



Maurer Family Renewal Sabbatical

By Pastor Dave Maurer

Beginning June 1st, I will be on a three month Family Renewal Sabbatical. As you know, Sabbath rest is something that God commanded in the Old Testament and that Jesus regularly practiced in his ministry. While the call to ministry is one that is filled with joys and blessings, holy moments and deep connections; it is also one that is 24/7 rather than 9 to 5. Even during “off hours,” there is often still a sense of being “on.”

This time away from the weekly responsibilities of ministry at Bethel including meetings, worship services and administration is intended to be an opportunity for personal and family renewal. It is a chance to step back, take a breath, connect with family and gain perspective. It is a chance to spend focused time in prayer and spiritual reading as well as an opportunity to look more deeply at our congregational history in preparation for our 125th year in 2015. And it will provide space to attend to my physical well being and some household projects. It is a chance to pause before plunging into another block of years of ministry together.

Given the age of our family, much of our time will be spent locally with day trips here and there. We will worship together and experience how other congregations worship. Additionally, I will spend a week in early June at the Hermit-

age in Michigan where I will have some time of silence and solitude. In July, we will take a family camping trip to Hocking Hills. And in August, I will have a week at the Abby in Gethsemane, a monastery in Kentucky where Thomas Merton spent significant time.

While I am out of the office, Pastor Rick, James Lochridge, and many of you will be filling in, for which I am deeply grateful. James’ focus will be mostly on youth ministry, VBS and worship.

While these three months will provide needed space for me and for my family, I trust that they will also provide important opportunities for Rick and James in their ministry journeys as they have opportunities to minister in different ways. Moreover, I trust that this time will also provide meaningful space for others in the congregation to follow God’s calling and to use their gifts. We believe in the priesthood of all believers, yet it is all too

easy to become too “pastor focused” in our approach to ministry. While we attempt to create regular opportunities for many people to be involved in ministry at Bethel, my time away will create additional spaces.

My time of sabbatical rest will begin with a time of blessing during the worship service on June 3rd. It will conclude on August 31st with a re-commissioning to follow during the worship service on September 2nd. Until then, I invite your prayers for me and for my family. I also invite you to check out my blog: thequest.blogspot.com for updates throughout the summer of what we will be up to.

“I trust that this time will also provide meaningful space for others in the congregation to follow God’s calling and to use their gifts...”
Pastor Dave

Here is who you may contact this summer with questions related to...

- Preaching and Worship: Rick, James and the Ministry of Worship
- Administration: Rick, Erin and Dave Link
- Crisis Visitation: Rick and Chuck Swartz (especially while Rick is on the Mission trip to Montreal) Pastoral Care Team will continue to make regular visits.
- Funerals: Rick
- Brotherhood Fund: Rick and the elders
- Community Cares Fund: Rick and Kim Lehman
- Prayer Chain: Rick, Erin, the elders: Sharon and Carl

College Graduates: Esther and Lane

Esther Shank

- Graduated from Eastern Mennonite University
- Bachelors of Arts degree in English and Secondary Education with a minor in writing; graduated Suma Cum Lauda and also received the Best Academics award from the Language and Literature department.
- A few of her highlights were working with her professors, her cross cultural trip to India, and getting to know Stewart
- Her immediate future includes planning for a wedding this summer, and she and Stewart will move back to Harrisonburg January 2013. He will join the Masters of Counseling program. Esther is debating joining the Masters of Fine Arts program for Poetry or go into an Applied Linguistics graduate program.

Reflecting on attending a Mennonite college: “I found it to be a great place to have questions. EMU does a wonderful job of opening space for questions and dialogue about a lot of tough issues, and while many of those issues never get resolved, I have been so glad for that space over the last 4 years.”

Advice to high school graduates—

On choosing a school: “Choose the university that you feel fits you the best and makes you feel at home. When you graduate, you will not be the same person you were when you entered college, but if you choose the university that makes you feel the most comfortable, you will flourish and discover many new things about yourself and the world.”

