



Annual Conference Assembly: “The Sower Went to Sow”

By Erin Dye

Two hundred forty-one delegates from 61 congregations gathered in Berne, IN at the First Mennonite Church for the 43rd ACA March 9th and 10th with a total of 310 people in attendance. Art and Mary Newcomer, Jim Burkett, Ed Lehman, and Pastors Rick and Dave went to represent Bethel. Ohio Conference has much to offer its congregations and uses the annual gathering to inform the delegates of what to share back home.

The weekend consisted of business sessions, workshops, displays, and worship services. A breakfast for Mennonite Men and Women was also available to attend. All of these opportunities plus gathering with old and new friends equals a good time had by all.

It's encouraging to fellowship with the greater Mennonite church family. Mary Newcomer, a delegate veteran, says, “I enjoy meeting with people from other Mennonite Churches. The Mennonite Church is diverse and some ‘do church’ differently than we do. We can learn from each other and appreciate the different gifts we bring to the church and to our worship services.”

We can appreciate our differences as well as

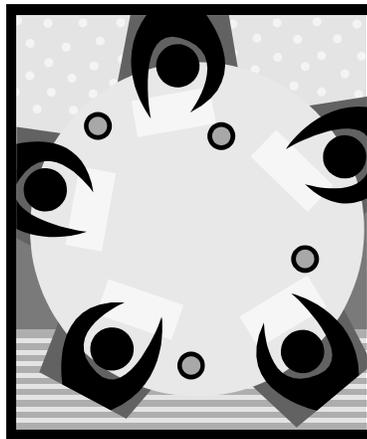
similarities. Ed Lehman, a second year delegate, also sees the benefit of sharing with other churches in our denomination: “Bethel has a lot in common with most churches in Ohio Conference. We have much of the same strengths and weakness.” Ed also suggests we can learn from

Conference and other churches experiences as well as share Bethel's resources with them in return.

These are a few of the reports that left a good impression: Pastor Dave: “I was struck by the missional story about the food pantry. I loved that they structured it like a grocery store which allowed for relationship building as they went through and helped people pick things out. It also seemed like it helped the people coming in have more dignity in helping their families.”

Jim Burkett: “I enjoyed hearing how the Mennonite church is getting involved with church planting.”

Mary Newcomer: “Our Conference Regional Pastors serve the churches in Ohio very well by working with pastors and congregations to keep relationships healthy and focused on the true ministry of reflecting Jesus in our lives”



*Thank you to all who
represented Bethel at ACA*

Reasons to Celebrate:

What happened with Ohio Conference last year?

- Welcoming two new Regional Pastors, Ralph Reinford and Wanda Stopher
- Partnering to offer three regional worship workshops throughout the year
- Engaging half of the constituent congregations in the Listening Project
- Offering regional pastor-elder retreats

What is already in the planning for this year?

- Young Adult Retreat at Camp Luz, April 13-14
- Regional Teacher Trainings, April 14 and 21
- Conference-wide youth event at Bluffton University, June 29-July 1
- Resourcing events for couples in ministry, singles in ministry, women in ministry and multiple staff congregations

Game Day

By Jane Core Thomas

What do you do on a Sunday afternoon in mid-Feb? Why you have a GAME DAY at Adriel, of course, and that's exactly what six of our Middle School Youth Group and their families did. The Bethel group consisted of Annie Steiner, Daniel Lehman, Becky Wilkins, Stephen Hostetler, Larissa Graber and Trace Robinaugh, along with their family members, plus Rick and Jessica Stoner and Greg and Jane Core Thomas. We all met at the Yoder Activities Center and after a short orientation by Erin Dye, Bethel's Administrative Assistant and Chaplin at Adriel, we were introduced to the boys who live in the Westview group home. These youth are in the age range of 7-13 years and our first task was to have introductions which we did by forming a circle and sharing our name and a food we like that starts with the first letter of our name. That kicked the day off with laughter as we all tried to think of yummy foods to link to our names.



