

Inside this issue:

Bethel's 12 Scriptures

Graduates 2013

Simply in Season-SS plans

Sister Care Reflections

Hobby Night Review

Menno's On the Radio

By Erin Dye

Has anyone ever asked you if you have electricity when you told them you were a Mennonite? Has anyone ever been surprised by the clothes you wear because you were a Mennonite? Many have a misunderstanding about the core values of the Mennonite faith! Bethel, Oak Grove, Jubilee, and South Union have collaborated on a special project to inform our community about who the Mennonites truly are.

Based on their large percentage of non-ethnic Mennonites, Jubilee Mennonite started the project with a strong desire to clear up misperceptions from the general public about who Mennonites are. They then pursued a missions grant offered by the Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team last fall. In clarifying these misperceptions, the group hoped to show how Mennonites have a shared faith in Christ with the rest of the Christian community and how we offer a different approach to living out that faith. Since whatever was shared about Mennonites in the community would reflect on the other congregations, leadership from all four

“We want to tell stories of how we act out what we believe Jesus taught about peace, justice, reconciliation, inclusion, and demonstrated love.”

--Chris Foust, Jubilee member, on the purpose of the radio spots

local Mennonite churches joined the project. The group narrowed in on using radio spots on the recently up and running Christian station Shine FM out of Bellefontaine. These spots run about a minute long and share stories from within our congregations that reflect the Anabaptist values outlined in an article entitled “What is an Anabaptist Christian?” by Palmer Becker. No specific congregation is mentioned, but the stories focus on these core values: Reconciliation, Community, and Jesus are the Center of our faith. Six spots now air on Shine FM. There is also a link to the Mennonite faith is on their webpage. (shinefmohio.com) The grant money will cover five months of radio time with spots airing four times per day through the weekdays.

Many positives can come from the radio spots. The Christian community listening on the station will have a better understanding of who the Mennonites are, or maybe someone looking for a church home will be able to connect with the core values shared in the spots. Jubilee member Chris Foust brought much passion to the project and has great hopes to share what he has fallen in love with in the Mennonite church. “The unique Mennonite Christian perspectives would certainly be attractive to a significant portion of the general public. However, we do a paltry job of communicating these values beyond our walls except through our responses to community and world needs. ...”

Continued on Page 3

Convention—Here We Come!

The big event that everyone has been talking about and helping raise funds for during the last year is now *only two months away!* Five Bethel youth and four youth activity coordinators prepare for Mennonite Church USA's Convention in Phoenix, AZ July 1st-6th. This year's theme is “Citizens of God's Kingdom: Healed in Hope.”

This will be the first convention for Alex, Annie, Savannah, Becky, and Michael. While visiting with them in youth group, each shared about their excitement for the different aspects of the trip. Michael is unsure of what to expect, but based on what others say, knows it will be fun. He is also looking forward to flying on a plane for the first time! An-

nie is most excited about relaxing and spending time hanging out with the youth group and has hopes of “getting a tan” (not sure how much they'll be out in the Arizona heat!). Savannah has never been to Arizona, but she is most looking forward to meeting new people and talking with other teens. Becky eagerly anticipates the worship music and worshipping with hundreds of other people!

For the leaders, Jerry is excited about catching up with friends from all over. He also enjoys the new ways speakers share about experiencing God.

Rick and Jessica, of course, are most excited about the arrival of their little one (hopefully the first week of July!) **Continued on Page 3**



May Newsletter

BETHEL MENNONITE CHURCH

Jesus and John

By Sara Ellen Stoltzfus

Jesus, Galileans, Samaritans and crowds at the festival in Jerusalem are the persons John, the writer takes on to tell the world who Jesus is. John knew Jesus as one of the disciples when he was quite young. He knew the events of Pentecost and the struggling churches of believers. Now as an old man, he picks up his skill as a writer to proclaim one more time who Jesus is and the opposition he faces from those to claim to know God with their obedience to him.

John uses short sentences and the everyday words his readers know. The real problem for us is when his significant ideas are hidden in double meanings and metaphase. Jesus is loving and caring but also harsh as he declares why many of his listeners cannot hear him. Often their discussions ended with people saying, "This is a hard saying. Who can accept it?" (v.6:60) or "Some wanted to seize him." (7:44) or "They picked up stones to stone him" (8:59).

Chapters 7 and 8 in John are certainly the most challenging this year. The debate between Jesus and the listeners

Celebrating a Baptism Birthday

By Erin Dye

On May 27, 2013 Michael Lehman was baptized and became the newest member at Bethel. In reflecting on his baptism, Michael has the following thoughts to share.

