



Bethel Mennonite Church

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May 2016

Newsletter

Surprise! Stories of Discovering Jesus Bethel Bible School June 6-10

by Miriam Lapp

People have asked me if we will be having a traditional Bible school this year. Yes, we are planning to use the schedule from years' past and Mennonite Media curriculum materials.

The morning starts with all the children's classes coming to the sanctuary for a time of worship. This will include singing, Bible memorization, an offering project, and a drama of the New Testament story for the day. It is during

this time that we will have a new option for adults called Fast Food for Women. There will be a snack, Bible verse and thought for the day by Barb Evans. We pray this will be a time of encouragement for those who come.

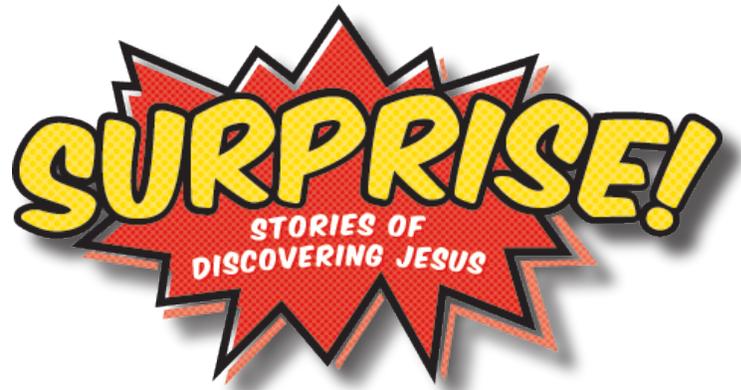
When children's worship is over the preschoolers go to the basement for their classes. The other classes will rotate through 3 sessions of 35 minutes each. In one session, their group leader will discuss the day's drama and Bible lesson. In another they will have a snack and Creative Response, like an art project on the theme of the day. The third session will be an Active Response of games and discussion that continue the theme of the Bible story.

At 11:45 AM the day comes to an end as we all gather again in the sanctuary for a song, announcements and a final blessing. The children are picked up from there to go home.

On Friday we ask the parents, grandparents, and friends to come at 11:45AM for about 20 minutes to listen to a sampling of songs and stories as the Bible School week concludes. This is a new approach to the final program.

Often children and parents go to the Ball Park for sack lunches and an informal afternoon. It is not an official part of Bible School but has become a tradition for many. I hear that you shouldn't expect to stay dry if you go!

We appreciate great response on the volunteer sheets that have been turned in. Committee members will be contacting you soon! If you missed the deadline, there are still opportunities for you to assist with VBS. Talk with Miriam Lapp, Kathy Lehman or Jerry Landes.



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Announcements:

♦ **Community Pizza and Movie Night** is May 29th at 7:00 p.m. We will fire up the pizza oven for the first time this season. The movie is TBA. The movie will be shown indoors after the pizza is served. Weather permitting, the pizza will be served outdoors.. Popcorn, cookie and bottled water donations are appreciated, and a sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

♦ **Graduation Tea May 15th at 6:00 p.m.** Plan to join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our three seniors graduating from West Liberty this year. They are Annie Steiner, Becky Wilkins and Savannah Hostetler. Light refreshments will be served and the parents and mentors of the graduates will speak.

♦ **Our Daily Bread**) at May 25th 4:15 p.m. Please sign up to help serve. We have been running short on volunteers the past few months.

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Transitional Pastor: Duane Beck

Youth Pastor: Cheryl Shank

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Next Newsletter Deadline: May 20, 2016

Guess Who Came To Dinner

Mary Newcomer

On Sunday evening, April 24, 38 Bethelites participated in "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Guests met in the homes of Mary Kay King, Jerry and Barb Landes, Carl and Elaine Newcomer, Joe and Donna Lehman, and Art and Mary Newcomer.