Dear Youth Thanks alot for every thing. I really appreciated playing with you guys. Hope to play with you guys soon!

From Von, Age 13

Next, we broke into groups, with a group per table, and played several rousing rounds of Disney Bingo, which was one of the donated games.

After the Bingo, each group was able to choose from the wide variety of other games that Bethel had donated and the groups continued to play and laugh together during the remainder of the time.



The event was concluded with refreshments, pictures and good-byes. All of the Bethel youth indicated that they enjoyed the event and Becky Wilkins summed it up by saying that she enjoyed it because she "liked hanging out with everyone" and others said they "liked making new friends". Larissa Graber commented that she would participate in an Adriel Game Day again because "the boys were fun to hang out with and are very lively spirited". And Stephen Hostetler said that he "learned that Adriel is a place for kids to live when they can't live with their parents and that my parents used to work there!"

A big thank you to all of you at Bethel who supported the Game Day by donating money, which was used to purchase several games, and all of the games that were donated. The games were left at Adriel for the youth we met and we know they will receive many hours of enjoyment and learning through those games. We would also like to thank the staff at Adriel who we met that day and who provide wonderful support and guidance for the Adriel youth, A final extra-big thank you to Erin Dye, who was instrumental in helping set up the Game Day and did a wonderful job of coordinating and leading the events of the day.

Mennonite Women "Season of Celebration"

By Donna Lehman

This group has met four times since the last Newsletter report in December. We had some very special times together; mostly because the winter months are times of celebration. December was 'potluck' time and a group was busy in the kitchen icing/decorating Christmas cut-out cookies (thanks to Jan Smucker) which were given to Adriel, Homework Help and a group at Mac-A-Cheek. It was also a special time to give Beth and Dave Maurer a baby quilt for their newborn son, Silas. Later, in our meeting, we shared Christmas memories.

At our January meeting, we had 'Stone Soup' which was a pot of delicious soup made from a cup of vegetables

brought by each of those in attendance. Miriam Headings shared her Life's Journey.

In February, we met on Valentine's Day and we enjoyed pizza, salads (those with last names A through P brought salads) and Barb Schultz shared in her 'Reflections.' Then, came March—a time of greening, both indoors and out. Outdoors it was spring, and indoors decorations denoted St. Patrick's Day. This was also a special time because spouses were invited over the noon hour to join in our potluck lunch. This was a first and an enjoyable time of fellowship and sharing our food line of plenty. Barb Kauffman shared about her 'Life's Journey.'

At these meetings, there was an average attendance of 26; 7 comforters were completed, 1 quilt, 7 health kits, and 7 newborn kits.

Kauffman's Adventure with SOOP

The Mashularible Dormitory near Mashulaville, in East Central Mississippi, was the location of a four week (SOOP) voluntary service assignment for Byron and Barbara Kauffman.

Their work involved participating in various community outreach programs as well as maintenance and cleaning jobs such as:

- tutoring children after school three times a week
- assisting with GED classes three times a week
- playing Bingo one afternoon a week with residents at a nursing home in Macon
- assisting with preparation and delivery of fish or children meals each Saturday in the Mashulaville neighborhood
- painting one bedroom and cleaning eight bedrooms and two bathrooms
- maintaining the fire in a wood burning stove in the Dormitory
-

The outreach programs at the dormitory were conceived and are administrated by Larry and Maxine Miller, long time residents of Mashulaville. In addition to these

programs, they offer summer activities for many children, plant a large garden, and take their produce to a Farmers Market, and mentor several youth.

Churches attended while in Mississippi were a Mennonite Church, a Black Baptist Church, and a Choctaw Native American Mennonite Church.

This experience provided the Kauffmans with a change from their usual routine, an opportunity to travel, increased awareness of the effects of racial prejudices and the joy of serving others.

Mashulaville Dormitory is a 17 room facility in east-central Mississippi. It is a house of hospitality with 25 single beds and shared bathrooms”



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The F5: an evening of success!