Michael knew it was time to consider baptism. "I believed in God and that Jesus died to save us, and when you believe that, the next step is to be baptized. Other people I knew also had been baptized."

Everyone's baptism experience is different. Some say they feel different after the baptism, while others say the leading up to had the most impact. Michael said he had an "interesting" experience, and that he "learned a lot of stuff from the study with Pastor Dave. It was a good experience."

Baptism is just the start of the journey. We all can remember our baptisms and celebrate them just as we would a birthday! Our baptisms can affect our every day lives. Reflecting on the changes he's experienced, Michael said, "I can be an example for other people, and I trust God more."

How will you remember your baptism? What difference can you say you've experienced? For those of you considering baptism, how do you think life will be different? Michael has advice for those considering baptism:

"Don't be pressured into it if you're not ready, but if you are, then *definitely* think about getting baptized."

Pastor Dave will begin meeting with two youth this month who are considering baptism in August. He also has at least three adults who desire to join Bethel, one membership will include baptism.

was intense. Jesus is usually in the Temple, the center of the worship experience for the Jews. He uses this opportunity to affirm who he is as the One sent by God the Father who they thought they knew and worshiped.

The Tuesday A.M. Bible study class will complete the 2012-2013 year May 21st with Ch. 8 of the Gospel of John. We hope to study the remainder of the book next year. I prepare a study guide to help us become acquainted with the text before the discussion. What is amazing to me is how much I learn (or how little I knew beforehand) from the books we study. The class chooses the book. The teacher's choice is always a book from the Bible. We meet twice a month on Tuesdays at 9:15am. **The 20 in attendance includes women from 6 churches!**

The books of the bible are often contemplated and understood by theologians. John's everyday words, short sentences and drama create a book in which ordinary persons find inspiration, life and life.

Hobby Night 2013

On Sunday, May 5th Bethel held its second annual Hobby Night with almost 50 in attendance. Bethel members either shared their collections or artistic ability by setting up displays for all to see. The following people shared their hobbies: Dave Maurer - Star Wars collection, Elam & Maggie Maurer - arts & crafts, Dick Lindemer - arrow/artifacts collection, Kenny Hostetler - framed puzzles, Jeanette Hostetler - quilting, Wanda Shumaker - ancestor album, Bill Shumaker - woodworking, Sara Ellen Stoltzfus - quilting, Barb Landes - scrapbooking, Jerry Landes - gardening, Brody Robinaugh - photography (Brody was absent celebrating Jordy's graduation, but set up his display anyway!), Christy Headings-Jewelry and Dream Catchers, and Roger Headings—Collector Helms. The group then traveled to Valley Hi to check out Lee

Jordan's Race Car rebuilding. Tesa Jordan shared the following about the event: "We are really enjoying getting to know the Bethel Church family, through events like Guess Who's Coming to Dinner and Hobby Night! It was a

great motivator to get the garden tidied up and we enjoyed having everyone come by and see the race cars. It was great fun watching many of you drive the simulator. We are feeling more and more at home!"



Lee Jordan's Race Car Restoration

“Menno’s” continued

“...We are adding a voice to our identity as practicing disciples of Jesus. In our radio messages, we intend to show that Mennonites embrace the Bible lessons as do other Christian churches thus dispelling thoughts that we are so much different. What is unique in our stories is how we apply these Bible lessons in our daily lives beyond our Sunday service. We want to tell stories of how we act out what we believe Jesus taught about peace, justice, reconciliation, inclusion, and demonstrated love.”

Dave Maurer, lead pastor at Bethel added “God is moving in our midst and we experience his work in our lives and our body of faith, yet so often we are slow or reluctant to name those realities. We don’t yet know what the outcome of this project will be; but at the very least, I believe that it will serve as an exercise in testifying to who Jesus is and why faith matters. As we become more equipped to share of our faith, the gospel message will spread more freely beyond us.”

“Convention” continued

During the month of June, the youth group will base their Wednesday night Bible studies on the Convention themes. Some of the worship titles and purposes during the Convention will include: **“See the Dream”** –to help us see God’s dream for all of creation, **“Here and Now”**—to see our lives as part of God’s work in the world, **“Allegiance”**—to be a citizen of God’s Kingdom means to give your full allegiance to Jesus, and **“On the Road”**—to embrace, as disciples in Christ, the journey of healing and transformation.*

Most from the traveling group are taking advantage of the trip out West. For Becky and Savannah, they will spend the week after Convention with some cousins in Arizona. For the Steiner family, they will head out to Colorado the week before to see family. Jerry and Barb are taking a vacation the week after in Sedona, AZ. **Be sure to read the follow up from their experience in the July newsletter!**

*Themes taken from the Youth Convention website <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/convention-411/youth/worship/>

Bethel’s Adult Delegates for Convention are Pastor Dave Maurer and Dennis Showalter.