On how to be successful in college: “Find a schedule that works for you, keeping priorities straight, and budgeting your time wisely.”

Lane Thomas

- Graduated from Goshen College
- Bachelors degree in Interdisciplinary: Sociology, Bible and Religion, Conflict Transformation Studies
- Her highlights were unique classes, meeting international students, out of the classroom experiences Alterna Spring Break Trip, CPT conferences, Participation in a Chapels, music and theater events.
- She is currently working at as a waitress at a Japanese Steakhouse called Washabi in Goshen and living in a beautiful farm house with roommates
- She has gone through the interview process with MVS in hopes of finding placements in immigration
- Her future goals include paying off student loans, working in immigration, and working towards fluency in Spanish.

Reflecting on attending a Mennonite college: “It has really helped me to question, question, question and seek, seek, seek. I’ve been especially grateful for various Conflict and Religion courses that pushed me to consider some really difficult issues in light of my faith. It has also helped me to locate more adults who are living admirably and actively in response to their faiths and for the maturation of faith that came through taking an Islam course and connecting with Muslim students.”

Advice to high school graduates—On choosing a school:

“Remember that going to college is a huge privilege and not always a given! Develop the criteria of aspects of a college that you deem most important. You do not HAVE TO graduate with college debt! If that is an objective of yours, start saving for college, look for scholarships, and seek paid internships during the summers between years of college.” **On how to be successful in college:** “I think a huge mark of success is that you leave college having a better sense of who you are and where you’re headed, and that you have truly LEARNED in ways that have changed you for the better---motivating you to make helpful contributions in the world and to expand your perspectives.”

We pray God's blessings upon the Rodney and Lela Faye Graber family as they move to Virginia this summer

High School Graduate: Patrick Graber

- Son of Rodney and Lela Faye Graber; Brother to Liesl and Larissa
- Graduating from Ben Logan High School
- **High School Activities:** Soccer, Cross Country, Track, Robotics, Quizzing, T.E.A.M.S.
- **Summer Plans:** moving with my family to Virginia and keeping up with running
- **Fall Plans:** attending Eastern Mennonite University with an undecided major
- **Favorite Bethel Youth Group Memories:** Convention, Chicago trip, and the Youth House
- **Advice for Bethel:** We were created to serve God. We are all equally blessed, and have all fallen short.
- **The thing Patrick most appreciates about Bethel is *the people.***



Open House Plans:

Saturday, June 2nd 5-8pm at the Graber's home 2864 Co Rd 9, Bellefontaine

Congratulations 2012 grads! Many blessings to you on your journey's!

Bethel Homework Help: Another year of Success!

By Elaine Newcomer

We had a good year at Bethel Homework Help with an enrollment of 15 students. There were four 3rd graders, four 4th graders and seven 5th graders who came every Tues. and Thurs. afternoon from 3-5PM. For the most part, students seemed eager to participate in the program. All students had to be referred by a West Liberty-Salem teacher. One student attended all 3 years (3rd -5th grades). He was indeed, a delightful student all three years and will be greatly missed. Seven students have attended two years.

Following are comments that students made about the program this year:

"It gives me As and Bs on my homework." "You help me do my homework." "I get better grades and I get to see new people and friends." "I get my homework done so I can do what I need to do." "I like it because people are very nice and volunteers were very helpful." "I like all teachers." "I like to be with Mrs. Donna, I like to play, help and learn different things." "I like hanging out with friends." (Several students wrote this) "The helpers are real nice." "I get my homework done, and I see Mr. Shultz, and get better grades."

Students mentioned that their favorite activities were playing outside at break time, playing games, doing math, going to the store, getting off the bus and coming in to a greeting, and putting good effort into my homework. Although no students mentioned snack time as a favorite, they all hungrily devoured the snacks. Store time refers to the afternoon that the students could use their Bethel Bucks to buy items from our Bethel Store. The students could earn up to 5 Bethel Bucks a day for attendance, getting their homework finished and having a good attitude.