By Rick Stoner



Within any church family, those times that we can come together and share the joy of laughter and fellowship with each other are rich times that build lasting memories. Well, this year's French, Fun, Food, and Fellowship with Friends (F5) was definitely one of those times. The evening began with an excellent French meal prepared by head chef Chris Longenecker. Chris was assisted in the kitchen by a team of "sous chefs" including: Randy and Marla Longenecker, Ellen Steiner, and Cheryl Shank. The crepes were prepared by a team of pastry chefs: Annie Steiner, Savannah Hostetler, and Becky Wilkins. The delicious five course meal included: onion tartlets, shrimp, lentils and pork roast, salad, cheese and bread, and crepes for dessert. The ambiance for the meal was provided by Kath Robinaugh, who did an excellent job with the decorations and Cheryl Shank, who provided the music; although I kept forgetting to turn it on. The meal was served by a world class team of servers too.

During the intermission between the meal and auction, people had the opportunity to test out their building

skills by attempting to build replicas of the Eiffel Towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows. Some people tried to build elaborate structures, while other Eiffel Towers looked more like the Leaning Tower. And still others took this time to roast their marshmallows in the candle fire. In the end the youth judges selected the team of Mark Kauffman, Janet Wilkins, Paul and Linda Hostetler, and Dennis and Tara Sanford as the winning team.

Following the building contest, the craziness of the auction began. This year the auction was expanded to include craft items as well as food items and even whole meals. And, as usual we had a silent auction table too. This year saw the return of Willie Yoder as the auctioneer. The bidding was intense at times with family bid offs. We even had people going under tables to "persuade" people to bid higher.

Overall, the evening was a great success, as we raised \$3,819! Thank you to all those who helped in putting on the meal and auction. Thank you to all those who came out and participated in the meal and auction. Thank you to all who donated or made items for the auction. ***This is truly a generous and loving community and I thank God that I'm part of it!***

Bethel Youth take on the Challenge of Science Olympiad

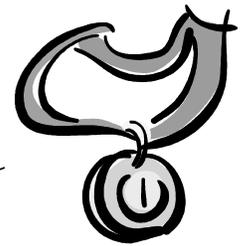
By Annie Steiner

The way our main coach describes Science Olympiad is where you go and you spend a day taking several college level tests and whoever does the best gets medals or ribbons. For Science Olympiad, I am signed up for the following events: Optics, which is about light, lenses, and mirrors; Keep the Heat, a test on thermodynamics (the study of heat); Road Scholar, which is working with road maps and topographical maps; Write It Do It, an event where you have 2 people, a writer and a doer, the writer writes about how to build a model which the doer then tries to build without seeing the model; and Towers, where you build a wooden tower before the event, and then try to see if it can hold a bucket of sand while being very light and very tall. The best towers weigh about 7-9 grams and hold a 15 kg bucket of sand without breaking. My best memory of Science Olympiad would be at the New Albany Invitational where my partner and I beat some of the best teams in the USA to get a 1st place medal in Road Scholar. We

beat the second place team by one point. In Towers, we then got a 2nd place medal. I will do Science Olympiad next year because I have been participating in it since 6th grade and really enjoy it.

Bethel Youth Becky Wilkins and Trace Robinaugh also participated in Science Olympiad. Becky and Annie were occasionally partners in Towers, and Becky also participated in Forestry. Trace Robinaugh participated in Bottle Rockets.

The Junior High team competed in the Regional Tournament March 17th and qualified for the State Tournament *April 28th!*



Guess Who's Came to Dinner?

By Mary Newcomer

Sunday evening, March 4, many surprise guests arrived for dinner at the homes of Bethel hosts/hostesses... but everyone had a great time.

Byron and Barb Kauffman hosted Bill and Carole Barrett, Ken and Jeanette Hostetler, and Jerry and Barb Landes. The guests were taught a new grace before being served a delicious meal of spinach salad, quiche, cranberry sauce, muffins and jam. The meal concluded with a frozen dessert, coffee, tea, and lively conversation enjoyed by all.

