



Bethel Mennonite Church

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Newsletter

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**Senior Celebration Tea
(more on page 6)**



**The Living Last Supper Drama
(more on page 6)**



**Spring
Cleaning
at the
Potter
House
(more on
page 3.)**



Announcements:

♦ **Community Movie Night** is April 23rd at 7:30 p.m. The movie is TBA. Popcorn, cookie and bottled water donations are appreciated, and a sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

♦ **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner April 24, 5:00 p.m.** The perennial favorite returns this spring. Sign up by 17th if you would like to host, be a guest or are willing to do either as needed. See Mary Newcomer for more details!

♦ **Save the Date for Soccer Camp!** Please let Tesa know if you are willing to help coach or assist a coach for Bethel Soccer Camp this summer. Dates are July 25-28 from 6 – 8 pm. Alex Dye from Oak Grove has agreed to be our head coach this year. We also need a few volunteers to help with brochures at the end of the month, and a few days before camp with tagging shirts and balls.

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Next Newsletter Deadline: April 16, 2016

Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women

by Donna Lehman

Spring was in the air when this group met on March 7th. For our taco casserole meal, the tables were decorated with spring blossoms, Easter eggs and candy. Thanks to the hostesses, Mary Psolla, Nellie Lindemer and Lydia King. We may be changing the name of this group in the next month or two, so any suggestions are welcomed (except AFIT—Arthritic Fingers in Thimbles!)

It was noted that Janice Rabenstein and Jeannie Swartz have March birthdays!

The day's theme was "Worry is a Misuse of Creativity" and Christy Headings shared on this subject. She had us write a 'worry' on a slip of paper before she shared about Jesus' words on worry from Matthew 6, "If He feeds the birds of the air, won't He also care for us?" After sharing on worry thoughts, she shredded our worry slips.

We got a lot of work done; besides completing a quilt, we completed 5 newborn kits, 3 comforters, and 4 health kits. Also Elaine said the children's department has completed 17 school kits. Next month, chili soup meal and those with last name initials S through Z are to bring desserts. Newborn project continues with preferred size of 6 months.

Noteworthy Dates

April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

April 5, 1997 – Mary & Bob Psolla
April 14, 1957 – Janice & Bob Rabenstein
April 20, 1996 – Janet & Joe Wilkins
April 27, 1996 – Dena & Todd Hostetler
April 30, 1994 – Sandy & Steve Rabenstein

Youth Group Summer Plans Have Changed

by Cheryl Shank

We have changed plans about where the service tri will be this summer. From June 19-24th we will be working at Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center in Illinois. They will provide us with lodging and food, so we just need to worry about the transportation to and from and the meals on the road. The youth seem excited about this opportunity; looks like we may have 5 or 6 youth going. Michelle Link and I will be the chaperones for the girls and the father's of the youth are still trying to decide who is up for the fun, work-packed week in a camp.

Thank you for all of your support this past year. The funds in the account will more than cover this experience.

We continue to meet every other week on Wednesday evenings. I have been have reflections on 'feeling connected', examining how one can be a 'presence', learning to relate, listen with the heart and 'be with' another. We have used questions to see how well we know someone else in the youth group. A few of the questions that were guessed and answered about each other in youth group include:

- 1) What is your all-time favorite family vacation?
- 2) When you need to relax or unwind, what do you do?
- 3) Do you prefer to watch TV, listen to music or read a good book?
- 4) Which season do you prefer?
- 5) What is your favorite type of cuisine (not a specific food)?

We were paired up and then tried to answer the questions about our partner. After all were answered, we then shared with the partner what we wrote down and found out what how he/she actually would answer the question. Michelle & Becky were partners, Daniel & I were partners. Some answers were correct, and others provided us with a chance to learn more about the individual.

Another evening we played the game 'Compatibility'. Trace & Daniel somehow seemed to always find a way for 'the baby' to be one of the cards. Michelle and Becky did fairly well, and when Annie arrived after work, she and I paired up for a few rounds. All of us had fun that evening.

At our last meeting, I focused on highlights from the Dr. Seuss book "Horton hears a Who" and we discussed the personality traits of each of these characters and then reflected on who might be the 'whos' in our society. The youth are very insightful and Michelle and I enjoyed hearing the different points.

On the 30th of March we are planning to continue cleaning up the Potter's House and getting the chalkboard wall repainted. It is beginning to have a more 'cozy' feeling. (See photos on the cover.)

Mark Your Calendars for Bethel Vacation Bible School

June 6-10, 2016; 9:00-11:45 AM

Jesus surprised and blessed the people he met, and with each encounter people discovered more about Jesus. Surprise! Stories of Discovering Jesus allows children to be surprised as they discover Jesus, too!