**VBS June 10-14th
9:00a.m.-11:45a.m.**

Preparations are underway for Vacation Bible School this summer. The morning consists of daily group worship, Bible story discussion, games that follow the daily theme and craft and snack time. Story themes include creation, new life in dry bones (hope), God is with us in difficult times (courage), a rock foundation (wisdom) and the Holy Spirit fills us (new growth). We have had about 45-50 children in the last several years. ***Invite your neighbors, friends, and grandchildren to enjoy the time with Bible stories, activities and making new friends.*** There has been a good response of volunteers, but there are many places that we can still use your talents. If you have filled out your volunteer form, you’ll soon be hearing from the committee. It isn’t too late to volunteer; there are still jobs to fill!

As we hope the radio spots will make a positive impact on the community, perhaps one of the greatest joys through this process was that the Mennonite community came together to represent our shared faith in Christ and the attributes of our faith that we value so greatly. Dick Barrett, lead pastor at Oak Grove, shared, “It’s important that we’re together on the message we’re putting out. We can even be at different places as congregations in this community, so it’s good to have something to work together on.” Chris Foust also enjoyed the collaborative aspect of this project, “This effort is bringing together the four Mennonite churches in a new way. Sometimes our bounds of community can shrink to individual congregations. This is a stretching endeavor which may well lead to more ideas of cooperation.”

Please make a point to listen in to 88.5/88.9 Shine FM to catch the stories shared on the station! Each congregation will evaluate the effort and determine if continued support is worthwhile. So your feedback is appreciated!

Check out what the youth have to share as they lead an intergenerational Sunday School class on

“Downloaded”

—How Media Effects our Lives

**Join them May 12th, 19th, and 26th the Fellowship Hall
at 9:30am!**



OVERLOAD!!

Miriam Lapp, Michelle Link and Chuck Swartz
Bible School Committee

2013 Graduates!

Emily Kauffman

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Write State University

Daughter of Mark and Deanna Kauffman

My immediate plans after graduation are to pass my boards and get a job, hopefully in Columbus. Some of the goals I have for the next 5 to 10 years are to become involved either with the Red Cross soon after beginning work or to work through Doctors Without Borders after I have enough experience to work with them. I would love to go overseas and work with people who truly need medical assistance. What I value the most about my college experience is the knowledge I have acquired not only through school but through other people as well. I greatly value the time I have spent in Columbus and Dayton that has given me a more open view than I had before going to college. But I also am thankful for going to these bigger cities and being challenged in my faith because it has made my beliefs so much stronger and I know that even if I am the only Christian in a room with a bunch of

Kelsey Kauffman

Doctor of Pharmacy,

The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy

Daughter of Mark and Deanna Kauffman

My immediate plans after graduation are to work at PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, IN. Over the next 5 to 10 years I hope to become a specialty practice pharmacist at a large academic hospital, go on my first healthcare-related service trip, find a church to plug in to wherever I end up, and start a family. Two things will always stand out when I reflect on my time at OSU:

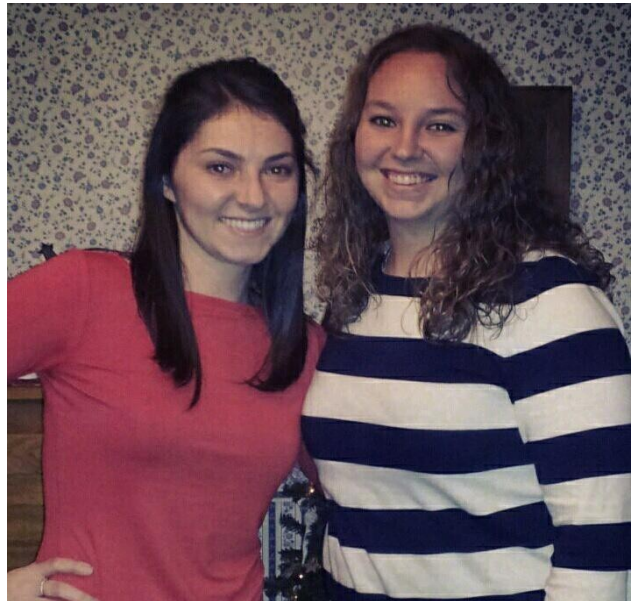
- 1) Over the last seven years I have had opportunities to interact with people from a wide variety of backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. Through these experiences, I learned the value of being respectful of others and working together despite differences in views and opinions.
- 2) Most importantly, I am thankful for the relationships I developed with my Christian pharmacy classmates. We were a source of support and encouragement for each other through many busy and stressful weeks, and I know that we will be close friends for many years to come.