Mr. Hollar, the West Liberty-Salem elementary principle sent a letter of thanks for our program. He thinks that it is an asset to the school and is supportive of the program.

Tuesday AM Bible Study

By Sara Ellen Stoltzfus

Surprise, surprise—even in the study of a book of the Bible. This class consistently chooses a book from the Bible for their 9 month study. The past several years we worked in the small New Testament books of James, 1,2,3 John, and 1 and 2 Peter. I am often amazed at what the authors have written or experienced and been willing to share. As students of their work, we tried to discover their passion whether through a letter, autobiography, or shared wisdom. Our final study this year was the Old Testament

Teachers are also thankful for the program. Following are experts from email correspondences with teachers:

"I think your program is outstanding. [Student] needs the reinforcement that is lacking in the home. I look forward to working with you again this coming year." "Thank you for all that you do for the kids! We all appreciate it very much. I know that my [student] wouldn't get much of anything done without your help." "Please know how much we appreciate the help that has been given at Bethel. [Students] are doing much better! They look forward to it and have encouraged other kids to 'join.' Their Tues. and Thurs. homework always looks much better than the other nights. Please pass along my gratitude to your volunteers!!!! Thank you again."

Parents and grandparents were also appreciative of the program. Some comments included: "Bethel Homework helped my child learn to study," "I am thankful for the program," "I want my child to come back again next year," "I saw improvement in his/her grades, and he/she enjoys coming." One grandparent was so thankful that she donated money to the program.

Volunteers ranged in age from high school teens to persons in their 80s. Two high school students Lindsay Hostetler and Ashton Peraza volunteered their time when they were not involved with school activities. Regular volunteers were Ralph and Gloria Schultz, Chuck and Jeanie Swartz, Kay Burkett, Jeanette Hostetler, Miriam Lapp, Michelle Link, Mary Newcomer, Sam Plank, Donna Risner, Rick Stoner (first semester) and Kristi Thompson. Substitute volunteers were Barbara Evans, Natalie Evans, Dave Maurer, Dan Risner, Chris Smucker, and Pat Yoder. Kristi, Sam and Ralph volunteered both Tues. and Thurs.

Dena Hostetler was director of the program and Elaine Newcomer was manager of the program. They extend their thanks to all the volunteers for their Christ-Like attitude as they displayed the fruits of the Spirit to out interesting and energetic band of students. The Lord richly blessed our year!

A note from a WLS teacher:

"Please know how much we appreciate the help that has been given at Bethel. [Students] are doing much better! They look forward to it and have encouraged other kids to 'join.' ... Please pass along my gratitude to your volunteers!!!!"



book of Ecclesiastes. We assumed the 12 chapters were reflections of King Solomon in the older years of his 40 year reign. By tying the book to his biography in 1 Kings 1-11, we saw him as a gifted, wise, respected, honored and architect king. He allowed himself to share his reflections on a life of glory and mistakes that should have ended in peace for himself and posterity. In our small spiral notebooks, we tried writing reflections on our own experiences. What will challenge us next year? By September 18, we will know whether we will study Thessalonians or the Gospel of John.

Thanks to Marla and Erin for their secretarial work, Annabelle who makes sure the room is warm and in order, and Pastor Dave who affirms our work.

Peace and Justice Matters

By Bill Shumaker

Our purpose statement is:

The Purpose of the Peace and Justice Lunch is to live as disciples of Christ who embody Micah 6:8 **“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”**

We do this by...

1. **Discerning** matters that need attention,
2. **Raising awareness** about these matters, and
3. **Facilitating opportunities** to respond to them.

Discerning: Because there is so much suffering and injustice in the world, discerning is crucial for us. Which of the many issues do we make a priority? Recently we have chosen to make human trafficking, modern day slavery, a priority.

