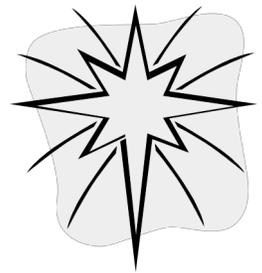


Bethel News & Views



December 2009
Volume 32, Issue 6

“BURSTING IN AND BREAKING OUT” IS ADVENT WORSHIP THEME

For the 2009 season of Advent, the Ministry of Worship has chosen to use the materials from Mennonite Publishing Network, “Bursting in and breaking out!” The theme for these worship services flows out of the lectionary texts for the season which name the cosmic significance of the events of scripture in Luke 21:25-26 and yet the humble, intimate way it happens in the birth of a child in Bethlehem, “One of the little clans of Judah” (Micah 5:2).

As the introduction to the materials explains, “In this Advent season, we are invited to maintain a kind of ‘bifocal’ vision: to see both the big picture of God’s purpose and action and the immediacy and locality of the path just ahead of us. Both the macro and the micro contexts are filled with cosmic significance. We remember God embodied in the baby Jesus, and look forward to the power of the risen Christ who is setting the world right.”

“The four Sundays of Advent anticipate, explore and celebrate the unexpected ways God ‘bursts in’ and ‘breaks out’ in our experience and in the world.” The themes for these Sundays and Christmas Eve are: *Take Heart! God is coming to make things right* (Nov. 29); *Get Ready! God calls us to choose the path of peace* (Dec. 6); The children will bring the message in their Christmas Pageant (Dec 13); *Rejoice! God comes in*

mercy to turn us around (Dec. 20); and *God Delivers!* (Christmas Eve).

The Sundays of Christmas and Epiphany “focus on the sending of the church, as ‘the body of Christ,’ to live its cosmic vocation in its local context, as described in Ephesians 3:10-11.” The themes for these Sundays are: *Let all creation praise God!* (Dec. 27); and *Arise! Shine! Reveal the mystery!* (Jan. 3).

Each week will include many of our familiar elements of worship, though in some cases, the order may be changed a bit to create a different flow to the service. Each week will also include elements from the materials, such as the litany of response, and items on the back of the bulletin, such as the call to worship.

The children’s stories for Advent will use a gift box and planter to encourage expectant hope, and witness the ways that God can create good things out of small packages.

As we come together during this season of Advent, may we experience God’s bursting in and breaking out in our lives. May we remember the reason for this season and be empowered to share it with those around us with whom we are in daily contact.

MISSION MINISTRY ANNOUNCES CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE PROJECT

Again this year, the Ministry of Mission will place a Christmas tree in the lobby on which bell or angel tags will be hanging. “This year our Giving Tree will have the names of Adriel children (angel tags) and West Liberty Cares sponsored families (bell tags),” explains Kim Lehman, Mission Chair.

Anyone from the congregation is invited to choose a tag from the tree, replacing it with a ball ornament. Information on the tag will help in choosing a gift for that person. The recommended price limit for each gift is \$25. “Please remember to wrap your gift and attach the tag you took on your present,” reminds Kim. She will be available near the tree between Sunday School and church to record who takes which tag and to answer questions.

The wrapped presents should be brought to the church and placed under or beside the tree by Sunday, December 20 or by

arrangement with Kim. They will be delivered on Dec. 22, along with Christmas dinner baskets.

If you would prefer to give money and have someone shop for you, make out your check to Bethel, marked “Giving Tree,” and place in Kim’s mailbox. Blessings to you as you help spread the good news of Jesus’ birth to our community.

The Christmas Story
Through the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts
A Primary and Junior Department Musical

Sunday, December 13, 10:40 a.m.
Directed by Beth Maurer & Bill Barrett

Robinaughs will celebrate silver wedding anniversary

First United Methodist Church in Bellefontaine was the setting for the December 28, 1984 wedding of Darin and Kathi Robinaugh. The weather was springlike, a balmy 65 degrees and rainy.