For those considering college or grad school, Do not be afraid to set high goals and expectations, because you are probably capable of more than you give yourself credit for. Seek out mentors who believe in you, both personally and professionally. They will encourage you to push yourself further than you may believe is possible. .

people, I still feel comfortable sharing my faith.

To anyone who is considering college or grad school, I would say to absolutely go for it! The time that I have been in college has been the most challenging and stressful but ultimately the most rewarding, and I would not change anything about how the last 5 years have played out for me.

I have seen God working in many ways through my college experience, but it has been most clear to me in the past few months while spending much more time in the hospital with patients. It was easy to get caught up in what has to be done with school, working, and making sure to get enough clinical hours, but just when I would start to feel overwhelmed God seemed to give me an awesome patient or a text from Kelsey or phone call from Mom and Dad. I could see Him so much in the little things!



Do not be afraid of challenges. Often, the times that we struggle the most, are also when we grow the most. And you do not have to do it all yourself. There are many people out there who want to help you succeed. Finally, for new high school graduates, if you are moving away from home, start looking for a church family right away when you get to school. It is so important to always have a group of Christian friends around you to provide accountability, support and encouragement. Graduate/professional school is demanding of your time, and over the last four years there were many weeks when I worried about how I would get everything done. But worrying is stressful! I would not be honest if I said that I do not worry about anything anymore, but I have learned to lean on God to help me get through things. It is not always easy, but time and time again God has shown me His faithfulness when I have chosen to give situations in my life over to Him. Through these experiences, I have also developed a deep appreciation for the peace which He offers us if we just learn to trust in Him.

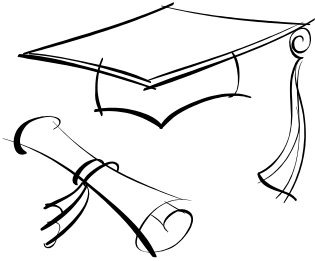
Lindsay Hostetler
 Class of 2013
 West Liberty-Salem High School
 Daughter of Greg and Joanna Hostetler

My high school activities included I was in Soccer, marching band, concert band, pep band, Power Lifting, Elite FC club soccer, NHS, youth mentors, S.T.A.R.S., musical, and volunteered some at Bethel Homework Help. My favorite memory with my friends was going on the band trip to Disney

My advice to other high schoolers is to always try your hardest at everything. I see so many high schoolers waste the talent God gave them and settle for what they have and not strive for more.

This summer I plan to work at Michael's Pizza and go to summer sessions to prepare for tryouts for the Ohio State Marching Band. This fall I plan to attend The Ohio State University and major in Atmospheric Sciences.

I see God helping me create myself and my future through the crazy years of college. I also see myself developing a stronger relationship with him as I advance into my later years.



Jordy Robinaugh
 Bachelor of Science in Biology
 The Ohio State University
 Son of Darin and Kath Robinaugh

I am taking a year to work and gain some medical experience before graduate school. I will be working at Robinaugh EMS, and taking a paramedic class in the fall. I want to attend graduate school to become a physician assistant. The personal growth and knowledge gained was my most valued part of college. My advice for others is to get involved and study hard. Graduation approaches quickly, so decide what you want to accomplish and experience in your college years and go do it!

James Lochridge
 Bachelor of Science in Youth Ministry and Recreation
 Minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
 Bluffton University

As I write this I am unwinding from finishing my last final exam. It took three years but I'm finally finished and ready to graduate from Bluffton University. I'm looking for a youth ministry position somewhere here in Ohio, and in the meantime I'll continue working as an RN to pay the bills. In the future I hope to go to somewhere in Latin America and teach English for at least a year, and get better at my Spanish.

One of the reasons why I'd like to work in a developing country is because of what I've learned at Bluffton. There are countless millions of orphaned or vulnerable children, perhaps thirty million or more worldwide who are in great need. In my estimation it should be seen as the great crisis of our generation. Anabaptist values taught at Bluffton tell me that

we who are rich in this world have a duty to help those who are in need if we can. I came to appreciate how vulnerable youth in any country are, and that great things are possible if they are given the opportunity of an education. I chose the TESOL minor because of how important English has become internationally, and because of the doors it opens to those from developing countries.

