daughter Rosie bearing the sad news that our Ruby had passed. Family and friends gathered at her visitation on Thursday evening and memorial service on Friday morning.

I later learned that the hospice nurse had been bathing Ruby when she breathed her last. What a significant way to leave the world...the same way that we enter it...being bathed! Of course, there were lots of interesting details that I learned about Ruby at her memorial, and as is often the case, I was left wanting another conversation with her. One day, I pray that opportunity will come. Ruby and I were Facebook friends and she apparently was enjoying my gardening pictures this spring. I found out through Dan that we shared a love of gardening. Lee just repainted two wrought iron chairs a bright (Ruby?) red for me last week, and they sit across a grass path from each other making for a delightful shaded sitting area to enjoy the fragrant flowers and watch the birds. I wish she could have joined me there.

Her memorial service is on DVD available to check out from the library.

At the Senior Celebration Tea, Barb Landes who paired up with Ruby, shared the following, which I had

planned to share in July, her birth month:

## The Ruby Fisher Byler Story

This special life began on a Sunday in DeGraff, Ohio to the lives of Freeman Henry Fisher and Nellie Salome Detweiler. Mattie King was the helpful hired girl. Ruby lived on a farm and knew the chores of cows, chickens and pigs. Besides DeGraff, Ruby lived as far as Philadelphia, PA and Goshen, Indiana, but most of her life was in Logan County.

As a child, her memories were very pleasant. Her nickname was Fish. She didn't like math, being called fatty, nor being paddled by her dad. Once she and brother Dale were bored and sawed off both ends of their dad's wheelbarrow. That deserved a paddling! She loved playing games with parents and siblings even though they often fought about it.

A special influence came from Arlene Yoder and Dorcas Kauffman. Ruby felt she had a gift for cooking and therefore made her favorite meal of roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, peas and strawberry rhubarb pie. Yes, Ruby is not perfect, but did tell a lie once. She put eggs in a carton knowing one was broken but did not remove it. To this day she has guilt.

Her first kiss came from Tracy Humble. She says it was on her cheek. She enjoyed

listening to Amos & Andy, Red Skelton and Jot'em Down Store on the radio.

Why did Ruby go to Goshen College? She admired people who attended the college. Ruby could never be a lifeguard as her talents in water were limited.

Roy proposed while they sat on a couch. Her store bought wedding dress was white but the train was cut off by her mom. She was married in a church. This ends the first part of her life. Thank you Ruby, for your friendship and influence on my life. What a special influence you have had on Bethel ladies.

Special, indeed!



# Senior Spotlight on Ruth Weber Yoder

by Jan Smucker

One afternoon recently I had the privilege of visiting Ruth in her lovely condo at Green Hills. She related many interesting stories of her life and gave me a grand “tour” of her new location. Her home has ample space, is quite comfortable for her and is tastefully decorated. Her “guest” bedroom she calls her “heritage room” because it includes family pieces such as an iron bed, several pieces of furniture, a quilt, and one of Jack’s special pillows stitched from a crazy quilt comforter his grandmother had made. A picture of beautiful little four year old Ruth hangs on the wall in the hall. She showed me many other family photos which trigger pleasant memories.

I shall attempt to relate some of the things I learned during my visit with Ruth. Ruth Weber Yoder was born May 20, 1926 to Newton and Nellie Burkholder Weber in Brentwood, MD. The family moved to Ontario, Canada in 1929 and she started school in Waterloo, Ontario. At age 22, her father had been previously ordained by lot at Erb Street Mennonite Church in Waterloo, Ontario.

Ruth remembers during the depression their family had no car. In the winter they would ride a sleigh to church. Her father was also a delivery man for a bakery. He would walk to work where he would hitch a horse and wagon to deliver bread. She remembers watching out the window eagerly waiting to see him coming over the hill home from work.

In 1934, the family which also included two sisters and a brother, Naomi, Rhoda and John, moved to Ft. Wayne, IN mission. Her mother often fed ‘tramps.’ Churches from Goshen would send food and they hosted many visitors. It was an early form of bed and breakfast!

Ruth then attended Eastern Mennonite High School (EMHS). She helped pay the cost by working in the dining room and ironing shirts in the laundry, earning eight cents per hour the first year. The next year, her pay increased to ten cents per hour!

