



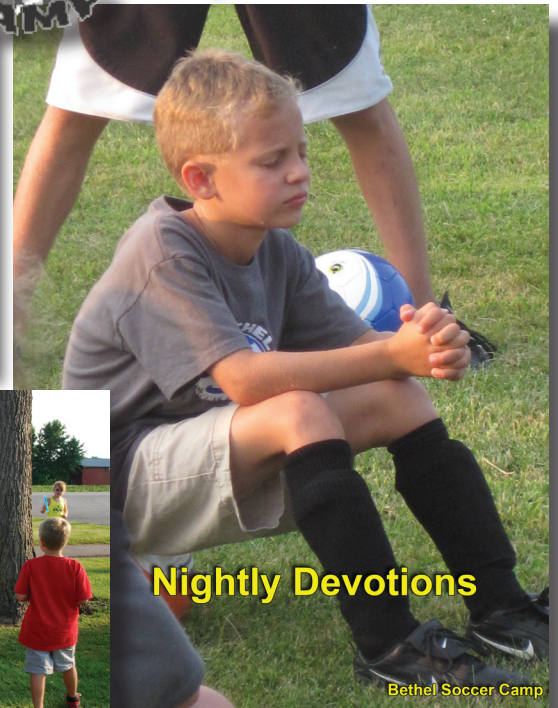
# Bethel Mennonite Church

Vol. 37  
Issue 5  
Sept. / Oct. 2014

## Newsletter

### In This Issue:

Announcements	2
Farewell to the Stoners	2
Soccer Camp 2014	2
From Pastor Dave	3
From Pastor Rick	4
On 50 Years of Marriage	5
Mennonite Women	6
Odd Jobs Crew	6
Noteworthy Dates	6
Peace & Justice Report	7
Crop Walk 2014	7
Daniel Lehman, on Discipleship	8
SWAP 2014	8
From the Editor	9
Summer Fun at Bethel	10
Red Cross Blood Drive	10



## Announcements:

- **World Communion Sunday & Crop Walk is October 5th** Join us as we celebrate the sacrament of communion together. In the afternoon, participate in the Crop Walk to fight hunger in West Liberty.
- **The Bethel Annual Business meeting and Potluck** is scheduled for October 12th following the worship service. Please submit annual reports to Tesa by September 30th.
- **The Adriel Fall Auction** will be held October 18th to benefit Adriel School. Come out and place your bids on quilts and many handmade items, as well as the silent auction, to support Adriel programs. Doors open at 9:00 am to preview items. The auction will start at 10:00 am. Visit <http://www.adriel.org/how-you-can-help/adriel-benefit-auction> for more information.



48 campers attended Bethel Soccer Camp 2014 this July! Each night campers drilled and scrimmaged, as well as enjoying snack time. The evenings ended with devotions. Certificates were handed out on the last night, along with a special ice cream treat. The outreach brought campers from several area communities and states. The camp donated \$300 to the West Liberty Soccer Association, as well as \$100 to the Lion's Club.

---

---

On August 17th, we celebrated the time we have had with the Stoner's, and bid them a fond farewell. Rick will be serving as the Lead Pastor at Sharon Mennonite in Plain City, and Jessica will enjoy being a full time mom at home with Mckenna. Pictured is the woven blanket gifted to the Stoner's at their potluck luncheon.



### Contact Information:

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

(937) 465-4587  
<http://www.bethelchurchwl.org/>

Pastor: Dave Maurer  
Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan

Next Newsletter Deadline: October 20, 2014

# Luke 10: A Model for Discipleship?

by Pastor Dave Maurer

In Luke 10, we read of the sending on the 72. Jesus “chose 72 other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. These were his instructions to them: “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Don’t take any money with you, nor a traveler’s bag, not an extra pair of sandals.”