To those considering college, I would say to look for a school that has active and effective ministries so you can continue to grow in the college setting. Ask God for guidance, and don't settle on just one option before you've explored several possibilities. Ask about alcohol policies and stick with schools that are "dry", you'll be among a much better class of people. To those going into Education, get a TESOL endorsement for great job opportunities.

Congratulations to James! James received the Distinguished Scholar Award for Youth Ministries and Recreation.

Anabaptist Gospelization-Part 2 Community

By Pastor Rick Stoner

One crucial component of Anabaptist gospelization is community; both in terms of the creation of faith communities that are diverse and welcoming and in terms of the gospelization process being carried out by the whole community in various ways. Yet, we, in the West, might have a hard time thinking in terms of community, and to understand why that is we might benefit from a look into our language.

Let us for a moment think about our language. Growing up we are taught about the power of our words, often in context of how our words can help or hurt people. But we cannot overlook how our language shapes the very way we think and see the world around us. Therefore when we talk about community how does our language shape our understanding of this vital piece of Anabaptist gospelization.

The rub for those in the West who find themselves in a faith community is that our language is shaped around a worldview that puts individual rights at the center of our life. We live in a culture where we are bombarded with message that focus on “me.” And our language often reflects this even when it comes to the church, the body of Christ. For much of our language, and subsequently our thinking, regarding the church focuses on what “I” am getting from the church. We ask questions like, “Am I being fed?” “Does the worship style appeal to me?” “Do I like the programs offered there?” Missiologist Paul Heibert suggests that our understanding of church resembles a club more than a body of faith, where there is really nothing that holds us together because if we don’t like this club we will go to another one that we like better. So perhaps for Anabaptist gospelization to take root we must think and speak differently about community.

Odd Jobs

By Dick Lindemer

A person asked me a few weeks ago if the “Odd Jobs crew” was still available at Bethel, and the answer was *YES*, even though it is not listed on church literature. We now have our own mailbox in the foyer thanks to Erin.

If you do not feel comfortable climbing ladders, lifting heavy things, and doing work outside your house, or inside, for that matter, stop by the mailboxes, fill out the request form and return it to my mailbox.

I would like to say that the Odd Jobs Crew from Bethel is not in competition with local contractors. We simply do what the name suggests. But if a major problem should arise, and finances are short at that time, let me know and the arrangements can be made.

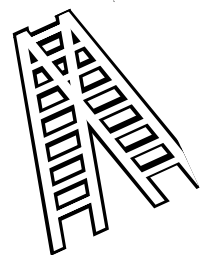
When it comes down to it community is something that we often talk about however it is harder for us, within a Western mindset, to submit ourselves too. Yet, it is the very support and meaning that true community gives that the world around us is hungering and longing for. This is community that gives voice to the voiceless because they have a place at the table; a place to be who they are when the world drowns out their voice. This is community that heals the brokenness of those who have been kicked around by others. This is community that lets go of part of our agenda because we know that we are part of something that is bigger than ourselves. Anabaptist gospelization disintegrates and can be thrown away if we allow our community to be a veneer of flashy church consumerism. Instead it calls us to be formed into a new people; a people who, in the end, are a sign, foretaste, and hope of the wholeness that God is bringing into the world.

May and June

Wedding Anniversaries

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
 June 2, 1979 - Dave and Michelle Link
 June 3, 1955 - Bill and Eleanor Shumaker
 June 3, 1972 - Dennis and Sharon Showalter
 June 12, 1952 - Ken and Jeanette Hostetler
 June 16, 1990 - Tim and Pam Lehman

Also, if anyone from youth to a seasoned person who would like to help with projects, please let me know. The rewards are great, and if you go to Roy and Ruby’s, the food is superb.



“...to experience...”

By Pastor Dave Maurer

Over the last number of months, Council has been engaged in a process of discernment about our church structure. As a first step, we spent time considering our purpose statement and the role that it may have in helping us envision a revised structure for Bethel. As I shared in the last newsletter, our purpose statement is, “Jesus compels us to experience and extend the gracious rule of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

In this and the next few newsletters, I will continue to engage with components of this statement. I will consider with you what it may mean for us as we discern and envision how God is moving in our midst both within and beyond our church walls.

Before moving on to the next phrase, however, I wanted to offer my appreciation for the feedback that I received thus far. Many of you are sharing very thoughtful reflections, especially about the use of the word “compel.” Given that feedback, it might be good to dwell a bit more with that word.

“Compel” comes from Luke 14:23 (the parable of the great banquet) and is used in the KJV, NKJV, NASB, and NRSV versions. The NIV and NCV use the word “urge” instead. Some have expressed concern that this word is too forceful. Others have shared that it seems misplaced to suggest that Jesus does the compelling. Council certainly considered these realities in its decision to include the word in the statement.

