

# Bethel Mennonite Church

*Celebrating 125 Years*

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June 2015

## Newsletter

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## What are you looking forward to at Convention?

By Cheryl Shank, Youth Pastor

Convention is fast approaching! Kansas City here we come! Below are responses from the youth about what they are most looking forward to at Convention this year.

"I'm excited to head to KC for the convention, I have never gone to convention before so I'm not 100% sure what to expect, but I am sure I will have a good time. I'm looking forward to listening to speakers that I have already heard about." - Daniel Lehman

"I'm looking forward to a lot of things at convention. I'm excited to explore a new city because that's fun. I'm excited for the worship services and I'm also excited to explore the convention center because there is always stuff to do." -Michael Lehman

"I am looking forward to riding on a train. I have never taken a train to a destination. Also, it will be nice to explore new parts of the country. I expect Kansas City to look a lot different from West Liberty. As for the Convention itself, I don't know what to expect, since I've never attended one before. I hope it's not sitting around tables talking and drinking coffee, because I don't like coffee!" -Stephen Hostetler

"I am looking forward to Youth Convention in Kansas City. I think traveling by train will be a fun experience. I am excited to participate in the corporate worship services, especially the music! Also, I find it fun to meet and chat with people from all over the country. Our differences, yet commonalities, are always fascinating to me!" -Savannah Hostetler

"When I think about convention I look forward to going to the worship services, the singing and the speakers are always great. I am also looking forward to the delicious food that we will eat while we are there. I am also looking forward to the train ride out to Kansas City, stopping at Chicago will be awesome!" - Becky Wilkins

I am looking forward to traveling with the youth to Kansas City the end of June. We have been planning and preparing for this trip for quite a long time. I appreciate all of the support you, as a congregation, have shown to us through donations, prayers, words of encouragement, etc. We have about met our goal. Stepping out in faith and relying on God to make this experience happen not only keeps us humble, but also shows how we are all one body in Christ. I pray that the youth will be challenged in their faith walk; that they will see signs of His presence in the city and while we work at the service project; and that they will bring smiles of Jesus' presence to each other and those they meet at the convention. I love seeing the different individuals from all parts of the states coming together and sharing what they believe. Sometimes I can be so comfortable in what I believe that I subconsciously block out new ways for God to speak and lead. I pray that I will not only be 'fed' but that my words and actions will bring a new awareness of God to others.

On a side note, I am really looking forward to the train ride, trying new places to eat, and hearing Shane Claiborne. -Cheryl



## Announcements:

- ♦ **Community Movie Night** is scheduled for Sunday, June 14h at 7:30 pm. Movie TBA
- ♦ **The Black Swamp Festival** is June 19 & 20 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Wauseon, Ohio. This is a family fesitval supporting the work of Sunshine communities and the Mennonite Central Committee. Activities include a silent auction, musical performances, quilt displays, peppet show, a 5k run, an Oozeball Tournament, and much more. For more on the festival, see the brochure on the bulletin board, or go to [www.blackswampbenefit.org](http://www.blackswampbenefit.org) .

## Sunday School Observations from the Youth

### Cheryl Shank

Recently in Sunday School I was concluding the lessons of ‘pre-convention’ studies on the Emmaus Road. I asked the youth to think about this question: “Which Jesus do you want to see?”, and to put themselves in the place of the 2 men walking on the road with Jesus.

Here is what each youth had to say:

“I would like to see Jesus...”

- as a teacher. I want to learn from a new perspective
- as a friend. I want to see Him working through others and the influence Jesus has on their lives
- as a healer. I want Him to listen and help resolve some of the problems I am dealing with.
- as “2 thumbs up”. I want to feel acknowledged that I am doing something right.
- as He wants to be seen. I want to be open to seeing Jesus and the path He has for me.
- as a forgiver. I want to remember that He forgives me.
- as a guardian. He keeps me from doing what I shouldn’t be doing. He keeps Satan out of my life.

My acronym for EMMAUS, that I came up with after our study.