Typically when we read this account, we approach it with our eyes on evangelism. We look for the nuggets of insight about how we spread the gospel message to others. And certainly we see these lessons

within this passage. But lately, I have been wondering what this same passage teaches us about discipleship, about how we grow in our faithful following of Jesus’ call upon our lives. And recently we spent time reflecting together on this during our Joint Council meeting.

It seems to me that our view of discipleship tends to focus on acts of service and the cost it has in our lives. These are important aspects of discipleship and yet I wonder if when they stand alone, they end up somewhat flat. Additionally, it seems to me that while this passage contains lessons about how we share the gospel with others, it also contains lessons about how we grow as faithful disciples and how we disciple others. Take a moment to read Luke 10:1-20 for yourself. Jot down on a piece of paper what this passage teaches you about discipleship. Once you have done this, continue reading from our council reflections below and compare notes.

In the passage, discipleship happens...

- **In Pairs:** the disciples were sent out not as individuals or as groups but in pairs. While an individual relationship with Jesus Christ is essential, significant growth in discipleship takes place in relationships of mutual encouragement and accountability. And while spiritual nurture and mutual care happen in Sunday school classes and small groups there is often a limit to how deep we will go with one another in a group setting.
- **Through Doing:** While Jesus did instruct the disciples

in how to go out, he then sent them out and they learned through doing. Based on their response when they returned, they also grew as disciples through the doing.

- **Through Testimony:** When they went into someone’s house they first declared “May God’s peace be on this house.” When they healed the sick, they were to say “The Kingdom of God is near you now.”

They spoke of God’s work in their interactions which aided in our own discipleship as well as discipling others.

- **Through Reflecting Together:** Though the recorded reflection component is limited in this passage, the disciples returned to Jesus and reported to

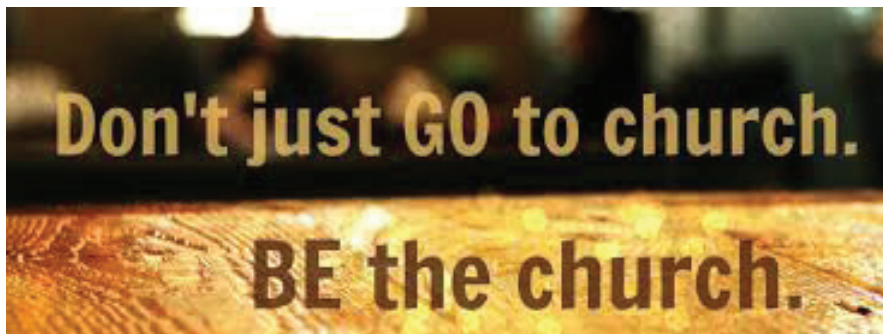
him. Then he responded with words of wisdom for them.

- **Through Trusting:** Most of us in going somewhere pack suitcases, food and/or money. We rely on what we have, our own provision. But not so here. The disciples were to rely on God’s provision, upon the hospitality of others.

All of this leads me to wonder...

- If we consider discipleship to be central to whom we are (which I believe we do), how do we actively grow as disciples at Bethel? What is our praxis?
- Are there lessons from this passage that we could incorporate into our discipleship praxis at Bethel?
- Are there ways in which our current congregational structure inhibits our work of growing as disciples and of discipling others? Does it keep us too busy and too internally focused?
- If the harvest is still plentiful (I believe it is), are we “sending workers INTO the fields” or do we tend to spend more time “in the barn” hoping that God will bring the harvest to us?

While I don’t have all of the answers to these questions, I wonder if they invite us to imagine our work at discipleship in new and/or more intentional ways. I wonder if this passage might invite us to build on the strong foundation that we have in new and yet to be explored ways? What do you think? How is God’s call stirring in your own life?