Mary Kay's guests were Jennie Harman, Dennis and Sharon Showalter, and Steve and Miriam Lapp. Mim also helped Mary Kay prepare the meal of cheese soup, bread, salad, and a frozen dessert. The enjoyable evening renewed some old relationships and brought them into the present.

Jerry and Barb's guests were Paul and Linda Hostetler, Mary Yoder, Chuck and Jeanie Swartz, and Shirley King. They dined on clam chowder, cheesy biscuits, a berry-filled jello salad, and Key lime pie. And Jerry's iced mint tea was a real hit! Besides having an enjoyable evening of good fellowship, Mary was given some practical help on trapping some "pesky varmints" she is dealing with!

Carl and Elaine's guests were Lee and Tesa Jordan, Bill and Carole Barrett, Doug and Ellen Steiner, and KJ Schrock. They all enjoyed their fellowship over Sloppy Joes, potato salad, veggies and dip, and a yummy pistachio dessert!

Joe and Donna's guests were Janet and Becky Wilkins and Becky's friend Mitchell, Byron and Barb Kauffman, and David Hostetler. They feasted on taco soup, veggies and dip, red beets and eggs, and apple salad. It was all good, however, the homemade pies with ice cream created an amazing finish!

Art and Mary's guests were Ken and Cheryl Shank, Bill and Eleanor Shumaker, and Cindy Kauffman. The main dish of gumbo with rice was enjoyed by all, but proved to be the first okra experience for most of the guests! The meal ended with angel food cake topped with strawberries and whipped cream.

All participants reported a fun evening and look forward to the next event of fellowship with their Bethel family.



First Annual Comforter Blitz Surpasses Goal

by Barb Kauffman

The idea for a “comforter blitz” was first suggested at a Peace & Justice lunch meeting last fall. The comforters would be sent to Mennonite Central Committee for Syrian refugees.

The idea “grew” from a Bethel event to an area Mennonite Church event to a West Liberty Churches and community event. Dave Maurer took the idea to the West Liberty Ministeriam. Cheryl Siegenthaler, Chaplain at Green Hills was immediately very excited about such a project and offered to host the event at the Green Hills Foundation Hall. The comforter blitz was in motion!

Cheryl, Jeanie Swartz and I met and shared thoughts and ideas. (We were all novices at planning such an event.) The date was set for April 23, 2016 with a goal of tying a minimum of 12 comoforters that day.

The community churches were invited together at The Gove in February to begin the process by cutting 4 ½” squares. Later, Sara Ellen Stoltzfus, Susie Krabill, Cheryl and I sewed squares together to make comforter tops that measured 60 x 80.

We contacted a number of people we thought might have frames and stands to loan for a day or two. Rachel & Roger Kauffman supplied many of these. They helped us set up on the 23rd and tied knots with great speed and efficiency. In addition, Rachel brought 13 comforters completely assembled and ready to be tied without needing to be put in a frame, just cut and tie. These 13 were a complete surprise!

On the 23rd, several women from South Union brought comforter tops and all the equipment needed to set up 3 comforters. Iris Esch donated yarn for all the comforters from a supply she had been given.

After much preparation, April 23rd proved to be a fun day for tying knots. Twenty-four to twenty-eight persons gathered and many stayed the entire day (from 9 to 3). We tied knots, and visited. We enjoyed a lunch graciously prepared by the staff at Green Hills. We visited some more, and we tied more knots. We bound the comforters and then, we “blessed” the comforters.

By the end of the day we had tied 28 comforters. This number was only possible because of Rachel’s generous donation. Donna Lehman donated two comforters that she made over the winter months.

We are very grateful for your monetary donations to this community project. We also appreciate the donation of some of the material, all the batting, pins and needles and the yarn.

Through MCC, we can now extend hospitality to 30 refugee families and convey to them that we are aware of and care about their difficult situations.



Bethel/Oak Grove Mennonite Women by Donna Lehman

This group met on April 12th. We enjoyed a chili soup lunch (chili made by Christy Headings and Janet Bell.) Those with last name initials S through Z furnished desserts.