Yet in the end, council chose to include “compel” due to the sense of urgency, which it fosters, and a particular understanding of the source of our compulsion. The compelling that comes from Christ is that of a zeal born out of

Jesus’ grace, love and compassion. Who Jesus is draws (compels) us to experience Him deeply and this experience of Jesus propels (compels) us to extend the gracious rule of God.

This line of thinking is consistent with The New Compact Bible Dictionary which suggests on page 115 that “compel” as used by Jesus in Luke 14:23 does not mean physical force, but zeal and moral urgency. I would also propose that it is consistent with our Anabaptist roots given that if it weren’t for some sense of compulsion in the midst of persecution, the Anabaptist church may not have survived the 1500’s.

This brings us to the next phrase of our purpose statement, “...to experience.” While our faith does have a head/knowledge component to it, it is also much more than that. Our faith is more than moral assents and theological platitudes. It is something that we experience for ourselves. The gracious rule of God is something that we not only profess but that we also live into in the midst of our daily lives. We each make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and it is out of that experience that we are shaped and formed, that we are able to share the gracious rule of God with others. It begins with our own experience.

Take a moment to sit with these words, “...to experience...” Describe your experience of faith and/or the gracious rule of God. How is your life different because of what you have experienced in your faith journey? How do your experiences shape and form who you are and how you live into your faith? Now spend time in prayer for our congregation and leadership as we continue to discern God’s leading.

Farewell Randy and Marla Longnecker!

Bethel hosted a potluck for the Longneckers in honor of their last Sunday on April 21st.

Note from the Longneckers: “We will treasure the memories we have of worship, fellowship, and the work of the Kingdom with you over the last 31 years. Thanks for the throw which will help us to remember you. And most of all, we thank you for your friendship, love, and support. “Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.”
~Dr. Seuss



May Birthdays

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

June Birthdays

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



Simply in (the Summer) Season

By KJ Schrock, Adult SS Superintendent

This year, during our joint Sunday School sessions in June and July, we will be walking through a garden of topics associated with the “Simply in Season” cookbook. Produce such as “Creation”, “Celebration” and “Health” will be picked for our spiritual nourishment. We will ingest information about local resources, share recipes that can be enjoyed in our home and absorb all the spiritual nutrients that come along with our topics and the associated scriptures. Multiple “gardeners” will be teaching and we’ll hope to enjoy the community of being together during these times as well as the edification that comes from the tilling of our “good ground” and bringing forth fruit for the Lord Jesus. Having a copy of the cookbook is beneficial, but not necessary for class participation. Hope to see you there!!

During the first three Sundays in August instead of

Sunday School, we will be enjoying times of “Sunday Brunch.” Think of this like “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” without the guessing...and for a different meal...and at a different time of day. You will be invited to sign up to participate and then brunch groups will be formed that will meet for those three Sundays. We will be looking for initial hosts (for the first Sunday) and then your own brunch bunch can decide where you would meet the additional two Sundays. Unlike GWCTD, the host would only have a “main dish” and the guests will bring additional items to share “potluck-style.” Sign-ups and more information will be coming soon and we hope this will be another opportunity for us to grow closer as a congregation, enjoy one another’s company in a new way and build our sense of community as we grow at Bethel .

Our last Sunday in August is tentatively set to gather at the Lion’s Park for baptisms and our church picnic. Looking forward to a great summer at Bethel. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Dave, Mary Newcomer, or me.

Syrian Relief, World Food Resource Bank, and Local Homelessness

By Bill Shumaker

We continue to meet each first and third Tuesday. We bring a sack lunch, have a prayer and begin to discern justice matters that need attention, Raise awareness about these matters, and facilitate opportunities to respond.

Syrian refugees is a big part of our efforts at the present time. We are planning two informative video clips (3-5 minutes) for the June worship services, a Sunday after worship information and fund raising session and considering a Labor Day booth for MCC exposure and fund raising for refugees. Those regularly attending are Dave, Rick, Byron, Barb, Dennis, Eleanor and Bill, sometimes Jerry. Chuck and Jeanie have recently joined us which is great and we look forward to more joining us. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help you feel comfortable in coming.

We recently showed a video after worship service to raise awareness of the Peace Tax Fund Bill (H.R. 1191). This was coordinated with Rick and the youth doing a fund raiser. The youth provided the lunch. During this planning Dennis introduced us to a book by John Dear (not the tractor manufacturer). Dear is a strong advocate of not paying taxes that go for killing other human beings.