## Life is a River that Ebbs and Flows by Pastor Rick Stoner



Life is a river that ebbs and flows  
Twisting around the path it follows  
Picking up lost souls as it goes

The only time available  
Is the here and now, for  
Life is a river that ebbs and flows

Life is mystery  
A wondrous mystery  
Twisting around the path it follows

Life will happen to those  
Who run from the river that ebbs  
and flows  
Picking up lost souls as it goes



This poem (left column) was shared with me by a very talented writer and poet, who is able to see the world in a wonderful way. The poem uses the metaphor of a mysterious river to describe life. The river twists and turns and we don't quite know where it is going, and yet we are caught up in the movement of the river.

I find the metaphor of life as a river to be very helpful for my faith journey, because a river never stays the same. The river is constantly flowing and winding. At times it may turn into a rushing torrent and at times it might slow to almost a stand still creating pockets of pause in the mad rush onward. And, while this thought of constant movement might seem a bit exhausting, this movement is what keeps the water from growing stagnant.

This is the same for our faith. Our faith must continue to "flow" with God, or it may begin to languish in disuse and rot. So like the river in the poem, our faith ebbs and flows in the wild path of God's creation. Yet, to journey into the current of God's kingdom movement challenges our comfort. Pastor Tim Lehman reminds us, "Journeying means new beginnings and it means unanswered questions. Journeying means getting off the padded pew and walking into the company of God, perhaps dancing to the music of worship. Journeying means that conclusions are temporary and that hand clasping replaces finger pointing. Journeying is listening, not telling. Journeying is not comfortable" (*Seeking the Wilderness*, 73). The river of faith beckons us to hold on to God as we are swept away, together, on this amazing journey; a journey that cannot happen if we are content with simply standing by the shore.

However, the poet's keen insight draws our attention to the mystery of this twisting watery path. This faith journey that we are called to wade into is a journey into the mystery of God. Time and again we find characters in the Biblical narrative being drawn into the unknown with God. From the prophets to the disciples, these characters choose to test the waters of faith not knowing where they might end up, and yet they find themselves experiencing the fullness of God in this rushing faith river. Yes, they don't always like the journey when they hit the rocks, but, like Jeremiah, something will burn inside them if they just try and stand still.

So why mention all this? Well, I feel like for the past five years we all have been flowing together in this river. At my point of entry with you all I was very unsure of the waters because I was unsure of where God might lead. But, once I found myself flowing on with you all I experienced a refreshing that has prepared me for the twists and turns ahead. At Bethel there have been times of pause and refreshing in wonderful worship services and deep prayers with you all. There have been times of fast flowing growth through missions trips and great conversations. I am truly grateful that the Lord brought us here and that I could journey with you all over these years!

So, as we each journey on our separate ways as the faith river branches off, I pray that God will continue to bless you all. I pray that God will illuminate the eyes of your hearts so that you may experience the fullness of God. And I pray that you all will continue to be swept away in the river of God's kingdom movement. This might be a mysterious journey, but we cannot be content with loitering on the bank because life will still happen to those who try and run from the river. (Photos top left: Mad River as it runs through Lion Park; bottom left: Rick, Jessica & Mckenna at the baptism service for Daniel in August.)

# Newcomers Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary

## by Carl & Elaine Newcomer

Our children planned a wonderful 50th Wedding Anniversary for us. As a Christmas gift they presented us with a family weekend to spend at Cumberland Lake/Falls area to celebrate our anniversary.

On July 4th weekend, Todd and Becky, Kirk, Linda, Katie, Jack, Rylie, and Ellie, Ramon, Carmen, and Corey, (we missed having Brad and his wife Jessica attend due to military commitments) Ron and Lisa and Carl and Elaine travelled to a Cumberland Lake house front property to spend the weekend. We discovered that although we had a nice lake front view that the only way to spend time on the lake was to rent a boat. Instead of spending time on the water, we spent most of a day hiking. We drove to Cumberland Falls and hiked in that area. Other activities that weekend included playing games, watching fireworks, fellowship and eating. We had a great weekend.