E = encourage us in our walk

M = memorable experience

M = meeting us

A = along the way

U = useful understanding to what our story is and opening our eyes

S = sudden awareness.... silent journey, companions, an awakening



## Bethel Oak Grove Mennonite Women Report

### by Donna Lehman

This group met on May 12th with 18 attending. We each brought sack lunches, but Lydia King and Barbara Kauffman topped these off with a delicious frozen strawberry dessert and candy treats.

We remembered with cards two of our group who we are missing-Mary Yoder and Eleanor Shumaker.

In sharing, Miriam Lapp had an ‘asparagus giveaway’; birthdays were remembered and Jeanie Swartz thanked those who helped with food for Ruth (Hostetler) Craig’s funeral luncheon. It was much appreciated by the family-some traveled from Indiana. Mary Psolla recommended the book “One Light Still Shines” written by the wife of the Amish Nickle Mine shooting. Susie Krabill shared devotions: “Practicing Presence-Positive Regards’ based on Jesus’ words from the Sermon on the Mount regarding good and bad/right and wrong; but we have a forgiving Heavenly Father who we can call upon to help us through these situations. 2 baby comforters and 3 newborn kits were completed. There is no June meeting due to Bible School.

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**Youth Pastor: Cheryl Shank**

**Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan**

**Next Newsletter Deadline: June 20, 2015**

# “Forbearance”

by Pastor Dave Maurer

According to [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com), the word forbearance means...

1. The act of forbearing; a refraining from something.
2. Forbearing conduct or quality; patient endurance; self-control.
3. An abstaining from the enforcement of a right.
4. A creditor's giving of indulgence after the day originally fixed for payment.

In the NIV, forbearance appears among the fruits of the spirit though many of us use the word patience in its place.

It also appears in Romans 2:3-4,

“So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”

And in Romans 3:24-26

“and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

Thus in scripture forbearance seems to be a quality of Christ that we are to emulate or a fruit of the spirit that grows in us. But why all this talk about forbearance? It is for one simple reason.

This summer Mennonite Church USA will gather for their bi-annual convention in Kansas City June 30-July 5. And while we are gathered, the delegates will consider five resolu-

tions. These resolutions may be found at <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/delegate-resources/> and one of the resolutions is titled “Resolution on Forbearance in the Midst of Difference.”

As a delegate for Bethel who will be a part of these discussions, I am trying to better understand what it means to forbear. I’ve heard of the term before; but I’m not sure that I really understand what it means, let alone how we practice this as “the church.” Moreover, how do we practice this in times of division and strong differences? The resolution offers some background and then the following...

“The ways in which we have engaged the decades-long conflict in the church over issues related to human sexuality have diverted us from our central mission, divided us from each other and damaged the name of Christ in the world. While acknowledging different interpretations, we affirm the centrality of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture as an essential part of our collective discernment. We also affirm the goodness of marriage, singleness, celibacy, sexual intimacy within a marriage covenant, and fidelity for all people, and we acknowledge that there is currently not consensus within

Mennonite Church USA on whether it is appropriate to bless Christians who are in same-sex covenantal unions. Because God has called us to seek peace and unity as together we discern and seek wisdom on these matters, we call on all those in Mennonite Church USA to offer grace, love and forbearance toward conferences, congregations and pastors in our body who, in different ways, seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ on matters related to same-sex covenantal unions.”

While forbearance is a quality of Jesus for us to emulate and a fruit of the spirit, I struggle to know how we apply it to our present circumstances. It is especially difficult for me when it seems like “one side” is being asked to forbear while the “other side” is permitted to act in ways that

are contrary to our shared agreements on faith and scripture. That is where I find myself. What does it mean to you to forbear? What are real life or real church examples of forbearance? In your opinion, how are we to respond to this resolution? May the Holy Spirit guide our discernment together.