Kathi used colors and flowers from the season – red and white, carnations and poinsettias. Friends and siblings served in the wedding party. “My cousin was the ring bearer, but no one we knew had little girls, so we didn’t have a flower girl,” says Kathi. “Was that an omen, or what?!!)

Special songs for the wedding were *Sunrise*, *Sunset* and *We’ve only just begun*, played by pianist Cindy Kipker and flutist Marianne Antram. Kathi had taken flute lessons from Marianne and was also in the WL-Salem High School band when Marianne’s husband, Joe Antram, was the director.

“I don’t remember anything going wrong that day,” says Kathi, “but I know Darin spent part of the day playing football in the church parking lot.”

Following a cake and snacks reception in the church fellowship hall, the newlyweds headed to Columbus for their honeymoon. “We were young and didn’t have any money,” explains Kathi.

Darin and Kathi first met at a wedding, but

Kathi says Darin never really proposed until almost 20 years later “with all our kids standing around watching. It was in the middle of a snowstorm, so we were all stuck at home!”

Their first home was a one-bedroom apartment in the same building where the ambulance service was located on North Main in Bellefontaine. Two years later they bought a house a few blocks away and lived there until they moved to their new house and current home on Ludlow Road in December of 1999.

Darin worked for his family’s business, Robinaugh Emergency Medical Services, where he is now owner and president. Kathi says she was “automatically hired into the family business when we got married,” where she worked as a dispatcher, EMT, and billing assistant before becoming Vice President. She also worked at Marie’s Candies, The Marketplace and had her own shop at one time. (See story on page 8.)

The Robinaughs have four sons: Jason, a senior at Ohio University; Jordy, a freshman at Columbus State; Brody, a senior at WL-Salem; and Trace, a fifth grader.

Congratulations, Darin and Kathi. May God continue to bless your lives together.

December Birthdays

- 3 – Mary Jo Hensley
- 3 – Eleanor Shumaker
- 5 – Linda Roth
- 5 – Josiah Maurer
- 6 – Dustin Wirick
- 11 – Doris Wilkins
- 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
- 23 – Betty Lehman
- 25 – Daniel Horn
- 27 – Emily Kauffman
- 27 – Mary Lou Plank
- 28 – Ed Lehman
- 28 – Dick Lindemer



January Birthdays

- 5 – Chuck Swartz
- 8 – Bill Barrett
- 11 – Bridget Early
- 14 – Steve Rabenstein
- 19 – Kathi Robinaugh
- 19 – Tara Sanford
- 21 – Trace Robinaugh
- 22 – Jeanette Hostetler
- 26 – Donna Risner
- 26 – Wanda Shumaker
- 26 – John Thornburg
- 31 – Pat Yoder

December & January Anniversaries

- 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
- January 14, 1966 – Nellie & Dick Lindemer
- January 16, 1965 – Jeannette & Jim Hostetler
- January 23, 1948 – Ruth & Jack Yoder
- January 25, 1980 – Deanna & Mark Kauffman



From the Pastor's desk: Creating Space By Pastor Dave Maurer

When we place the whole chapter of Matthew 14 in context, we see a clear and very important pattern in the life and ministry of Jesus. We see him performing miraculous deeds like the feeding of the 5,000 and walking on water. But we also see that before each of those events and the healings that went along with them, that Jesus went off by himself to pray. In the midst of the crowds and ministry opportunities that surrounded him, we see Jesus creating space to be alone with God.

As I come to the close of a full but very good fall and prepare to enter the season of Advent, I find myself reflecting on the need for creating space in my own life as well. I need to follow Jesus' example and create space for God, my family, and myself. I believe that it is out of those times away that I will be most effective in life and ministry.

This was true with the many good things that happened this fall. We reflected on our Anabaptist identity through a seven-part sermon series and an eleven-week Wednesday night book study that was well attended. I worked with others to redesign our church website and strengthen our witness through it. I helped plan for the Ted & Co. performance, met several times with an ad hoc committee from Administrative Council, and worked with Jim Amstutz to plan our mission emphasis weekend. Many good things were planned and yet, when they

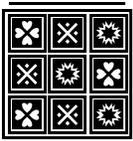
all came together, it made for a full fall.