Raising awareness: Recently we became aware of the **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center** in Cincinnati and planned a trip there. Originally there were twenty Bethel people interested in going but due to schedule conflicts the list shrunk to seven: Randy Longenecker, Bob and Janice Rabenstein, Dennis and Sharon Showalter,

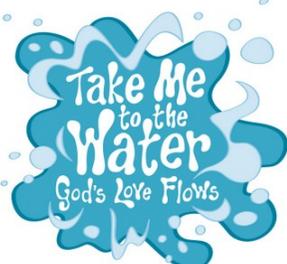
Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women

By Donna Lehman, MW Secretary

This group met in April and May, both busy, well attended meetings (average attendance 25). The April meeting featured a baked potato bar with hostesses, AnnaBelle Hostetler, Linda Roth, and Eleanor Shumaker. At our May meeting, the hostesses provided delicious casseroles and those with the last initials Q through Z brought salads. Hostesses serving for this meal were Jeannette Hostetler, Barb Kauffman, and Nellie Lindemer. The tables were decorated with spring flowers for these meals. We had sharing about Life's Journey from Mary Kay King and Ruth

Bethel Summer Happenings

VBS 2012 Theme



- VBS Monday through Friday June 11-15th 9-11:45am
-VBS program Sunday June 17th
- Youth and Adults to travel to Montreal Friday, June 22nd through Saturday, June 30th
- Bethel Soccer Camp Monday through Thursday July 23rd through 26th 6-8pm

and Bill and Eleanor Shumaker. Our original intention was to learn more about human trafficking. We did learn more about human traf-



ficking but we also became much more aware of the suffering of 19th Century Negro Slavery. By the media of murals, a movie, historical accounts, many quotes and an electronic device we were given a tour of happenings of the history of slavery from their being brought from Africa to America by ship to Reconstruction (attempted reconstruction).

Facilitating opportunities: Although the trip turned out to be learning more about 19th Century, I now come back to the issue human trafficking. For that we will provide a list of what we can do to combat the evil of modern day slavery, human trafficking.

We invite any and all of you to join us at noon in the Bethel Fellowship Room each first and third Tuesday of every month as we discern, raise awareness, and facilitate opportunities to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Yoder; both farm wives but lifetimes of service to community, church, and family.

We will not meet in June because of Bible School, but July will be 'picnic time' with hostesses Kyle VanOsdol, Miriam Headings, Rudelle Matthews, and Mary Kay King.

Work completed: 3-comforters, 900 'Labels for Education' sent to Hopi Indian School, AZ. (We welcome Labels for Education; place in the church mail box of Mary Psolla)



Montreal Trip and Soccer Camp By Pastor Rick Stoner

On June 22, sixteen Bethelites will embark on an epic journey to Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Montreal team includes: Pastor Rick; Patrick and Liesl Graber; Michael Lehman; Doug, Ellen, Alex, and Annie Steiner; Dena and Savannah Hostetler; Janet and Becky Wilkins; Carl and Elaine Newcomer; and Ken and Cheryl Shank. Our journey will be broken up into two days going there and coming back. We will be Mennonitizing our way there and back. On the way there, we are stopping in Floradale, Ontario, where Ellen's family lives. On the way back, we will be stopping at Niagara Falls and then staying the night at Clarence Center-Akron Mennonite Church.

While we are in Montreal, we will be working with a program called Learning thru Service. We will be serving in various organizations throughout Montreal, such as: homeless shelters, food banks, refugee housing, and possibly more construction type work. Also, we will be learning about the poor in the city and what the Church is doing to embody Christ's love there. An important thing that we will have to keep in mind is that God is already working in Montreal and we are joining in with God's kingdom movement. So we will need to keep our eyes and ears open, so we don't miss what God is showing or teaching us.



The Bethel soccer camp is scheduled to run Monday through Thursday July 23-26 from 6-8pm. This year, since Pastor Dave will be on sabbatical, Randy Keeler from Bluffton University has agreed to come and help coach. Randy was the former head men's soccer coach at Bluffton and is now a full time faculty member there in the religion department. In addition to Randy, the other coaches include Pastor Rick, Brody Robinaugh, Alex Dye, and other Bethel members.

