



BETHESDA NEWS

*"A community caring for all God's people,
being transformed by Christ's love.
serving others as a witness of God's grace and peace."*

Bethesda Mennonite Church

www.bethesdamc.org

November 24, 2013

Thanks so much for all who participated in the open conversation last Sunday on the patterns from the Congregational Journey Wall Exercise. Your responses are being collated and condensed for further work by the Board of Deacons at their annual retreat to be held on January 4, 2014. We hope to have something to present at the annual congregational meeting in early February for your counsel and feedback.

~Board of Deacons

Upcoming Schedule of Events:

- November 25 – BWM November Birthday Celebration 7:00 p.m.
- November 28 – Thanksgiving Day Service 10:00 a.m.
- November 23 & 30 – Children's Christmas Program Practice 9:30 a.m.
- November 30 – Youth Fundraiser/Willard Friesen Sale
- December 1 – Children's Christmas Program 7:00 p.m.
- December 3 – Bethesda Women's Ministry 7:00 p.m.
- December 4 – Junior/Senior High Caroling 7:00 p.m.
- December 6 – Preschool Family Jammie Night 7:00 p.m.
- December 8 – Deacon Election Vote
- December 8 – Bethesda Preschool Festival of Carols 6:30 p.m.
- December 15 – Chancel Choir Christmas Program 7:00 p.m.
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Program 7:00 p.m.
- December 25 – Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.

The Bethesda youth will be serving at the Willard Friesen sale **Saturday, November 30. We are in need of 30 pies for this event.** If you would be willing to donate a pie, or pies, please sign up on the east bulletin board. Pies need to be at the church kitchen by 7:30 a.m. Saturday, November 30. If you have any questions, please contact Lavonne Braun at 402-723-4979.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, November 24

8:50 A.M. Deacons
8:55-9:15 A.M. Prayer Time
9:30 A.M. Worship Service
10:40 A.M. Sunday School

MONDAY, November 25

7:00 P.M. BWM November Birthdays – Crossroads Coffee House

TUESDAY, November 26

8:30 A.M. Staff Meeting
7:30 P.M. Church Council

WEDNESDAY, November 27

12:00 P.M. Bulletin Announcement Due
8:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, November 28

Church Offices Closed

10:00 A.M. Thanksgiving Day Service

Next Sunday, December 1, 2013

Sermon – Pastor Andrea Wall
Offering – Missions & Service – MC USA
Music – Chancel Choir
Organist – Laura Steingard

Mission:Possible and Adult Bible Study
will resume on January 8, 2014.

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. The church welcomes poinsettias wrapped in gold foil with a red ribbon. If you wish to donate in honor or in memory of a loved one, please notify the office by December 3. Please have the plants delivered to the church by noon on Saturday, December 7.

Are you planning a special occasion? Please fill out an event planning form in the church office to let us know your set up needs. On this form you may fill out how you want tables set up, if you have need of the kitchen, sound, or technology. Help us make your occasion as successful as we can.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for those with health concerns, grief or family needs.

Birth:

A baby girl, Elliot Nicole, was born to Cole and Kirstina Siebert on September 16, 2013. Congratulations to the parents, brother Kaleb, grandparents Byron and Lynette Siebert and great grandparents Carl and Dinah Siebert, all of Henderson.

Death:

Joyce Joedeman, 82, of Aurora, Nebraska, mother of Larry Roberts passed away at Bryan East Hospital, Lincoln, Nebraska. Our sympathy is extended to Larry and Lois at this time.

Pastoral Search Prayer Support

Please join us for prayer each Sunday morning as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our search for a new lead pastor. We gather in the northwest adult classroom, across from the Preschool, at 8:55 a.m. and dismiss by 9:15 a.m. **We need your prayer support** as we continue our search.
~Pastoral Search Committee

The Prayer Board, located near the church office, is a place to post prayers that come to the office. If you wish to have a prayer matter posted, please call the church office, Pastor Jim Voth, or email him at jim@mainstaycomm.net. These may be prayers of praise, thanksgiving or intercession. If you wish to post a prayer for someone other than yourself, please request their permission. Thank you!

Help the People of the Philippines: Mennonite Central Committee



(MCC) has begun its response to Typhoon Haiyan, providing funding for immediate needs, supporting partners in an initial assessment team, and determining needs for long-term recovery. To donate to this effort, please go to

mcc.org/typhoon-response. Thank you for your prayers for those who are grieving and suffering in the storm's wake.