In the midst of all of this, there were important times of creating space as well. I created space for God by praying as I walked around town and by participating in a small group. I created space for myself and my family by taking my weekly Monday Sabbath, doing my morning devotions with Elam, occasionally having lunch with either Elam or Maggie, and by attending various retreats and conferences alone and with Beth.

While my fall still wasn't what I would consider balanced, these choices were important for creating space in my life for what is important to me. It is easy for us to get wrapped up in the day-to-day grind and lose sight of those things. Often, it wasn't easy to create that time and space, but by being committed and making intentional choices about how I used my time, I created space and found it to be significant.

Like many of us, this is an area that I am continuing to grow in. Now the challenge is to build on what I have been doing and develop more balance as we enter the season of Advent. One way that our family will work at this is by doing a nightly Advent devotional together. We are also planning special times with family and friends. May God richly bless us all as we seek to create space and celebrate the reason for the season.

Adriel Auction total
\$57,000



Bethel Donations

Scrappy Stripes Quilt
\$200

Broken Star Quilt
\$400

Red & Blue Comforter
\$110

Pink Blend Comforter
\$50

Bethel – Oak Grove Mennonite Women in Mission

The Mennonite Women met on November 10 with 21 in attendance. The group came early so a lot of work was done in the morning hours. Then, the noon meal was sack lunches with pumpkin pie dessert. Jan Smucker and Donna Lehman were hostesses.

Following lunch, Jeanette Hostetler opened the business meeting reading a letter from Adriel thanking the group for items for the fall auction. Pat Yoder, treasurer, reported that \$497 is in the treasury. Jeanette suggested we purchase needed items to complete school kits, which the group affirmed.

Time was given for books read. Jan Smucker recommended *The Side-Yard Super Hero*, a heart-warming book by Degraff native Rick Niece. From the Bethel library, AnnaBelle Hostetler recommended Jimmy Carter's *Sharing the Good Times*. Ruby Byler has been reading Dr. Hooley's book, *Paul Ervin's Pilgrimage*, about his experiences in

third-world countries. Rudelle Matthews has been reading *Abram's Daughters* and enjoying learning about Amish ways.

Kathy Graber had a very creative "Show and Tell." She showed us the bear family she created for her family: Girl bear, *Amazing Grace*; and Grace's friend, *Remarkable Reuben*. They were made to represent Christian values to her children.

Sara Ellen Stoltzfus shared in the devotional time on the topic "Testimony of Creation." She passed around pictures of God's amazing creation, and also pictures of animals in nature and woodcuts recently made by her 90-year-old neighbor, Paul Kauffman. (No matter what our age, we can enjoy God's remarkable creation!) We must remember David's poetic words from Psalm 8: "How majestic is Thy name in all the earth!"

Work completed: 2 newborn kits, 1 baby comforter, 1 regular comforter

~Donna Lehman, Secretary

Reflections on prayer and prayer meeting By Kim Lehman

Prayer has been, and I think always will be, a mystery to me. Do I believe in prayer? Oh yes! Do I need to understand it? Oh no! Think about it – You and I can communicate with the Creator. How can we gain wisdom and understanding if we don't seek God for it?

I'll admit, I often come to prayer with a tangled mess of motives, but I have come to accept that God is big enough to receive me and my mess, as I continue to strive to be what He wants me to be. Is that part of the grace picture? You know, I'm saved by it, live by it, and pray that God will grant me grace as I stumble along in my prayer life.

I would like to share some "Light" about our regular prayer group that meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the church library. We have a time of mini-devotions. Pastor Dave Maurer sometimes leads other types of prayers or reads Scripture, and then those present can share any insights we have about that Scripture. It varies from week to

week. We then share prayer concerns, using the requests from that week's bulletin and any mentioned in the service. Or we share personal requests and pray for world affairs.

Our group has been small and we take turns praying for the requests, usually finishing by 7:00 or 7:15, depending on the requests.