Dennis and Sharon Showalter hosted Rick and Jessica Stoner, Janet and Becky Wilkins, and Neil and Peggy Wirick. They dined on a delicious meal of Asian salad with chicken, and a variety of breads to dip in olive oil with herbs. For dessert they had fruit with yogurt and meringue cookies with coffee and tea...along with enjoyable conversation.

Dave and Sarah Hostetler hosted Roy and Ruby Byler and Steve and Miriam Lapp. The meal consisted of several Blue Jacket Dairy cheeses, olives, chicken casserole, a jellied fruit salad, ice cream and cookies.

Rodney and Lela Faye Graber and family hosted Barb Evans, Tom and Natalie Evans, Shirley King, Dick and Nellie Lindemer, KJ Schrock, Chuck and Jeanie Swartz, Dave and Beth Maurer and children. Compliments went to the cook (cooks?) for a wonderful meal of seasoned chicken breast, mixed rice, broccoli, corn, and fruit salad.

Tasty gluten free gingerbread cake, and gluten free jam-filled cookies that Beth Maurer made, capped this feast. The guests were in a couple of dining groups and enjoyed getting to know each other better in a very comfortable setting.

Art and Mary Newcomer hosted Mary Kay King and the families of Todd and Dena Hostetler and Doug and Ellen Steiner. They dined on pulled pork sandwiches, tossed salad, pickles, chips, applesauce, and chocolate pound cake with vanilla ice cream.

Carl and Elaine Newcomer surprised their guests... Jim and Kay Burkett, Dave and Michelle Link, and Bill and Eleanor Shumaker... when they presented the authentic chef in their kitchen, their son-in-law Ramon Lianez. Ramon fixed and served up a five course Irish meal for them, including warm Irish soda bread with dried cranberries and white raisins, chicken and herb flavored soup, salad with a "divine" egg dressing, Colcannon (a scrumptious Irish potato dish), "popper" sausages, glazed carrots, and for dessert warm, glazed apple cake garnished with blueberries and strawberries. All this was accompanied with strawberry lemonade and a special peach drink. Ramon's capable server was his son Cory. In stimulating conversation over dinner they learned that Bill and Michelle are cousins once removed; that Ramon is scheduled to cook for Les Wexner and that he has won national awards for his ice and food sculptures; and that Logan Link has a promising job as graduate assistant in Purdue's sports department.

Family Renewal Sabbatical Plans

By Pastor Dave Maurer

This summer from June 1-August 31, I will be on Sabbatical. "The essence of sabbatical is rooted in the Hebrew word sabbat and the biblical traditions surrounding it." This of course connects to weekly Sabbath, to leaving the land fallow every seventh year, and to the year of Jubilee. "Sabbath keeping values our ability to rest and not merely our ability to work. When we keep the Sabbath, we live in God's economy, where our purpose is not production but play. In keeping Sabbath, we measure ourselves by a different yardstick."¹ As the son of a workaholic father, this is both a challenging and essential discipline for me.

And of course, we see the practice of Sabbath modeled in Jesus' life. "He retreated to the wilderness for forty days after his baptism, and during the course of his ministry, he often went away to pray and to gain strength in silence and meditation on mountaintops and by lakesides."¹ I strive to follow this model by taking my weekly Sabbath on Mondays and by taking a quarterly retreat day. Things come up that adjust this at times, but these serve as the markers of this discipline in my life. Now I am coming to an extended period of Sabbath rest.

The primary purposes of



this time are family renewal with my wife and children and to create space for an extended period of Sabbath and personal renewal. An additional piece of this sabbatical will be to have space to learn more about our congregational history.

The year 2015 will mark Bethel's 125th birthday. With this milestone coming up, now seems like a good time to do some additional study of our congregation's history and to give focused attention both to how we might mark this time together and to how God might be inviting us to build upon this foundation in the years to come.

My family and I are also making plans for a mixture of things to do together and space for my own personal reflection and self care. We have plans for a camping trip, attending family camp at Luz, and several day trips. We are very excited about these. Additionally I am making plans for a week at the beginning and another week at the end of the summer for extended times of silence and solitude. On Sundays when we are in the area, I plan to attend other local congregations for worship.