The group has agreed to change their name—the names being considered at present are: Women Serving in Love, Women In Mission, ACTS! (Actively Caring Through Stitches.)

We have also started another long stitch quilt. It will be the second one which will be going to the Mennonite Guest House in D.C.

Barb Kauffman shared a little about her and

Byron's time in Carlsbad, NM with SOOP. It involved work in a Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Thrift Store and helping with fixing, and painting projects. Jan Smucker had crocheted together blocks that had been donated, resulting in 4 throws.

Susie Krabill shared in a devotional time on "Created to Create" In God's creation (Genesis 1 & 2) mankind was made with the qualities to be creative, unlike other creatures in the world. We can plant, or if not planting, there are many other ways to use the talents God has given us. Susie had on display a small terrarium she had planted. She ended by reading Psalm 8 which reminds us, "Oh Lord, how majestic is Your name."

Work completed: 2 comforters, 4 lap blankets, and 1 baby comforter.

Eastern Mennonite High School Choir Tour a Success

On April 12th, 2016, approximately 40 members of the Eastern Mennonite High School Choir came to town and blessed us with an evening of music.

Thanks to several Bethelites who made delicious soups, the group was fed just before their concert and then they dispersed for the night to various homes for sleep before returning home the next day.

A freewill offering of \$278.00 was presented to the choir for their trip expenses.

Tesa video taped the choir program, so if you missed the program and would like to see it on DVD, let her know.

Palestine Information

by Bill Shumaker

In the foyer just outside the library there is a four sided Revolving Magazine Rack. One side contains articles that I have made copies of from past "The Mennonite" magazines. I believe I made 12 copies of each article. Those copies are for you to keep. If they are all taken I'll make more.

Along with the copies of those articles there will also be reading lists of material for further information about Palestine that can be checked out of the library.

Help yourself to copies of the reading list. This collected information is a response to the Kansas City 2016 resolution that the Mennonite Church learn about the Palestine situation before the next assembly. It is also a response to my passionate interest in Palestine.

Noteworthy Dates

May Birthdays

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

May 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

Senior Spotlight on Mary Kathryn Plank King

by Shirley King

Born May 28th, 1924, the daughter of Sam and Golda Plank, Mary Kay went to West Liberty School for 12 years and graduated in 1942. She attended Goshen College and studied to become a school teacher.

She married Don King in 1950 and they were married for 53 years. They had three children: Don Jr., Judy and Jim. She has nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mary Kay was a farmer's wife and did many different jobs helping on the farm, but her least favorite job was cooking. She did her very best and was able to keep her family from starving.

Her first teaching job was at Rosewood School where she taught for three years. She then went to Urbana Local for five years. While raising her children, she also did substitute teaching.

I asked Mary Kay to tell me a humorous story about her school experience. She and three other teachers would carpool to work and one morning on the way to school a chicken ran in front of the car. She was sure they had killed the chicken, but when they got to school the chicken was stuck to the front bumper of the car and flew away! She guess the chicken was just trying to get to the other side of the road!

I asked her if she could recall any embarrassing moment. She, along with family and friends went to see the outdoor drama Tecumseh, and at intermission, she needed to visit the restroom. When she entered, she saw a long row of white things line up against the wall. She thought maybe it was where ladies would wash their hair, or get a drink. As she left, she realized that she had gone into the men's room and those white things lined up against the wall were men's urinals!

I asked Mary Kay to tell me an interesting travel experience. In 1990, she and a group of friends she had made while going to Goshen College traveled to Europe. They traveled for three weeks and went to Germany, France, Austria and many exciting places. Their tour guide was John Oyer, brother to Mary Oyer.

Now living at Green Hills in her Garden Home, she likes to work with flowers, read and watch birds, and sometimes, just a 'do less' day. She is thankful for good health and for still being able to drive and enjoy life. She is also thankful for her many friends and family. She is still going strong at the age of 91 (soon to be 92!)