Another way to participate (if you find you are the only one who came that evening) is to go to the sanctuary and pray however you feel led. I sometimes sit in the area and pray for the person or family I saw sitting there the previous Sunday. Most often I roam up and down the aisles and up in the balcony, praising God for the many things He has done for us.

Our Wednesday evening prayer group is an open group. All are welcome. I find real comfort in knowing that prayer requests made on Sunday are brought before the Throne of God again on Wednesday. People do forget, but God doesn't. Won't you join our group soon?

T ministry experiences works of grace

Editor's note: In the recent past, Bethel has given prayer and financial support to the work of the family in . Following are some excerpts from a recent letter. The letter is posted on the lobby bulletin board.

Remember your people; Remember your children; Remember your promise, O God!

Please join us in a spirit of prayer for these courageous ones (the new Christians in D) and all whom they are influencing. Against a backdrop of stress/difficulty (persecution and opposition from the power blocs), now we turn to many works of grace which seem to be increasing at this time . . .

1. R's younger brother has become a dynamic Christian!
2. The new T Christian music recording project is nearing completion.
3. In October the final checks of the printing texts for both the *New Testament in the Tn Language* and the picture-story book, *Stories of Jesus in the T Language*, were completed.

4. Our friend, S's youngest brother, Abdul, just accepted Jesus! He is now 16.
5. Early last summer R completed his groundbreaking work on a new comprehensive book about all 98 T villages.
6. As many of the young T Christians are functioning in the fruit of the Spirit and are diligent in their work, they are experiencing honor and blessing in their chosen vocational fields.
7. D is in a time of violent stress, but into this situation the lives of the T believers are shining.
8. There are also four elements of thankful financial news.

On behalf of our T friends, thank you for your continuing important, sacrificial support.

Treasurer's Report By Lori Lehman



Let's get acquainted with Larry and Barbara Evans

Editor's note: Larry and Barbara Evans moved back to Ohio three years ago and are neighbors to Dan and Donna Risner, who invited them to Bethel. Let's get better acquainted with them.

Larry was born and raised in Seville, OH, the son of Gladys and Harold Evans, both deceased. He has two brothers and a sister who live in Ohio. Barb grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where her 98-year-old mother and sister still live. She has a brother who lives in New Zealand.

After graduation from Cloverleaf High School, Larry attended nearby Kent State and Akron universities. Barb graduated from the Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Winnipeg and then entered cytology training at the Health Sciences Center in Winnipeg, working as a cytotechnologist until 1978.

Larry and Barb met at a conference at the Laurelville (PA) Mennonite Church Center in the spring of 1978. Through letter writing back and forth that summer, they fell in love and were married October 28, having only seen each other in person about four times.

They lived in the Seville area for 13 years, Jeannette, PA for five years, and Rising Sun, MD before moving back to Ohio about three years ago.

Larry has worked as a research chemist for Good Year Tire and Rubber Company and PPG Chemicals Division, as well as teaching chemistry in a private school in Maryland, and currently works at TRC in East Liberty. He is a world-renowned expert in tires, and has many publications and patents to his credit.

After their marriage, Barb moved with her new husband to the U.S. and stayed home to raise their five children, three boys and two girls. Later she worked at a Liz Claiborne Outlet and then in the business office at the same school where Larry taught. Their children are all adults and the four oldest live in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Sam, their youngest son, recently graduated from college and lives at home. Two granddaughters complete their family.

Throughout the years, Larry and Barb have attended and served in various churches. Larry grew up in a Lutheran church and Barb attended Anglican and non-denominational churches until she met Larry, who was attending Bethel Mennonite Church, near his hometown of Seville at the time.

While living in Pennsylvania, they were a part of Calvary Assembly of God Church, and in Maryland served at Harbor of Grace Assembly of God Church and later Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Larry has worked with Mennonite youth and Mennonite Disaster Service. He has also pastored a church (Living Waters), and taught Sunday School and Bible studies. Barb has worked with various women's ministries, served on worship teams and as worship leader, and been a speaker for women's meetings and conferences.

In their leisure, the Evans both enjoy reading and traveling. Larry also likes to cook and Barb likes music.