Barb Kauffman has kept us up-to-date on the World Food Resource Bank. Although it is not directly connected, it has been the inspiration for Byron to plant sweet corn to be sold at the Farmers Market this summer with the money going to World Food Resource Bank. Well, I guess that would be a direct connection. Jerry, Chuck, Elam, and Dennis have volunteered to help with this. I would imagine Byron could make use of more volunteers if others are interested.

We recently made connections with The Lighthouse,

Logan County homeless shelter. Byron and I went to Bellefontaine to see the place. We invited Stacy McCully, a prominent board member of the Lighthouse to a Tuesday lunch meeting. Following that she was invited to meet with the small group that meets at Bob and Janice Rabenstein’s and that resulted in the group collecting and sending a carload of supplies to furnish the Lighthouse.

We have yet to do much about it but Dave has called our attention to, made us aware, of military recruitment in the schools.

Other issues on our “back burner” are Human Trafficking, Immigration, Everyone a Peacemaker (except through the efforts of Jessica and Eleanor the Peace Lamp keeps burning), Conflict Minerals, and Palestine.

The needs of the world and the community are enormous. We can’t do a lot but we can do a little. It is better to light a light than to curse the darkness. Jesus came to bring light into the world. We can be that light.

**When I pray for peace
I pray not only that
The enemies of
My own country
Will cease to want war.**

**But above all, that my
Own country
Will cease to do
The things
That make war
Inevitable
—prayer of Thomas Merton**

Reflections on 'Sister Care'

On Saturday, April 26th a few ladies from Bethel attended the seminar at First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, OH on "Sister Care: Equipping Women for Caring Ministry." The day covered Claiming my identity as God's beloved, Caring for Self and Others, Compassionate listening, and Transforming loss and grief. Presenters: Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen have traveled all over the country and different parts of the world sharing this seminar. Since 2008 over 2,127 women have attended Sister Care seminars!* Here is how the women who attended felt about the day.

Eleanor Shumaker— "I was surprised how open and honest leaders were encouraging people to share their stories of life and pain with close friends as that can bring healing and growth. Listening was the key."

Mary Psolla— "The Sister Care Seminar emphasized caring for ourselves and for others. Through compassionate listening and gentle redirection we can help redeem "toxic" stories into healing stories. I am thankful for ladies who were willing to share their stories with us."

Jeanie Swartz— "I really appreciated the Sister Care presentations by the two leaders, Carolyn Hegger and Rhoda Keener, on Caring for Self and Others, Compassionate Listening, and Transforming Loss and Grief. Three other women shared "their stories", and these also were so meaningful. What a great day it was!"

Erin Dye— "The word 'genuine' came to mind when thinking about the day overall. I am grateful for how authentic the women were in sharing their highs and lows and their encouragement that the Church should be the *first* place we feel comfortable sharing our stories. I have continued to give much thought to how we care for ourselves first so we can care for others."



*Facts taken from <http://www.mennonitewomenusa.org/Ministries/SisterCareSeminars2>

Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women

By Donna Lehman, MW Secretary

This group met in March and April. As is generally the case, we have very good meals. In March, we had a baked potato bar with Pat and Julia and Jeanette providing the meal. They had the tables decorated with daffodils and shamrocks. We thought sure spring was in the air! (?) But we're still waiting for that in April! At the March meeting, Barb Kauffman shared about her and Byron's SOOP experiences in Atlanta. As we were relaxing in the Northern winter weather, they were down south, clearing land, fixing fences, etc., for the Mennonite Church in that area that will be putting it to use.

At the April meeting, our meal consisted of an 'April Fool Potluck' and we had a variety of interesting dishes. Hostesses were Jan, Mary Kay, and Kathy. They had the tables decorated with tie-dyed butterflies which the God's GIRLS group had made, and we also each had a 'pin cushion' hat at our places. At this meeting, we were given opportunity to sew on the two new machines which have been purchased. This purchase didn't take all the funds given for the machines, so it was moved that we give \$100.00 to MCC for purchase of a sewing machine for someone needing one in another country. We also enjoyed watching Tesa's 'Show and Tell' she was working on her project of making scrap rugs.

At the March meeting, our devotional theme was 'Traditions,' and in April 'Times of Distress,' which will continue in May. People are welcome to give input on Scripture or life experience reading these themes.

Average attendance 27; work completed: 2-comforters, 1 new born bundle, 1045 Box Tops for Education/Campbell labels sent to Hopi Mission School.

Mark your calendars for the

2013 Bethel

Soccer Camp

July 29-August 1

6-8 p.m.