The stories come from the Gospels and tell of Jesus surprising leaders in the temple with his wisdom as a child, Jesus blessing children much to the surprise of the authorities, Jesus feeding a large crowd with only five loaves and two fish, Nicodemus seeking Jesus' wisdom at night, and two travelers on the road surprised by Jesus after his death. With each surprise, children discover more about Jesus.



The VBS committee of Jerry Landes, Kathy Lehman and Miriam Lapp, has been doing preliminary planning. In mid April, we will distribute sign up sheets giving you the opportunity to volunteer to be part of Bethel's VBS this summer.

Now you can begin by letting your young friends and neighbors know the dates for VBS. Start to think of how you might enjoy begin a part of Bethel VBS in June.-Miriam Lapp



Bethelites looking at artifacts displayed at the Senior Celebration Tea, held April 2nd.

Kauffmans Return from SOOP Assignment

By Barb Kauffman

Carlsbad, located in Southeastern New Mexico at the intersection of the Guadalupe Mountains and the Chihuahuan Desert was our “home” for the month of February. We lived near the Pecos River Walk and enjoyed daily walks in the sunshine.

Our SOOP (Service Opportunities with Our Partners) assignment consisted of a variety of jobs: distributing food, working at a thrift store, painting and shelling pecans.

One food project was helping out at the Jonah House Food Pantry. This was a new facility, where food donations were received, organized and distributed to persons in need. Each qualifying individual/family could receive 20 pounds of food per person once a month. We assisted with stocking shelves and preparing bags of food items as people came to get their designated amount. Fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and eggs were included with dry staples and canned goods.

We also worked at the Carlsbad Soup Kitchen helping to prepare and serve the noon meal. Both homeless and others in need came here regularly-average number served was 60/day.

The thrift store was a part of the CARC, Inc. campus which serves developmentally challenged children and adults. This campus both houses and also provides some jobs for these persons at this thrift store, at their pecan processing facility and at their greenhouse.

We painted walls and woodwork at the Cavern City Children’s Advocacy Center. This is an old building which was being renovated. It will be used by two women dedicated to advocating for and providing services to abused children. They were so appreciative of what we did at this facility.

The Carlsbad Mennonite Church is small in number (30) but generous in hospitality. They are a close-knit group who meet weekly for bible study, gather monthly with persons from 6-7 other Carlsbad Churches and share meaningful scriptures and to pray and have Sunday potlucks every two weeks-even threw in an extra one since Valentine’s Day was on Sunday. We met with them every Monday evening from 4-8 pm to help shell pecans. They take 250# of pecan pieces in one pound packages and 50 pecan pies to the MCC relief sale in Colorado.

There were 2 other SOOP couples there—Laverne & Janus Graber from Freeman, South Dakota, and Ed & Ruth Basinger from Tulsa, Oklahoma. They had both been there previously. Each Thursday evening, we ate together and then played games.

It was another enriching experience in meeting new people, seeing more of God’s beautiful creation and helping others.

Library has new books to check out

by Carole Barrett

Several people have made requests to add to our library, and we now have a number of new books in the adult library:

1. Jacob’s Choice, Return to Northkill Book 1, by Ervin Stutzman and requested by Mary K King.

2. Joseph’s Choice, Return to Northkill Book 2, by Ervin Stutzman

and requested by Mary K King.

3. My Calling to Fulfill (Orrie O Miller Story) requested by Barbara Kauffman.

4. Angels in the Rubble (a 9/11 story) requested by Ken Hostetler.



5. Pastor Rick Stoner’s dissertation: Developing a Lyrical Language of Anabaptist Gospeling.

Next month I will report on the books discovered on a shelf behind the library door.

Also, if you are donating books to the library, please do not just leave them in a bag,

but mark them as library donations.

--Carole Barrett, Librarian

Editor’s note: Any time you read an interesting book and want to review it for the newsletter, please do so before the deadline posted on page 2.

Delegates Report on Ohio Annual Conference Assembly

One of the more interesting/confusing moments of Ohio Conference was when the Resolution Committee tried to take a straw vote of the Delegates on Friday evening on whether Ohio Conference should leave Mennonite Church USA. The Parliamentarian stood up and said that was not allowed in Roberts Rules of Order. The moderator then closed the session without a vote. The next meeting on Saturday morning, the Leadership Team introduced a resolution asking on a vote (not a straw vote this time) for whether Ohio Conference should leave Mennonite Church USA. 197 Delegates voted: 58 (30%) voted yes to leave; 139 (70%) voted no, that we should remain a part of Mennonite Church USA. Five delegates abstained from voting. The resolution to leave Mennonite Church USA did not pass.