Beyond just focusing on soccer skills, this camp is a great opportunity to build relationships with youth in our community. It can be a time to share God's love with the kids and their parents. One way that we are doing that is by being conscious about the soccer balls we purchase for the camp. In an effort to support fair trade goods, we are purchasing fair trade soccer balls for the camp. This means that the soccer balls cost more, but it is a way that we can live out our faith by not oppressing another person through our purchases. We will also be donating money to the West Liberty Soccer Association as a thank you for letting us use their equipment and to support their efforts in teaching soccer to the youth of our community.

You might be wondering how you can get involved. Well, one very important way to get involved is through prayer. We need people to hold up this event in prayer. Pray for the coaches, the youth, and all the people who will help put it together. You could also donate money for soccer balls or snacks for each night. You could help with organizing snacks. If you are a photographer, you could take pictures. Finally, you could come out and mingle with parents. Thanks for all your support!

Maurer Family Looks forward to Summer

Everyone in the family is excited for the sabbatical summer! Check out what they each are most looking forward to:

Elam- "Daddy and I spending time together and going fishing."

Maggie- "Going to the water park and riding our bikes together."



Josiah- "Playing games together like *Star Wars Trouble*."

Silas- "Daddy holding and playing with me" (via Mom)

Beth- "I am looking forward to Dave being around more especially in the evenings. Maybe we will be able to have real conversations this summer!"

Who could you invite to VBS (age 4-6th grade) or Soccer camp (K-5)?
Spread the word to your friends and family!

Registrations forms can be found at www.bethelchurchwl.org!

Article reprinted from the Spring edition of *Adriel Action* **Check out this story, our Wellness Initiative, and Going Green on the bulletin board!**

By Erin Dye

Greetings supporters and friends of Adriel! I'm excited to share how the Lord has been working on our campus and how your prayers are making an impact. Thinking about Spring, I am reminded of last year at this time and how baptism became a buzzword around campus. Two separate youth approached me about getting baptized, and it surely had to have been the Spirit. Now a year later, things have come full circle. By the end of this month, we will have had NINE baptisms! What I thought might have just been a random occurrence has turned into a powerful witness for the Lord. We have a three session foundational class offered to youth interested in baptism and



provide a way for these youth to be baptized into a supporting Church family. At a youth's baptism, we invite adults and fellow youth he or she feels are an example of Christ or close to them. At the service,

everyone shares words of encouragement and affirmation. From a youth's initial interest through the baptism, every step is incredible. I feel blessed to share in their spiritual journeys. In striving to provide the guidance in these matters, I am currently in the licensing process with the Mennonite Church.

Here are some of the responses in our foundational class to the question:

"How does baptism change your life?"

"You're making a commitment to God, and you have faith you're going to make a change in your life" –Brook, age 16

"If you make a commitment, God will be with you in your problems to lead you." –Angel, age 17

"I focus on the all the good in my life, and I've straightened up. [Baptism] is putting me on the right path." –Wade, age 16, after his baptism

Notes from Bethel Historian, Donna Lehman

June 15-27, 1992 (20 years ago) A group of about 27 people took a 'Tour Imagination' trip to Europe (Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria). This was basically a trip for a choral group, under the leadership of Byron Kauffman, known as the Gemeinschaft Singers (German for 'Community'). The choir numbered about 18 and others in the group were family members. After 20 years, here are what some of the travelers remember about the adventure:

Janet Wilkins- was fascinated by the well kept 'old' buildings; to this day remembers some of the German words to some of the music; singing in the beautiful cathedrals, hearing cowbells, watching birds that were somewhat different than ours and the flowers (tulips) on the mountains.

Dennis and Sharon Showalter (also Daniel and Heather)-getting lost in Strasbourg...hence the writing the song "Bye, Bye, Bus!"; chiming church bells and the Swiss cowbells; beautiful flowers in the Zollikon Church; and Bob Rabenstein, who did a re-enactment of the Georg Blaurock interrupting the Church service (you'll have to ask!).