We are always in need of volunteers to work with the youth, help provide refreshments, and mingle with parents during the practice! Help represent Bethel in this Community Outreach!

Remembering Camp Mack

By Carl Newcomer

On April 12, 2013, three Bethelites, David Maurer, Dick Lindemer, and Carl Newcomer motored to Goshen, Indiana with an almost constant reflecting and bantering. What a way to get to know each other better than traveling in a car and not being able to escape to a secluded place! In order to save money for an overnight stay, Doug and Janette Yoder (ex-Bethelites of years gone by) allowed us to stay overnight at their abode, at their expense, along with a bed and breakfast. All of us got caught up on the latest gossip about our congregation and families. In the morning, we had a breakfast with cold cereal, granola, mixed fruit, yogurt, and coffee. Doug outdid us eating 2 huge bowls of cereal! The Yoders are doing well and encourage visitations.

The reason for our trip was to attend a workshop titled “STRENGTHENING YOUR SMALL CONGREGATION” at the Brethren owned Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana. This workshop was for Brethren and Mennonite Churches under 100 in attendance, with 160 persons in attendance at this workshop. Those in attendance came from Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, and Tennessee. There are many small churches all over God’s creation with a lot of potential in each one. One of the churches had about 15 persons. The morning con-

sisted of a time of worship, a keynote address, a break with food, a panel discussion from small church pastors, and then cafeteria style lunch (seconds welcomed!).

The afternoon consisted of workshops, so we three divided up which ones we would want to attend. If you want to find out more what was involved in the following workshops, contact: Dave: Discerning Our Congregation’s Future & The Gift of Leadership. Dick: The Pastoral Care Team & Worship in Your Own Voice. Carl: Money and Your Ministry & Fair Fighting in the Small Church.

The panel discussion of pastors related some things their churches are doing such as having computer classes for the community, learning an international language, training persons in a dance to praise and glorify God, church service to a retirement center, provide church service at a home bound person’s home, having rituals in the church service. Some suggestions where several congregations share with each other such as having a homeless shelter, re-sale shop, retreat and prayer vigil, peace and justice demonstrations, allowing other organizations to use the church, VS service, chili dinner/lunch, shelter for someone in need.

We all felt the time attending the sessions and sharing with others at the Camp was worth being cooped up in the car for the 3 ½ hour drive with each other. That was an experience in and of itself as the old saying goes! Never a dull moment! What a trip!

Going Back In Time

By Donna Lehman, Church Historian

90 Years Ago—How would you feel if you drove your Model T Ford to Church, and got to Washington St only to find a smoldering mess? Shock would have been the reaction of most church members of Bethel, because not too many people had phones to have been informed that lightening had ignited a fire, burning Bethel Church to the ground. This happened around midnight (so either May 11th or 12th) of 1923. There were very few items saved...some sewing machines (!!), an oak table, a couple of chairs, and the Bible (in the display altar in the South hallway). Roy Byler was a youngster (5 yrs old) at the time, so doesn’t remember much except that Bethel members attended the other local Mennonite Churches while the replacement was being built. And, what is our present sanctuary was built and dedicated about 8 months later—January 1, 1924...and it even had electricity!

30 years ago—April 1983 the MCC Thrift Store opened

shop in the West Liberty area; this was a dream for person who knew about these shops in Bluffton, etc. Sam Swartz was one who really worked to see it come to pass, so the shop opened April 1983 at the building at the foot of Oak Hill (presently the Carpet Store). Bethel ladies had been taking resale items and doing some volunteer work at Bluffton’s Et Cetera Shop (Thrift) so this ended those Bluffton trips and opened volunteer opportunities in West Liberty. The original committee was Sam Swartz, Chairperson, Lydia Belle King, Elma Kauffman, West Yoder, Jack Yoder, Brenda Tennant and Ruby Byler. And, after 30 years, some changes have occurred; West Liberty wasn’t a real good outlet for overseas craft items, so what had been Global Crafts on Main Street is now MCC Thrift...and they welcome your household items and clothing, that isn’t too worn!

15 years ago—May 27, 1998: Death of Neil Hostetler, active young father of two, lost his life in a farm accident (son of Ken and Jeanette). Also, 15 years ago: Don and Evie Hertzler moved to Harrisonburg, VA (both very active in Bethel’s missions and activities)

Bethel’s Final 12 Scriptures List

Psalms 23

Isaiah 40:28-31

Micah 6:8

Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5:43-48

Matthew 6:25-34

Matthew 22:34-40

John 3:16

Romans 8:28-39

I Corinthians 13

Galatians 5:22-23

Philippians 4:4-13