A week later, our children planned a surprise open house for us at Bethel for family and friends. Chuck and Jeanie Swartz invited us to eat lunch with them on July 12 to celebrate both of our anniversaries. After lunch they said they had to stop



at the church, because there was something new in the kitchen we were suppose to look at. Carl and I fell for the suggestion because both of us couples are on the Special Occasions Meals. We didn't see anything new in the kitchen, so Chuck said it must be in the fellowship room. As the door was opened. We heard "SURPRISE" Standing in the fellowship room were the smiling faces of family and friends. It took a few seconds for the surprise to register and to fully comprehend what was happening. We were overwhelmed because no one had "spilled the beans" about the surprise.

Once our nephew had mentioned something about us having a big celebration for our anniversary, but we thought

he must be talking about our July 4th celebration and Elaine's sister made a quick cover-up comment.

We have had a great 50 years together, which has included commitment, happiness, joys, sadness, struggles, and some trying times, but God has been present with us during our years together and we feel blessed to have 50 years together.

I asked Carl & Elaine for their answers to the following:

*Tesa:* Marriage is..?

*Carl & Elaine:* Marriage is a life time commitment to spending time with your best friend.

*Tesa:* The secret to a happy marriage is..?

*Carl & Elaine:* The secret to a happy marriage is keeping Christ the center of your marriage, communicating with one another, giving 100% to each other, realizing that love is not just a feeling or emotion, but a decision to love even if you don't feel loving, and realizing that marriage has cycles of romance, disillusionment, and true joy (accepting each other for who they are). Carl says keeping the wife happy because if she isn't happy no one is. (-: Elaine says it might also be the other way around needing to keep hubby happy. (-:

*Tesa:* Looking back over 50 years of marriage, (our) favorite time is/was..?

*Carl & Elaine:* Looking back over 50 years of marriage, (our) favorite times were the birth of each child, spending time with family, spending the first summer after our marriage in VS half way up Pike's Peak at an out post camp for Frontier's Boy Village taking trips to various states, especially to Alaska when Carl turned 65, taking a train trip across Canada, going to Europe with the Gemeinschaft Chamber Singers, taking a mission trip to Guatemala, and travelling to Israel.

## 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

# Noteworthy Dates

27 – Jim Burkett  
28 – Greg Hostetler  
29 – Ellen Steiner  
30 – Logan Link

## October Birthdays

4 – Dennis Sanford  
11 – Abigail Rabenstein  
12 – Mary Ann King

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

## Odd Jobs Crew Hard at Work

Dick Lindemer and Steve Lapp assisted Lee Jordan with an odd job last month, putting up rain gutters on the Jordan's garage to accommodate newly purchased rain barrels. Because the gutters were 34' long, it would have been very difficult for one person to do alone. Having their assistance made for quick work and an enjoyable morning of fellowship. Thank you Dick & Steve!

If you have an odd job, fill out a form (available in the mailbox area) and place it in Dick Lindemer's mailbox.



## Mennonite Women by Donna Lehman

This group met in July and August, enjoying the pleasant summer months. In July, we had a meal of sack lunches, along with delicious desserts which Janice, Miriam (Lapp) and Mary Ann furnished. They had the tables decorated with beautiful summer flowers. Then, in August, we enjoyed sharing garden produce, with a garden potluck. Mary (Yoder) had the tables decorated with canning items.

We have now completed our devotional series on "Courageous Women of the Bible." Doris Enns reminded us of the Gentile woman who spoke boldly to Jesus, pleading for her daughter's healing. Barb Kauffman brought our attention to Queen Vashti (wife of King Xerxes) who boldly stood up for her rights rather than being downtrodden by the king's drunken whims; which actually opened the door to Esther.

We missed our co-chair in August: Mary Psolla had fallen at her son Matt's, and was hospitalized with a hip fracture. Also, we'll miss Rick who was always a faithful lunch time partner.