Editor's Note: Pictured above are Mary Kay and Shirley at the Senior Celebration Tea held in April 2016.

We honored each of our seniors who are 80 years young or above at the brunch. Each month we will share the stories as they were told at the tea for those of you who were unable to be there.

There are several honorees who have birthdays in May, so we will share them in the coming months.

Thank you to all that helped with the tea, and to our honorees for letting us shower you with our gratitude for your many years of faithfulness to the Bethel family.

We value your wisdom and experience, and are so thankful for the roots you have provided.



Peace and Justice Lunch

by Barb Kauffman

Peace and Justice Lunch Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2016

Present: Duane Beck, Tesa and Lee Jordan, Bill Shumaker, Jeanie and Chuck Swartz, Byron and Barbara Kauffman

Updates:

1)The "Comforter Blitz" was an event of April 23, 2016 and 28 comforters were tied that day. These will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee for Syrian relief. Expectations were exceeded as far as the number of comforters which we had thought we could tie on that day. It was a community effort. After the fact, we discovered that we had just participated in what Ohio Conference is encouraging congregations to do this year... "do mission in their own context."

2)Eastern Mennonite Missions...Muslim/Christian relations...Tesa put the introduction video prepared by David Shenk on a CD, and we watched this as a group. David has lived among and worked alongside Muslim persons for many years. He coauthored a book with a Muslim theologian. We will continue to think about how and/or when we will share this with our congregation.

3)"The New Jim Crow" study guides have not yet arrived. The book was purchased by Byron and Barb, and they have started to read it. Barbara read the stated purpose of the book to the group. Duane questioned how this topic might relate locally...no one currently has the local statistics for race related incarcerations.

Reports:

Bill: Israel/Palestine...Bill expressed appreciation to Carole Barrett for placing articles he had copied, from various sources on this topic, in the vertical file outside the library. Bill has books on this topic available within the library which can be checked out. (Last week, Bill announced this to the congregation and has also written a note for the newsletter.)

He handed out a compilation of bulletin entries related to Israel/Palestine prayer concerns for our evaluations/comments etc.

He told about a number of denominations who have encouraged their members to divest from companies who support Israel or Israeli interests.

Chuck and Jeanie: Immigration...Chuck handed out copies of an MCC prepared paper titled "7 Ways To Support Refugees In Your Community And Around The World."

Jeanie told us about 2 books which deal with Immigration: Border Contraband by George T. Diaz and Coyotes Bicycle by Kimball Taylor.

Byron: MCC/Syria...Byron reported that MCC and a partnering agency are teaching women to sew and then giving them the necessary equipment to sew clothing for their families and/or to sew items to sell. He also shared that MCC is in Ecuador assessing needs there following a recent earthquake.

Barbara brought these items to our attention:

1)A lecture, "Non violence Works", will be given at the Dayton International Peace Museum on May 19, 2016 from 6-7:30...speaker is J. Frederick Arment.

2)Thursday May 5...a local fund raising event "to continue services to feed insecure residents of Logan County, while adding to programs to combat child hunger in the county. It is estimated that 14.6 % of Logan County residents are food insecure." A simple meal of soup and bread will be served. Soup bowls are hand-crafted by Bellefontaine High School students and are offered to patrons for a donation of \$15.00.

3)The CPT annual report was handed out.

4)Two books were given to P&J by Barbara Evans...One Dress, One Year by Bethany Winz and An Insiders Guide To Praying For the World by Brian C. Stiller...Barbara Evans agreed that these books could be placed in the church library.

"The New Jim Crow is a grand wake-up call in the midst of a long slumber of indifference to the poor and vulnerable. This indifference promotes a superficial ethic of success---money, fame, pleasure---that leaves too many well adjusted to injustice." Cornel West

The Next Meeting is May 17, 2016 at 12:00 noon. All are welcome. Bring a sack lunch.