Please take note of the latest **Mennonite Disaster Service** bulletin on the east bulletin board concerning the urgent needs around the country.

News from Central Plains: Pray for the team of pastors working to create a study resource for Central Plains congregations around the topic of how the church stays true to the *Way of Jesus* as we engage the culture around us.

We thank Janelle Ortman for serving faithfully as the West Regional Director for churches in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska and South Dakota. Joan Friesen (E. James) has taken her place.

Bethesda WOMENS Ministries 2013

NEXT WEEK

Our FINAL First-Tuesday for 2013!

December 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.

(Please note, this is a date change from the printed program brochure.)



The November BWM birthday party will be hosted by Shirley Friesen on Monday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the youth Crossroads Coffee House. If you have a November birthday, please join us.

Women's Bible Study

A Beth Moore Bible study titled *The Making of a More Honest Me*, based on Genesis 32, will be led by Susan Friesen on January 13, 20 and 27, at 7:00 p.m. A signup sheet is located on east bulletin board.

Potluck: The Young Adult Sunday School Class is thrilled at the positive reaction to regular potlucks over the past two years. Thank you to everyone! We are looking for help, as our class has been blessed with an increase in the number of children over the last year. We need 1-2 people to help organize the dishes during the Sunday school hour. A signup sheet is located at the Coffee Spot in the Fellowship Hall with more information.

Coming Events...

The Children's Christmas Program will be presented on Sunday evening, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. Offering will go for the York and Hamilton County food banks and to Living Water Rescue Mission.

Christmas Bundle Stories:

Do you have any stories, correspondence, or pictures that relate to the time when Bethesda made Christmas bundles to send to needy children overseas? We are looking for information that can be used for the Christmas Day morning service. Please contact Marjorie Smith at 402-723-5793 or email her at hmsmith@mainstaycomm.net.

Communion Date Change to January 5

This year, instead of a New Year's Eve Communion Service, we will be offering communion during worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2014. Communion was recommended for Epiphany Sunday by Mennonite Church USA for all congregations across the United States to celebrate together our unity in our diversity as we close out the Advent series, "O, the Mystery of God's Dwelling." The Deacon Board affirmed this recommendation and determined this service will replace the New Year's Eve Service. The Deacons feel that it is important to remember this past year, especially those who have passed away, therefore, this information will be included in the December 29 bulletin.

Anyone interested in going on a *Fellowship and Learning Tour* to Ecuador from January 16 to 28, 2014, please contact Don Kempf at donaldkempf@windstream.net or call him at 402-759-1285. This is an excellent opportunity to know our brothers and sisters in Ecuador intimately as you visit them in their homes and communities. You will be able to observe the amazing things that God is doing through the Ecuador Partnership.

From the Board of Education...

We are pleased to announce that Shane Claiborne will be the speaker for the **Bethesda Bible Series**. After graduating from Eastern University and doing graduate work at Princeton Theological Seminary, Shane's adventures brought him to the streets of Calcutta where he worked alongside Mother Theresa, to Willow Creek Church in Chicago, and to Iraq and Afghanistan where he did peace work. Shane is currently a leader at The Simple Way, a faith community in Philadelphia whose mission statement is to "Love God, Love People, and Follow Jesus in our neighborhoods and around the world."

The Bethesda Bible Series will be February 8 and 9, 2014. Look for more information to follow in the coming months. More information about Shane and The Simple Way can be found at thesimpleway.org.

Mennonite Church USA, and co-sponsors, invite women interested in Anabaptism to think about God in relation to our lives at a conference titled, *All you need is love: Honoring the diversity in women's voices in theology*, February 20-22, 2014, near Washington D.C. Find the schedule, and registration information at the Mennonite Church USA website, www.mennoniteusa.org/women.

YOUTH

Youth and Parents, we are in need of either food or monetary donations for the upcoming sale November 30. There is a list of needed donations in the Powerhouse room with a sign-up sheet. Also, help is needed for that Saturday. Please sign up in the Powerhouse room. If you have any questions, please contact Lavonne Braun at 402-723-4979.

The high school and junior high calendars are available on our new Faith Formation website www.bmcfaithformation.weebly.com. Go to Bethesda's website www.bethesdamc.org and click on the Faith Formation link on the home page.

Cornerstone and Powerhouse will not meet Wednesday, November 27. Happy Thanksgiving!

Greenery orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 1, following worship and during the Sunday school hour.