Welcome to Bethel, Larry and Barb! We look forward to getting to know you better.



Drawing by Larissa Graber

COOKIES IN A JAR \$5 donation

God's GIRLS
Fundraising Project

Available for purchase
in the hallway
December 13 & 20

*Cranberry/white
chocolate chip*

NEW BETHEL CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Save these dates: **Thursday – Saturday, February 18-20, 2010**

*Family Portrait sittings with Lifetouch
More information will be available this month
Scheduling of appointments begins in January*

Getting to know Kelsey Oakley **By Rick Stoner**

A senior at West Liberty-Salem High School, Kelsey Oakley has been a part of the Bethel family since she was in sixth grade. On the surface she might seem like a quiet person, yet underneath you will find a deep faith and a person that loves God's creation.

Kelsey is definitely a country girl. She is a member of 4H and FFA (Future Farmers of America). She shows her dogs and cows and was even named Jersey Queen this past summer.

She also enjoys hanging out with her friends and family. A fan of country music, Kelsey likes to rock out to Rascal Flats and Keith Urban.

If you have Kelsey over to eat, you should know that she likes to eat Chinese food and chocolate. Kelsey also has the ability to cross her eyes on cue.

Kelsey has been a part of this church for several years, and when I asked her what she would like the people of Bethel to know, she replied that she would like to see the people here be open minded to new ideas and new people.

In the future, Kelsey will be attending the University of Findlay, majoring in animal sciences/pre-veterinary medicine. She said that her dream would be to move to Virginia Beach and open a veterinary clinic there.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Christmas Mystery Gift Silent Auction

Place your bid now in the church hallway
Winners will be announced on December 20



What are our youth up to this winter?

West Liberty Salem High School

Power Lifting: Kelsey Oakley, Lindsey Hostetler

Boys' Basketball:
Collin Link

Choir & Concert Band:
Jessica Rabenstein (both),
Lindsey Hostetler (band)
(Christmas Concert
December 14)

Elite F.C. Soccer: Jacob Shank, Lindsey Hostetler

Bethel Homework Help:
Brody Robinaugh,
Kelsey Oakley

Bethel youth to serve with DOOR in Chicago **By Rick Stoner**

In our faith journeys we must open many doors and walk through into new places. This summer our youth will have that opportunity during their service trip to Chicago planned for June 27 to July 2, 2010.

By participating in DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) in Chicago, a ministry of Mennonite Mission Network, the doors of the city will be opened for the youth to see what God is doing there.

In huge cities like Chicago, issues such as poverty and racism come to the forefront. The youth will be able to wrestle with these and other faith issues as they serve with DOOR. Service assignments may include

preparing and serving meals at a soup kitchen; helping with homeless children's programs; cleaning kitchens and shelters; urban gardening; meeting and listening to groups and individuals who are working for change in the city; and conversing and worshiping with city folks.

The youth will also have the opportunity to fellowship with other DOOR participants from around the country. We ask for your prayers and support as we prepare for this trip.

May God use us and open us to what He is doing in Chicago, and may we walk through new doors in our faith journeys.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jacob Shank



**Champaign County
Boys' Soccer
Player of the year**

From the Youth Pastor's desk

“Holy busyness” for youth under pressure By Rick Stoner

The first lines of the 1981 Queen/David Bowie song, *Under Pressure*, talk about the pressure pushing down on us. Well, that’s my topic this month – the pressures youth are under when it comes to expectations of time. I’m guessing the majority of us have full schedules with job responsibilities, family events, and other commitments such as church involvement. There’s no getting around it. We are busy people!

When we look at youth culture, many times what we see is a mirror reflecting back to us our own lives. So what do we see? Busyness! Youth today have a lot on their plates and sometimes stretch themselves thin with all their commitments. This stems from what Charles A. Anderson calls “overchoice” in his book, *The Business of Busyness: Or, What Should We Make of Martha?*

What is overchoice? It is the stress that one feels from more options than one can handle or actually needs, says Anderson. Our youth have many options vying for their time: school, sports, music, arts, friends, jobs, family, church. And the message they pick up from the culture around them is to be involved, and many times over involved.