As we approach this time for family and personal renewal, I trust that the congregation will also benefit from space to use various gifts God has given us. We are blessed to have Pastor Rick available to assist with covering many of my responsibilities and James Lochridge will be completing his ministry internship among us this summer as well. More details about all of these arrangements will be coming as the time draws nearer. If you have any questions or concerns related to the Sabbatical, please feel free to contact me, Dave Link, Sharon Showalter, or Carl Newcomer

¹ *Clergy Renewal: the Alban guide to sabbatical planning* A. Richard Bullock and Richard J. Brueschoff pg. 1-2

James Lochridge Summer Internship at Bethel

This summer we look forward to seeing a lot more of James Lochridge as he will be completing his youth ministry internship at Bethel. James is working on a Youth Ministry degree at Bluffton University and gaining experience through an internship is part of his studies. Doing this at Bethel feels like the perfect combination of maintaining our connection to James, making it possible for James to continue working his current job through the

summer, allowing James to use his gifts for ministry and assisting Pastor Rick while Pastor Dave is on Sabbatical. Most weeks James will be in town on Wednesdays and Sundays from June 1 – August 19, 2012. Some of his responsibilities will include teaching the Jr. High S.S. class, assisting with worship, assisting with Wednesday evening events, planning and leading the Junior High camp out, and leading music at VBS. We look forward to this time of ministering together.

Holy Week Events



Thursday, April 5th	6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 6th	6:30pm Community Good Friday Service
Sunday, April 8th	8:00am Sunrise Service
	9:00 am Breakfast
	10:40am Worship including Easter Pageant

Book Review: In God We Don't Trust by David Bercot By Donna Risner

While reading Mennonite Weekly Review, I was intrigued by a review of a book titled "In God We Don't Trust". It was downloaded to my Kindle and devoured. What an enlightening and fresh look at the history of our country! While homeschooling our children, it was a task in itself to present material with an unbiased account of Colonial America. This book is the answer to accurate information. Without being 'anti-American', Mr. Bercot presents, with reference, the way in which many colonists chose their way over that of God's.

I highly recommend this book and pray we will use it as a reminder of our natural tendencies to do things "our way" rather than following the way of Christ.

Looking Back in Time...

25 Years Ago (Spring 1987)

Roy and Ruby Byler were serving several months in VS in Brownsville, TX.

The Quiz Team was active (Book of Romans); Matt Schloneger, Todd Hostetler, Steve Rabenstein, Mike Farley, and Bradley Kauffman

Ken and Cheryl Shank were serving a 2 year Voluntary Service term (MCC) at The House of Friendship in Montreal, Canada. (Cheryl taught languages to refugees, Ken was in maintenance)

The Bethel youth were active doing projects for funds for Purdue '87 Mennonite Conference

The local Mennonite Churches had a Missions Weekend at South Union with various missionary speakers

On May 3rd, The King's Daughters and Men (23 all together) visited Sam and Eleanor Swartz's Zanesfield Church, (Community Chapel) where Sam was ministering. Then two weeks later, joined the Swartz family at Bethel in celebration of Sam's 75th birthday.

20 Years Ago (Spring 1992)

Bethel was in a time of transition. Our Pastors, Weldon and Florence Schloneger were moving to a new pastorate in Meadows, IL as of January 26th. There was a Search Committee put in place to find a replacement. The first Sunday in May, we had a 'Get Acquainted Sunday' with new pastoral candidate, Ben Eberly and wife, Martha.

A new organ was purchased for the church—so, Happy 20th Birthday to our Allen organ! This was purchased basically through donations, etc. Our organists through those years have been Pat Yoder, Gene Farley, and Bill Barrett.

Bethel had two quiz teams studying the Book of Mark. These teams were Natalie Lehman, Betsy Lapp, Chris Longenecker, Daniel Showalter and Ben Trost. Lee Edwards, Mark Landes, and Matt Trost.