## Be Fruitful!

Galatians 5:22-23

# Noteworthy Dates

## June Anniversaries

June 2, 1979 -- Dave & Michelle Link  
June 3, 1955 -- Bill & Eleanor Shumaker  
June 3, 1972 -- Dennis & Sharon Showalter  
June 7, 1975 -- Larry & Suzanne Horner  
June 12, 1952 -- Ken & Jeanette Hostetler  
June 16, 1990 -- Tim & Pam Lehman

## June Birthdays

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

## Ken Hostetler Marks

### 85th Birthday

Submitted by Donna Lehman

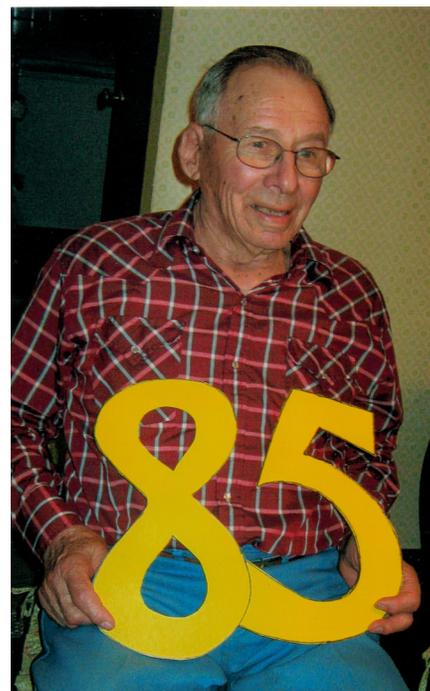
Ken Hostetler recently celebrated a 'special birthday' on May 1, 2015--# 85! We asked Ken about some of his life highlights:

His marriage to Jeanette (Shumaker) followed by 2 years of VS work in the hospital in LaJunta, CO. He and Jeanette met a couple while on a trip to Hawaii who have since been life-long friends sharing trips to Girl's OSU Basketball games and playing dominos.

The adoption of their 2 sons were big highlights. Ken enjoyed 7 years of working with Habitat, and has done many work projects for Bethel as well including helping build the balcony and putting in the elevator (which resulted in an injury!) He appreciates the people who helped him learn his 'fix-it' skills--Wilobert Smucker (at a whopping \$ .85 an hour!) and Thomas Reed & Thomas in Urbana. A most recent highlight has been enjoying granddaughter Harper.

There have been lowpoints in those 85 years as well...getting the word that his 40 year old mother had been killed in an automobile accident. His dairy barn burned in 1985. Other lowpoints were the death of son Neil in a farming accident, and having to make the decision to take his dad off life support. He also has dealt with his own health issues, which he can't fix with a hammer and saw - a heart bypass and hip replacements.

But through joys and sorrows, Ken hangs in and is enjoying his 85th year.



# Quasquicentennial Historical Highlights

As we celebrate 125 years at Bethel, members have been sharing historical facts each Sunday during the sharing time. Our church historian, Donna Lehman has been researching and putting them together. In case you missed a Sunday in May here are just a few of the highlights. Eventually, all of the facts shared will be on our church website: [www.bethelchurchwl.org](http://www.bethelchurchwl.org) along with any graphics we have shown to accompany them.

Some more happenings in the 30's: The director of the home, Laban Swartzendruber initiated a Vacation Bible School. So, in 1934 he had people come to the home to have a 2-week Bible School. Then, the next year (1935) Bethel had the Bible School in their church. (Remember, it was only a sanctuary with a basement under.) So, imagine if you can -approximately 200 children came to Bethel for those first Bible Schools, (photo is of Bethel's Bible school in 1937). There were classes in every available space. Wanda Shumaker said that there were burlap curtains to help separate the various children's classes in the basement. Older children were in the small anterooms in the front of the church, and separated in the sanctuary. It was remembered that every beginning of Bible School, the children walked into the church singing some type of hymn. After about 7 years of these crowded Bible



meeting by the name of Newton Weber, and the congregation was interested in asking him to fill the co-pastoral position at Bethel.

Newton and Nellie Weber moved to West Liberty after Newton served with Conscientious Objectors during the war. They had 3 daughters, Rhoda, Ruth & Naomi, and a son John. (All pictured in the photo at Naomi's wedding.) Pastor Weber was well accepted and became busy working for a living part time and pastoring part time. He established a wallpaper and painting business in the first block of W. Baird Street, in which Nellie had a gift shop. Eventually, Newton located in Akron, PA with MCC.

Schools, the churches joined together to have Bible School at the grade school building; then, after a year or two, the churches started having their own Bible Schools.