Average attendance was 19. Work completed: 2 quilts (these will be given to Adriel for the fall auction), 2 comforters, 27 school bags sewn and 24 filled. Next month will be sack lunches for our noon meal with officers providing ice cream.

## Crop Walk Scheduled for October 5th

by Kim Lehman

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. With its inception in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are “viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks,” notes the Los Angeles Times (Oct. 26, 2009).

On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. As far as we know, York County, Penn., was the first walk officially called the CROP Walk for the Hungry and that event has been continuous since 1970. Several other CROP Hunger Walks occurred soon thereafter, and before long there were hundreds of Walks each year in communities nationwide.

Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the



U.S. join in more than 1,600 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone. (see <http://www.crop-walk.org> for more information.)

Last year, we organized our walk here in West Liberty and walked in town on a Sunday afternoon. This year, other local churches are getting involved with the walk in

West Liberty. We will begin the CROP walk at Lion's Park and travel up Adriel Hill to walk the track, and return to the park.

The theme is Ending Hunger One Step at a Time. Malnutrition is an underlying cause of death for 3.5 million children each year. The CROP Walk is a way that we can help save lives, and give children a chance to grow healthy and strong. If you are unable to do the walk, you can help by being a sponsor. Registration begins in the park on October 5th at 12:30, with the walk following at 1:00 pm. For more information, see Kim Lehman.

## Peace & Justice Continues Its Focus on Syria by Bill Shumaker

I have a passion for Peace and Justice. For me it is central to the Gospel and the teaching and life of Jesus. What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. (James 2:14-18). I also write to inform you of what we do and encourage you to see the importance of Peace and justice and encourage you to join us. You don't need a lot of knowledge, Just come and learn with us.

A few of us meet each first and third Tuesday noon to 1. **Discerning matters that need attention, 2. Raising awareness about these matters, and 3. Facilitating opportunities to respond**

But this is supposed to be a report on what we are doing at Bethel. Just now we are concentrating on Syria and immigration. We try to keep you informed of what is happening. We welcome your suggestions on how we can do a better job of that. Give your suggestions to Dennis Showalter, Chuck/Jeanie Swartz, Barb/Byron Kauffman, pastor Dave, or Bill/Eleanor Shumaker.

We stay in touch with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) where we learned that Syria the greatest world crisis just now so as a result \$1300 was raised for Syria. It was a combination of Bible school project and designated donations.

# Daniel Lehman on Discipleship

On August 24, 2014 Daniel Lehman was baptized, and became Bethel's newest member. This summer in membership classes, he wrote the following essay based on Article 17 of our Confession of Faith.

Discipleship is an important part of Mennonite Faith. Although salvation is a wonderful free gift from God, that we must accept first. It's only half of the story. Once you have been saved, it's not time to go back to your normal worldly life with the false idea that you are free to do as you wish. You must become a disciple of Christ.

This means working for God, witnessing to others, using your gifts and enduring persecution for Jesus' sake. This may sound hard, but if you are truly doing it for God's sake, then it won't seem like "work."

Discipleship is not the road that leads to the gates of heaven. It's a choice to be made every day where you say, "I'm going to prove my allegiance to Christ, not because I'm forced to, but because I'm given the chance to, and don't want to waste it." That is what discipleship is all about. Our faith in Jesus is like a birthday gift. Jesus offers us the gift and we say, "Sure! I will take that gift!" Next we grab the gift and open it (salvation), and it turns out, it's a baseball. Then we go outside with Jesus and play catch with the baseball (discipleship.)



## Youth Recall Memories of SWAP this Summer

This summer our youth group traveled with the youth from Oak Grove for SWAP - Sharing With Appalachian People.

Annie Steiner says this about her SWAP experience: "My favorite thing about SWAP would probably be the people we got to work with. It was a lot of fun to go with another youth group, and I felt like I grew closer with a lot of people. Miss Minnie, the lady my group was helping, was such a kind and hospitable person so it was a lot of fun to work with her."