The Gemeinschaft Singers (local choral group under direction of Byron Kauffman) was recruiting singers for a tour in Europe in June.

Sam J. Plank's SS Class (5th and 6th grade) had a roller skating party for the church at Indian Lake's Rink; 43 attended and had a fun time!

Greenhouse in Operation By Jerry Landes

The Greenhouse at Adriel is full of green flowers and vegetables, with new plants popping up all the time. The first seeds were planted in late January, and more seeds were planted each week. Students at Adriel and Mac-A-Cheek have worked at planting seeds in small containers and then transplanting the plants in packs to be sold. We also purchase plants in plugs that need to be transplanted as well.

You are welcome to visit the greenhouse and purchase plants (instructions for purchasing plants are in the greenhouse). We have many vegetables, flowers, containers, and hanging baskets. The greenhouse is generally open from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm or later. You may also contact Jerry Landes for a time to come to the green house.



West Liberty Hosts Bible Quizzing Tournament

Over 600 youth and adults were in town the last weekend, March 23-25th for the annual Bible Quizzing Tournament. Youth from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and West Virginia traveled in. Bethel hosted teams in their homes and made desserts for Saturday's lunch. This was Savannah Hostetler's first year on a team. Only a short 25 years after her dad competed! (see Looking Back In Time...)



April Birthdays

2 – Jacob Shank
 3 – Christy Headings
 5 – Maddie Thomas
 6 – Carole Barrett
 6 – Roger Headings
 9 – Mark Thomas
 18 – Jeff Hooper
 18 – Karl Z. Smith
 19 – Victoria Early
 22 – Kip Louden
 23 – Kristyn Horn
 23 – Ashley Rabenstein
 24 – Bill Hooper
 24 – Annie Steiner
 28 – Carl Newcomer
 29 – Rebekah Snyder
 29 – Mike Roberts
 30 – Heidi Webb

Planting in the Community Garden is just around the corner!

Are you interested in gardening but just don't have the yard space? Maybe you're an experienced gardener: would you be willing to work along side those who are just starting their gardening career? Last year Adriel hosted the Community Garden with 13 plots. We are even more excited for what this year will bring! Sign ups for plots anywhere from 5X5 to 10X20 will be available soon. Contact Erin Dye with interest and questions.



April and May Wedding Anniversaries

April 5, 1997 – Mary & Bob Psolla
 April 12, 1980 – Bridget & Randy Early
 April 13, 1969 – Donna & Dan Risner
 April 14, 1957 – Janice & Bob Rabenstein
 April 20, 1996 – Janet & Joe Wilkins
 April 27, 1996 – Dena & Todd Hostetler
 April 30, 1994 – Sandy & Steve Rabenstein
 May 1, 1960 – Hilda & Wilfred Yoder
 May 8, 1993 – Kathy & Gary Lehman
 May 10, 1992 – Ellen & Doug Steiner
 May 18, 1958 – Donna & Joel Lehman
 May 27, 2000 – Christy & Roger Headings
 May 27, 2000 – Beth & Dave Maurer

May Birthdays

1 – Andy Steiner
 1 – Ken Hostetler
 3 – James Hostetler
 4 – Mark Kauffman
 5 – Shirley King
 6 – Tessa Frye
 8 – Paul Hostetler
 10 – Jack Yoder
 13 – Joel Lehman
 14 – Miles Hostetler
 14 – Larry Evans
 15 – Dale Wirick
 18 – Terri Steiner
 18 – Peggy Wirick
 19 – Savannah Hostetler
 20 – Ruth Yoder
 26 – Mary Jean Horn
 28 – Mary K. King
 28 – Dan Risner
 29 – Ben Hooper
 29 – Kathy Norviel
 29 – Hilda Yoder
 30 – Jordy Robinaugh

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We're on the web!
 Check out:
 bethelchurchwl.org



Your business tag line

This newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December by the Administrative Assistant.

Its purpose is three-fold:

-Inform the church about events

-Acquaint persons who attend Bethel with each other

-Inspire us to Christ-like living