In 1940, following the passing of Chris Byler, the church chose one of their own for a pastor, B. Frank Byler. He was the grandson of Chris Byler and had been a school teacher for several years. In 1947, he and his wife Anna left for mission work in Argentina. (Photo left: Frank Byler, a Mennonite Missionary, teaches inductive bible study at the Bragado Bible School in Argentina.) Frank continued to fill the pulpit on several occasions during his mission furloughs.

Even though John Y. King had been co-pastor for 40 years, Bethel had a minister from Virginia speak at a mission



# AED for Bethel

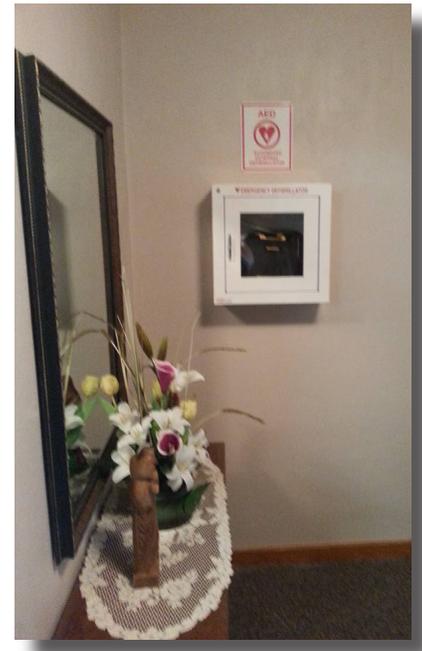
By Darin Robinaugh

In 2013, nearly 360,000 people suffered cardiac arrest outside a hospital with only 40% of those receiving CPR. Of these numbers, the survival rate was only about 9%.

As a healthcare provider, I am aware of these tragic realities and choose to do what I can to help improve the survival rate in our area. This includes my church and so I approached councils and trustees about placing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) within our church. We are now fortunate to have paid staff at the Macochee EMS but this is limited to one ambulance and if that unit is on another call, you could have to wait for a mutual aid squad to come from another area. In an emergency, time is critical and in cardiac arrest, permanent brain damage can occur after 4 minutes. It is a 10 minute or more response time if a mutual aid ambulance has to respond.

I was able to secure a donation to purchase this unit. It has been placed in a cabinet within the hallway area near the elevator outside the sanctuary. We feel this placement made the most sense being close to all activities that could be going on. The cabinet is accessible to anyone, but has an alarm on the door which sounds if the door is open. Although cardiac arrest in children is very rare, we chose to include the pediatric function and patches with this AED. The AED is compatible with squads in Logan County and therefore the patches used will fit the cardiac monitors carried on the squad.

For anyone wanting more information or if you are interested in CPR training or renewing your CPR training, I am willing to hold a class for our congregation. I pray we never have to use any of this, but if we do, it will be available.



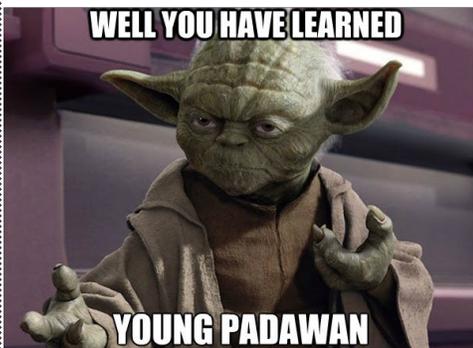
Dad,  
From Daddy-Daughter  
Dates to table build-  
ing help, you've shown  
me the beauty of love.  
Thanks for always being  
the first man who loves  
me.  
- Your princess (Esther)



Carl  
Happy Father's Day to a wonderful father and  
grandfather. The Carl Newcomer tribe thanks  
you for all your help,  
support, and love  
shown to them. As  
one of the grandchild-  
ren said "You are the  
best grandpa everyone  
wishes they had."



To Our Jedi Master:



We Love  
you!

From your  
Padawans:  
Elam,  
Maggie,  
Josiah &  
Silas

In Loving Memory of our dads, Willard Jordan &  
Simon Brenneman on Father's Day.  
We love and miss you!  
Lee & Tesa Jordan