After graduating high school, she worked in Washington, DC as a nanny in the home of a Navy Admiral. Her sister Naomi was the cook in the same household.

The family moved to West Liberty in July of 1946 (so they could have a piano.) Her parents opened a small store on West Baird where her father had a painting and wallpaper business and her mother had a small gift shop. Later her father became a pastor at Bethel for a time.

In 1948 she married Jack and they lived on the Allgyer homestead for 52 years. Becoming a farmer’s wife was a big adjustment for her as she had no previous experience of farm life. She remembers collecting water from the roof for the bathroom on the farm in the early years! They were blessed with three sons, Ed, Keith and Karl, seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

In addition to being a farmer’s wife, she had worked for Dr. Polsley, volunteered over 3000 hours at Urbana Hospital and for 13 years, volunteered for two Urbana doctors every Friday.

A most significant event in her life was when Jack lost his arm in a farm accident. Jack accepted this tragedy with courage and a strong faith, but it changed things considerably for both of them. However, Jack continued to farm for 10 years after the accident. In 2000 they moved from the farm to West Liberty. After her beloved Jack passed away in 2013, she made the move to Green Hills in 2014.

Ruth talked about significant changes in the world. Concerns are current events with all the terrorism, etc., also the changes seen in the churches and the fact that even in our small community there are currently four churches without pastors. She has not taken up with computers and other technology as she sees no need at her age.

She has also been a faithful member at Bethel for nearing 70 years, has held many positions and has contributed in many ways, still participating in Mennonite Women with her beautiful quilting stitches. Ruth expressed appreciation for the Bethel church family as being an important part of their lives and for all the support Jack and she received these past 70 years.

She celebrated her 90th birthday with her family in May. Congratulations, Ruth on reaching such a wonderful milestone! May God continue to bless, guide and keep you in the coming years.



# Bethel History

by Donna Lehman

Bible School has been happening at Bethel since the 1930s--over 80 years! The picture below is of a Bethel Bible School Class in the 1940s with teachers (left Mary Kay Plank and right, Annabelle Shumaker.) It says its taken from the northwest corner of Bethel, so, please note, there are no



houses! Does anyone recognize any of the little ones?

What was happening in 1991-25 years ago! June 2nd, the High School graduates who were honored were Bill Barrett Jr., Jenny Burkett, Todd Hostetler & Matt Roth. Adam Lindemer graduated from Goshen College

and Sam Newcomer from Ohio State University.

Also in June of that year was discussion about having 2 morning services, but it was not affirmed by vote. On June 2, 1991, ground breaking was held for Northridge Community Fellowship; Bethel was giving support to those who were starting this new church in the Northridge area.

Five years later - 1996 - 20 years ago, Daniel Showalter and Betsy Lapp were the High School graduates.

## Ruth Yoder, on Turning 90

In April our Bethel family enjoyed a morning of sharing in the lives of members 80 years and older. Thank you to those who planned that event!

Since that time, some of us have celebrated being 90 years and older. Sara Stoltzfus planned for our SS Class to meet for lunch in West Liberty on May 18th. Ruth Yoder was included in the 90's group on May 20th.

That weekend, her family came from Toronto, Dallas, Atlanta and an OTR Semi to be together to celebrate with her. The group included 3 sons, 2 daughter-in-laws, 9 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.

We shared 2 meals in Ruth's apartment with everyone helping and having a good time!

On Saturday, Ruth's sons sponsored a noon meal at Der Dutchman in Plain City. This included some nieces and nephews and a few special friends. Soon it was time for everyone to go home, but many good memories remain. Thank you for your lovely cards with personal comments that mean a lot to me. I have been a member of Bethel Church for 70 years!

Psalms23:6 (Good News Version): I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life and your house will be my home as long as I live! - Ruth

## Librarian's Corner

by Carole Barrett

The following books were found on a shelf behind the library door last fall. No one has claimed them and they are now part of the library inventory:

Charles Colson and Ellen Vaughn: Being in the Body

Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey: How Now Shall We Live and A Dance with Deception

Charles Colson: Kingdoms for Conflict and Against the Night

James Krabill & David Shenk: Jesus Matters

Please mark any future donations as such if you drop them off when I am not in the library. Thank you!