What happens to the faith of youth in all this busyness? It can become shallow and may even burn out. It’s like trying to

keep a fire going. If you don’t have any fuel, your fire will quickly disappear.

I speak from experience. When I was in high school, I too was stretched thin with the demands of school, soccer, band, National Honor Society, friends and family. And, when I had time, church youth group meetings. My personal time with God was reserved for the few minutes before I went to sleep and corporate worship was pushed to the back burner, though I did have opportunities to explore faith at school.

So, faced with this reality, what do we do? Allow me to suggest a way forward: holy busyness. Holy busyness! Yes, in holy busyness who we are comes before what we do. As Anderson states, “Being grounded in the gospel means that relationships precede activity... holy busyness does not begin with what we do but with what God does.”

If we are to know what God is doing in our lives, then we must know God. This might mean that we have to shed a few activities along the way, but it isn’t about giving up everything. Rather, it is a call for lifestyle discernment. Is our busyness about building us up, or is it about building God’s kingdom in the world? The answer to this question will guide youth as they think about their involvements and how much time those activities take up in their lives.

Crop Walk Report: Bethel walkers raise \$3,449

Bethel walkers raised a total of \$3,449 at this year’s annual CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk on October 4 in Bellefontaine.

“We had 32 walkers who signed up for the walk,” said Kim Lehman, Bethel representative. Others from Bethel who weren’t sponsored came along as support. “Our most experienced walker was Art Newcomer, and youngest, Maggie Maurer,” she added.

This year Kim asked the congregation to join in solidarity with CROP’s mission by wearing blue rubber bands for a week as a reminder that others in the world have to walk for water. In making the initial announcement, she agreed to donate \$1 for every blue band that was returned the following week.

“After I presented the Blue Band Plan, I had a generous donor who said they would match whatever I had to pay,” said Kim. The next Sunday, 25 bands were returned, and the “Angel Donor” not only matched, but then doubled that amount, she reported.

Locally, Bethel raised the most of any church, followed by Jubilee Mennonite Church in second place. A total of 124 walkers from eight churches, two school groups, and the International Friendship Center raised a total of \$11,888.25.

This was the walk’s 62nd year of raising funds to help fight hunger worldwide and provide water to impoverished villages.

Congratulations to Bethel for raising the most money this year!

Of the 32 walkers from Bethel who participated in the CROP Walk, Art Newcomer was the “most experienced” and Maggie Maurer the youngest.



Artist sells altered creations through websites

Editor's note: *This feature article is the first in a series of stories on Bethelites and their crafts or hobbies. We begin with altered artist, Kathi Robinaugh.*

"After doing everything from painting to wreaths, sewing and more, I am now focusing on altered art," says Kathi Robinaugh of her current craft. She explains that altered art is "when you take an object and 'alter' it into something else, usually using collage techniques, painting, and other skills."

She designs in all kinds of vintage styles, such as shabby chic, primitive, or fun retro. "I use a lot of vintage photos, old ribbon and lace, rusty bottle caps, old books and sheet music," explains Kathi. "Old silver, vintage book covers, glass bottles and antique tins become ornaments, microscope slides become pendants, and Scrabble pieces become signs." She also makes a lot of cards, scrapbooking accents, and gift items such as tags.

Kathi has always "made things" but she began selling her creations in 1991 at craft shows, by consignment, and some wholesaling. Locally, she sold at The Marketplace and Bartins in West Liberty, and some wholesale to T&E Cupboards. She also did some designing for a company called Combined Talents for the gift market. "But,

in the end I prefer creating one-of-a-kind items and selling them myself," says Kathi.

For the last 10 years she has sold items on several websites. She has her own blog, called *Out on a Whim Studio*, where people can read about and see pictures of her art. Kathi also has five shops on etsy.com where she sells her creations and supplies. "Each shop has a different look and style, and is a mix of my one-of-a-kind handmade items and vintage treasures," explains Kathi. She is also featured on several other websites. (See complete listing in the box at the right.)