From Great Lakes Stories Summer 2014



Photo by Shemie Yoder

**SWAP**  
Sharing With  
Appalachian People (SWAP)  
season is in full swing! In  
Harlan, Ky., volunteers from  
Bethel Mennonite Church  
in West Liberty, Ohio, built a  
wheelchair ramp for an elderly  
couple. Thanks to these  
volunteers, the wife, who is  
wheelchair bound, will be able  
to leave her house for the first  
time in three months.

Interested in volunteering with  
SWAP? We're looking for  
volunteer groups for the fall.  
For more information about  
SWAP, visit [swap.mcc.org](http://swap.mcc.org).

Michael Lehman shares his favorite SWAP memory: "My favorite memory from S.W.A.P was the working part because we got to help other people out and learn new things too. I got to be on two different job sites so that was interesting. Our hosts really appreciated our help. I also liked some of the free time we got and the mountainous terrain."



# From the Editor

Tesa Jordan



One of the first words children learn to say after mama and dada, is no. It's also one word they hear over and over, in their anxious parents' attempt to keep them from harm's way, and to instill a sense of right and wrong.

It's such a powerful little word. It can put a stop to all sorts of situations, thwart catastrophes from bad decisions, and it can also put an end to dreams. No, you can't go to the party... No, I don't want to date you anymore... No, you were not accepted into the college of your choice... No, you're not qualified for this job.

One of the things I used to resent about my upbringing was the notion that being Mennonite meant saying no to so many things I wanted to do. Much later, it became clear that many of the no's were really my parents' own preferences and not the church's. Either way, No became a big stumbling block for me in my Christian walk. I became turned off and left the church for about 20 years. Thankfully, God never left me... and I was always aware of His presence in my life, His protection, love, and mercy surrounded me, even when family and friends sometimes turned their backs. I never went hungry, or homeless, and always had what I needed when I needed it. I am so thankful for His grace and generosity.

I have tried very hard in life to look for the Yeses, and even to change some of the no's I've encountered. The freedom that comes with yes is amazing. Yes, I can help with that! Yes, I'd like to go with you to the concert! Yes, I would be honored to accept this challenge! Yes, I am your friend, and happy that you are mine as well.

When I compiled my first newsletter, and decided to add a column from the editor, I almost let NO dictate. (Did I really want to do a column for every newsletter? Would I know what to write about?) And just today, when

I began planning the next newsletter, those very thoughts surfaced again as I thought, "What am I going to write about?" A friend shared this prayer with me on the phone a few hours later out of the blue, and I knew instantly what I would write about. Yes, He is always on time!

The author is Father Ronnie Knott of Rhodelia, Kentucky:

Dear God:

Please untie the knots  
that are in my mind,  
my heart and my life.  
Remove the have nots,  
the can nots and the do nots  
that I have in my mind.  
Erase the will nots,  
may nots,  
might nots that may find  
a home in my heart.  
Release me from the could nots,  
would nots and  
should nots that obstruct my life.  
And most of all,  
Dear God,  
I ask that you remove from my mind,  
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'  
that I have allowed to hold me back,  
especially the thought  
that I am not good enough.

AMEN

# Summer Fun at Bethel



The Bethel Garden Tour in July included 9 gardens and raised \$110 for West Liberty Cares. We started with a potluck at the Jordan's and finished **6 hours later(!)** at the Lehman's with Trains & Games, as well as snacks and ice cream.



## Red Cross Blood Drive Returns to Bethel

The Red Cross Blood Drive resumed at Bethel in August. Our Goal was 22 and we collected 26 whole blood units and 1 double red cell unit for a total of 27 units! That's 81 patients who will receive the blood products they need! *Pictured left, Associate Pastor Rick Stoner, who during his tenure at Bethel, overcame his fear of donating. Great job!*

The next blood drive is scheduled for October 24, 2014 from 1-7 p.m.