On Wednesday, December 4, both junior high and high school will meet in the Powerhouse room at 7:00 p.m. for a special evening of caroling. The youth will be walking the streets of Henderson, praying for our town and the people as we sing Christmas carols. We will meet back in the Powerhouse room for hot chocolate and snacks and finish at 8:00 p.m.

Check out the new Bethesda Faith Formation Website!

www.bmcfaithformation.weebly.com

***Check out Bethesda's Pinterest page for more quotes – see the “Just Sayin” folder**

FINANCIALS

Worship Offering Last Sunday, November 17, 2013

Worship Attendance – 296
 Sunday School Attendance – 70

Temporary Holding Accounts

Central Plains Mennonite Conference	\$4,132.00
Mennonite Central Committee – Typhoon Relief.....	550.00
Dayspring – Congo	100.00
Reach Int’l – Sam/Sherri.....	425.00
Reach – Typhoon Relief	550.00
Benevolent Fund	30.00
MCC Canner	13,105.00

Special Projects

Angel Tree	360.00
Nativity Project	150.00

Bethesda Ministry

Radio Broadcast	20.00
Sunday School Offering.....	53.85
MC USA School Scholarships.....	50.00
General Operating Receipts	2,635.00
Total Worship Offering	\$22,160.85

Bethesda Operating Fund: January 1 – November 20, 2013

Approved Operating Budget – through November 20	\$555,908.00
Offering Receipts – through November 20	\$404,057.00
**We have received 73% of our Approved Budget.	
Operating Expenses – through November 20	
** We have spent 87% of our Approved Budget.	\$480,766.00

Thank you to everyone for the generosity of gifts throughout the year. As we approach this Thanksgiving season, please remember the General Fund at Bethesda, so that we may once again finish our year with a positive balance. Our receipts for the year are approximately \$75,000.00 short in comparison to Bethesda’s overall ministry expenses.

We have received approximately \$20,000.00 toward the 2013 MCC Canner Project. The total project is estimated at \$60,000.00. Thank you to everyone for your support of this project!

This Christmas season, we encourage you to make **Infant Care Kits** which will be distributed by MCC to hospitals, clinics and refugee camps. Kits are given to mothers who use the items to help their infants get a good start in places such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), El Salvador and Serbia.

Contents: (New items only, size 3-9 months)

- 2 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 2 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- 4 cloth diapers (flat-fold preferred; pre-fold accepted)
- 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 36 inches square; however, 30 inches will be accepted)
- 4 safety pins (2 inch)
- 1 large bar mild soap such as Dove (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

Remove packaging material (except soap) and fold into the receiving blanket. Fasten together with safety pins.

An infant gown pattern has been ordered and will be available at the church office. If you sew the receiving blankets, double the flannel. For fleece, use a single layer and hem the sides.

Bring your bundles to church on Christmas Day morning, or place them in a box near the church office anytime. They will be dedicated at the Christmas Day morning church service. Why not start a Christmas tradition which teaches children, grandchildren or little friends the joy of giving!

Brochures with the above items are available on the table outside the church office. Visit Infant Care Kits MCC online for additional information. If you have questions, call Marlene Ott at 402-723-5351 or Carol Janzen at 402-723-4675.

An outdoor lighted nativity scene has been purchased for Bethesda. The cost is \$850.00. A crèche is also being built for this project. Donations are welcome and should be directed to Bethesda and earmarked "Nativity Scene." Thank You!

~Sunday Evening Committee

Angel Tree

It is once again time to make a difference in the lives of inmate's children. The Angel Tree is set up in the Fellowship Hall. This is a meaningful way to express our Christian love. For more information, please call Connie Bechtel at 402-723-5250 or 402-363-9973.

BETHESDA PRESCHOOL

Bethesda Preschool is looking for farm toys to add to our block play center. If anyone has toys they are not using anymore and they are in good condition, please consider donating to the preschool. Thanks!

Family Jammie Night:

Everyone is invited to a Family Jammie Night on December 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!! You are invited to wear your jammies or comfy clothing and bring pillows, blankets, sleeping bags and enjoy watching "The Polar Express" together.



Offering for the evening will be pajamas (new any size) or slippers (new adult or children). The offerings received will be taken to the Living Water Mission in York for local needs. Refreshments will be available for purchase during the movie with proceeds going to the Bethesda Preschool.

The Preschool Festival of Carols will be held on Sunday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please join the children for an evening filled with the joy of Christmas! We will have songs and stories about the blessed day that Jesus was born! An offering will be received for the Bethesda Preschool; money will be put towards finishing our playground project! Join us after the program for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.