Marla Longenecker-singing together in the Swiss and German Churches of our Mennonite 'Gemeinschaft,' and the occasional rendition of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" as familiarly 'Page 606.' We did this in a school for special needs children in Alsace, Lorraine, and in a majestic Cathedral in a German town.

Randy Longenecker-the sound of our singing in a cathedral and the expression of appreciation from the other tourists there; the mist and isolated sound of cowbells surrounding Traxelwald, a prison for Anabaptists; the beauty of the Austrian Alps and the City of Salzburg; communicating with our halting German with the Rothlisburger family with whom we stayed in Switzerland; the glee on young Alan Kauffman's face as he watched me sample our host's home-brewed beer!

Bob and Janice Rabenstein (also Anne)-the day that most of the group went to Salzburg, we rented a car to find the village of Rabenstein, Germany. Well, we found it, but it was only about 6-8 hours with no business except for a Bed and Breakfast. Then, we almost missed the tour bus because of rental car delays. (Anne wanted to come away with the Rabenstein Village sign, but needless to say, Bob questioned her moral standing on this, so she backed down!)

Byron Kauffman-singing in the various churches and visiting the places where the Anabaptists lived, worshiped and his from their captors.

Barb Kauffman-visiting the Cathedrals and singing to small crowds who gathered to listen.

Continued on the next page...

'Historian' continued...

Don Hertzler-remembers good lunches of breads, cheeses, and cold cuts, fruits and cookies; a walk around Strasburg looking for the bus (good exercise!); he and Evie celebrated their 32nd anniversary on the trip; so he has a recording of the group singing 'I Dream of Evie with the Light Brown Hair!'; good memories of a time with 'community.'

Carl and Elaine Newcomer-remember walking down a small mountain in Switzerland and hearing some accordion music. As we came into the clearing we saw an accordion quartet playing their accordions. We stopped and listened to the beautiful music. Another memory is Carl helping our tour guide Arnold find our lost bus parking place. Arnold couldn't remember where it was parked. Carl came to the rescue.

Almost everyone mentioned as a highlight visiting the cave-and singing-where the Anabaptists hid from their captors.

**June Birthdays**

6- Daniel Wirick
6- Lindsay Hostetler
13- Eleanor Swartz
18- KJ Shrock
21- Sam C. Plank
26- Suzan Hooper
25- Barbara Landes
26- Sara Ellen Stoltzfus

July Birthdays

3- Julia Yoder
10- Ella Mae Kauffman
12- Jeff Steiner
13- Alex Steiner
13- Brody Robinaugh
17- Ruby Byler
18-Mary Yoder
19- Miriam Lapp
20- Hayden Sanford
20- Sharon Showalter
21- Esther Shank
23- Darin Robinaugh
25- Elaine Newcomer
25- Madelyn Sanford
27- Beth Maurer
29- Randy Early
30- Dena Hostetler
30- Doug Steiner

June and July Wedding Anniversaries

JUNE

2	1979	Dave and Michelle Link
3	1955	Bill and Eleanor Shumaker
3	1972	Dennis and Sharon Showalter
7	1975	Larry and Suzanne Horner
12	1952	Ken and Jeanette Hostetler
15	1996	Darryl and Missy Snyder
16	1990	Tim and Pam Lehman
20	1981	John and Ann Thornburg
21	1975	Randy and Marla Longenecker

JULY

6	1980	Neil and Peggy Wirick
8	1989	Rodney and Lela Faye Graber
18	1964	Carl and Elaine Newcomer
21	1979	Greg and Jane Core Thomas
23	1965	Chuck and Jeanie Swartz
27	1968	Mike and Rita Roberts

Bethel Mennonite Church

416 Washington St.
PO Box 549
West Liberty, OH 43357

Email Addresses:
Pastor Dave Maurer
bethelpastor@2access.net

Pastor Rick Stoner
bethelyp@2access.net

Administrative Assistant,
Erin Dye
secretary@2access.net

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

*Purpose of our Newsletter*

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