Kathi creates most of her altered art in her home studio, their former back porch, which includes "two monstrous cupboards, a large glass desk and table for painting and the sewing machine, and tons of storage, which is never enough," she says. Recently, she converted Jason's room into a mini-studio where she works on her personal scrapbooks. "I work whenever I have time around family, my job, and other commitments," she adds.

When asked about her favorite part of her craft, Kathi answers, "All of it!" She also loves scrapbooking and making albums for her family or as gifts. "I am obsessed with going to garage sales, thrift stores, and flea markets," she confesses.

Altered artist, Kathi Robinaugh will host a holiday open house on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1-5 p.m. at her home studio on County Road 1.

She will donate half the proceeds to the Bethel youth for their Chicago service trip next summer.

Kathi's Websites

outonawhimstudio.
blogspot.com
outonawhim.etsy.com
sweetlibertyprims.etsy.com
gethappy.etsy.com
sweetmemories4u.etsy.com
ineedthat.etsy.com
glitterandgrunge.com
lollishops.com
artsaflutter.com

Responsibilities of church membership*

When you unite with a church you accept a responsibility, a sacred responsibility, to do your part for your Master and for others. Your sacred responsibilities of membership:

- 1. Serving.** There is a place of service awaiting you somewhere in the church. God has given you a talent to be used.
- 2. Learning.** Anyone who helps others must first develop a growing faith and be able to articulate it. Participating in Bible study groups and developing the habit of daily Bible study are ways to continue learning about the character of God.
- 3. Giving.** You are expected to do your fair share in supporting the budget of your

church's ministry. You should give freely and cheerfully without thought of reward.

- 4. Witnessing.** At the same time that Jesus commissioned His disciples (Acts 1:8) He set forth your responsibility to spread the gospel everywhere.
- 5. Praying.** The highest and deepest benefit you can receive from prayer is strength and courage to live triumphantly each day. Be persistent in your requests, turning your petitions to align with God's will.
- 6. Worshipping.** Worship keeps your soul, and the soul of your church, alive.

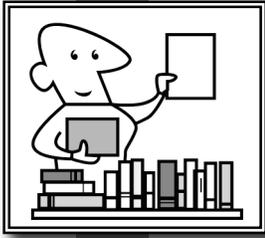
*Excerpts from *The Meaning of Church Membership* by Wayne C. Clark

NEWSLETTER CHANGES ARE COMING IN 2010!

Beginning in March 2010, a quarterly newsletter will be published in March (spring), June (summer), September (fall), and December (winter). The format will be similar to the current newsletter.

In addition, a one-page newsletter will be published with each monthly calendar.

~The Editor



Check out the Christmas books in the church library today!

Ministry of Worship adds SING THE STORY hymnals to the pew racks

New hymnals with maroon covers, *Sing the Story*, were recently purchased using designated funds and donations by individuals.

They have been placed by the Ministry of Worship in the pew racks just in time for Advent season. The songs in this supplement II to the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*, focus on the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, and are suitable for use from Advent to Pentecost.

Sing the Journey, supplement I, (green covers) focuses on the life and mission of the church and is suitable for use the rest of the church year between Pentecost and Advent. For this reason, these books have been temporarily removed from the racks and will be returned later in the spring.

Check out the church library for some holiday reading

By Marla Longenecker

In the last month I've met with Jeannette Hostetler, our new church librarian, and introduced her to the joys and challenges of maintaining the church library. She is excited about her new responsibilities and will do a great job in that role. The following books are the last ones that I added.

A Hundred Camels, by Dr. Gerald L. Miller, is the story of a Mennonite mission doctor's trial for a patient's murder in Somalia. Dr. Miller's faith and the support of the hospital staff sustained him during the ordeal. You will be surprised by the outcome.

Mutual Treasure: Seeking Better Ways for Christians and Culture to Converse is a call to engage others by building relationships of trust through which mutual treasure can be sought. Cascadia publisher Michael A. King co-edits the book with Harold Heie.

The Work of Jesus Christ in Anabaptist Perspective is a collection of essays in honor of J. Denny Weaver, edited by Alain Epp

Weaver and Gerald J. Mast. Leading theologians, biblical scholars, historians, pastors and peacemakers offer their reflections on Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection.