One very interesting workshop that I attended was “The History of Mennonite Peacemaking in the 20th Century” with Perry Bush, a professor at Bluffton. Many Mennonite men (and some women) entered church service (CPS, 1-W, Pax, Voluntary Service, etc.) during and after World War II, and had a profound effect on bettering the world and the Mennonite Church. Out of this group came many activists who continued to have a profound effect in fighting hunger, care of the mentally ill, building up war-torn countries, and peacemaking in general. This radical discipleship revitalized the Mennonite Church, and gave it a new sense of direction. With no draft today, fewer young men are going into church service. Voluntary Service units have had to close because of a lack of volunteers. What effect will that have on the church in the future? I was glad to be part of such a thought-provoking workshop. —Dennis Showalter

The theme for Ohio Conference was I Cor. 3: 6-11. Ohio conference is 65 congregations in 4 states and has urban churches as well as rural and Hispanic. All types of Christian music and all ages and occupations make up these churches.

The conference was moderated by Thomas Dunn, a young man I remember being introduced to as a new pastor years ago. Thomas was filling in for Dean Beck, conference moderator who was unable to attend because of the illness of his wife. Seven new ministries were introduced and a dedication prayer was lead. Seven congregations requested release from Ohio Conference and the requests were recognized.

When Mission Moments were shared, Alex Dye (Oak Grove, West Liberty) reported about “The Grove”, a new outreach in downtown which Oak Grove started with a grant from Ohio Conference. Randy Carr pastor of Beaverdam from Corry, PA shared about how they used a grant from Ohio Conference to cut, store and cover wood for local residents who need help heating their homes. Living in the snow belt, he shared they only had 110” of snow this year, much less than normal.

I would encourage and enjoy meeting or talking with anyone wanting more information about the conference or any comments and thoughts you may have.—Ed Lehman

This was my first experience both going to conference and serving as a delegate. To say it was overwhelming would be understating the obvious. I was impressed with how much was packed into such a short time and how organized everything was. Hats off to Judy King, OC secretary who is the backbone of all the details being hammered out flawlessly.

I attended two workshops. The first was “Questions and Answers” with Terry Shue, from Leadership Development in MC USA. He gave a good talk and left plenty of time for interaction and questions and answers. He was extremely patient and respectful listening to the various opinions and graciously gave people the opportunity to voice their frustrations as well as speak from their hearts. The second day I attended “Sacred Space” lead by Sarah Short. This was a workshop about creating more time to be with God and was a very brief overview of time management that really made you take a look at where you spend your time each day.

The women’s breakfast was delicious and the message was by Erin Dye, who you will all get to hear next Sunday here at Bethel. I won’t give away her message, but will highly recommend that you come prepared to participate and I promise you won’t be disappointed.

I found the worship services very motivating and enriching and wished that it was the only reason we were gathered there for the weekend. But the work we did, while tedious at times, was necessary and was handled with complete grace. God’s presence was very evident in the room. Thank you for entrusting me to represent you as a congregation at Ohio Conference and I look forward to the next 2 years as we continue to work through issues and seek God’s purpose.—Tesa Jordan





**EMHS Choir
in Concert
at Bethel Mennonite Church**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

(If you can help with housing, please contact Mary Newcomer.)

Senior Celebration Tea

Saturday April 2nd the fellowship hall filled up with senior members of Bethel and the “friends” who met with them this past month. Light refreshments were served and our Emcee, Donna Lehman kept the program moving. Those honored were 80 years or older.

We learned many new things about our elder members and celebrated with much laughter. Look for upcoming senior spotlights in newsletters as we share what the seniors’ friends had to say about them at the tea!



Living Last Supper Drama SRO

Good Friday members of the West Liberty Ministerium and local churches performed the Living Last Supper Drama to a standing room only crowd at Adriel School cafeteria.

Originally slated to be performed at Green Hills, the cast was relocated when GH was quarantined for the flu virus.

Set to look much like DaVinci’s Last Supper painting, each character steps out of his place and speaks to the audience about their walk with Jesus. The ministerium decided that because there most likely was help from the women in Jesus and the disciples’ lives, that they should also have a place in the Upper Room as well as a voice.

Because the residents missed the performance, the group is trying to schedule a performance time to repeat for them and further announcements of such an event will be made when known.

The photo on the cover was taken at a rehearsal at GH with nearly everyone present. The women are not in the photo, as they were seated off to the side at a separate table as would most likely have been the custom.