Two books offer guidance in the Christian life: *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse* by Steven R. Tracey is a comprehensive approach to healing all kinds of abuse that is biblically grounded and psychologically sound.

Being Christian: Exploring where you, God, and life connect is for you, no matter where you are in your faith journey. The authors, Stephen Arterburn and John Shore, tackle questions, that just about everyone has asked about being Christian.

Other resources donated this month include a DVD, *Money as debt*, and *Timeline II: Living Echo of Menno Simons*, an updated version of global Anabaptist history in full color accordion fold format by Jacob and Nelleke Schiere.

Library books shed light on topics of human sexuality

Following this summer's convention in Columbus, topics related to human sexuality are being addressed by Mennonite Church USA, the Ohio Conference, denominational publications, and at the congregational level.

An ad hoc committee from the Administrative Council has been meeting and working at bringing together resources which will add our own dialogue here at Bethel in the coming months. The church library has a number of books on the subject, which you may want to check out.

Reasoning Together: A Conversation on Homosexuality is a joint effort by two Bible scholars, Ted Grimsrud and Mark Thiessen Nation. Each takes a turn at presenting his case for or against the exclusion of homosexuals from church membership. You may want to read it and see whether they have shown us how to talk about this subject with the gays and lesbians in our midst.

Touched by Grace: From Secrecy to New Life is Ann Showalter's story of her journey following the death of her husband from AIDS in the early 1980s. The experience shaped her later ministry as a Mennonite chaplain, pastor, and educator.

To Continue the Dialogue: Biblical Interpretation and Homosexuality is edited by C. Norman Kraus and includes chapters by various Mennonite scholars such as John A. Lapp, Richard A. Showalter, and Sheldon Burkhalter. It is recommended for anyone interested in careful discussion of this topic.

Homosexuality, by Willard Swartley, "can facilitate informed discussion and debate," says a blurb on the cover. In his preface, the author states he is offering the book as "a resource for ongoing discernment."

How will you prepare yourself for informed dialogue and discernment on this current hot topic?



Bethel Mennonite Church

416 Washington
P.O. Box 549
West Liberty, OH
43357

Phone:
937.465.4587

Email:
Pastor Dave Maurer
bethelpastor@
2access.net

Pastor Rick Stoner
bethelyp@2access.net

Secretary
bethelsecretary@
2access.net

We're on the Web!
See us at:
bethelchurchwl.org
Webmaster:
Todd Hostetler

Classes enjoy old-fashioned hymn sing **By Donna Lehman**

Sunday evening, November 8, found a group of 38 gathered for a hymn sing in the church Fellowship Room.

The Sojourners Sunday School Class had as guests the King's Daughters, the King's Men, and The Seekers classes.

Before our time to sing, the group enjoyed a time of fellowship with a soup, salad and dessert supper.

Then – time to sing! We sang from the burgundy hymnal, *The Mennonite Hymnal*.

Persons were asked to pick out songs that were special to them for some reason. We were blessed to have Byron Kauffman and Bill Barrett, with their pitch pipes, to give leadership.

The evening went far too fast – never enough time to enjoy those beloved hymns. Thank you to the Sojourners for planning this special evening.

The Mastersingers Community Chorale

Byron Kauffman, Director
Paula Deardurff, Accompanist
presents

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 13, 3:30 p.m.
South Union Mennonite Church

*Featuring local and out-of-town
soloists with orchestra*

A freewill offering will be received

Christmas Eve Service



7:00 p.m.
December 24, 2009
Bethel Sanctuary

Theme: God delivers!

*Invite your family and friends and
join us for this service of
inspiration!*

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

Who? Everyone!
What? Community Christmas Dinner
When? 12-2:00 p.m. December 25, 2008
Where? Bethel Fellowship Room

*The West Liberty churches will cook, serve,
and/or deliver a Christmas meal on Christmas Day.
Bethel will provide dressing and gravy.
If you would like to help, contact Dick Lindemer.*