

BERLIN MENNONITE CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

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Gifts Discernment Committee



Slate of Officers- 2016-2017

The number(s) beside each person's name indicates the amount of years remaining in their term.



Adult SS Supt. (2 yr. term)

Becky Kandel-1

Audio Visual Team (3 yr. term)

Dustin Yoder (chair) -1
Cameron Miller -
Tony Yoder-
Hunter Yoder- 1
Tyler Schrock (assistant)

Power Point

Mike Schrock
Suzanne Kalman
Sarah (Paul) Miller

Children's Church Coordinator (1 yr. term)

Mark Woods- 1

Christian Education Committee

Jeff Hochstetler (Family Life Pastor)
Becky Kandel (Adult SS Supt)-1
Jill Basinger (Primary SS Supt)-1
Marlea Leinbach (VBS Rep)-1
Mark Woods (Children's Church Coord)-1

Conference Lay Delegates (2 yr. term)

STILL NEEDED-1
Titus & Deb Dutcher-2

Council Member at Large (2 yr. term)

Peg Brand-2
Zak Boyd- 2

Everence Advocate (3 yr. term)

Jodi Miller-3

Food Committee (3 yr. term)

Susie Wengerd (co-chair)-1
Betty Troyer (co-chair) -1
Christy Kauffman- 2
Velma Troyer-2
Denise Anderson-2
Leona Miller-3
Linda Miller (David)-3
Carol Raber-3

Gift Discernment Committee (3 yr. term)

Roger Dunn-1
Carol Miller-1
Barry Hummel-2
Sheryl Weaver-2
Carolyn Caron-3
Allan Miller-3

Historian (2 yr. term)

David Miller- 2

Home Department (2 yr. term)

Warren Foster-1

Hospitality Committee

Meals (2 yr. term)

Inga Troyer-1
Sheryl Weaver-2

Visitors (3 yr. term)

Barry & Brenda Hummel -1
David & Carolyn Caron-2
Rick & Peg Brand -3

Jr. High MYF (2 yr. term)

Neil & Denise Anderson-1
Michael & Lindsay Stutzman -2

Librarian (2 yr. term)

Anita Shetler-1
Marlene Miller-2

MDS/MCC Rep (2 yr. term)

Eric Miller-1

MYF (2 yr. term)

Vaughn & Inga Troyer- 1
Cameron & McKenzie Miller- 1
Tom & Angie Yoder- 2

Mission Commission (2 yr. term)

Bob Habeger (SLT member)-1
Eric Miller-1
Michael Stutzman-1
Kelsey Hochstetler-1
David Caron- 2

Moderator (2 yr. term)

Mark Leinbach -2

Newsletter (2 yr. term)

Ethel Mumaw-1
Jean Lefurgey-1
Anita Shetler- 2
Stacey Beck- 2

Primary SS Supt. (2 yr. term)

Jill Basinger-1
Jodi Miller-2

Recording Secretary (3 yr. term)

Carol Gerber-3

Relief Sale Toy Auction (4 yr. term)

Bonnie Miller- 1
Jill Basinger- 2
Christal Woods-3

Save & Serve Rep (2 yr. term)

Lorene Maxwell-1
Susan Slagle- 2

Spiritual Leadership Team (4 yr. term)

Bob Habeger -1
Brenda Hummel -2
Ralph King -3
Dr. Leon Miller- 4

Stewardship Committee (3 yr. term)

Jill Basinger (Treasurer)-3
Mark Leinbach (Moderator)-2
Gene Miller-1
Jill Basinger-2
James Troyer -3
Eric Gerber- 3

Student Aid Committee (5 yr. term)

Jill Basinger (Treasurer)-3
Susan Slagle -1
Titus Dutcher-2
Vaughn Troyer-3
Bruce Hummel-4
Kerrie Weaver- 5

Treasurer (3 yr. term)

Jill Basinger -3

Assistant Treasurer (3 yr. term)

Tom Yoder-3

Trustees (3 yr. term)

Paul Miller (Sarah) -1
Bob Slagle -2
Perry Chupp-3

Ushers (3 yr. term)

Jr Schlabbach -1
Howie Hatfield-2
Marion Yoder- 3

Vacation Bible School (2 yr. term)

Marlea Leinbach-1
Merry Lynn Sigrist Straits-1
Madeline Kauffman- 1
Tracy Courson -2

Women's Ministries (2 yr. term)

Dayna Schrock (Director)
Teresa Habeger-1
Kelsey Hochstetler-1
Katie Troyer- 2
Carolyn Troyer- 2

Worship Committee (2 yr. term)

Myron Weaver (Pastor)
Barry Hummel-1
Lindsay Stutzman-1
Scott Troyer -2

Wednesday Evening Children's

Coordinator
Jeff Hochstetler

Berlin Mennonite Church

Annual Business Meeting

October 4, 2015

Present: 75

-Bruce Hummel (welcome)

-Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting presented. Motion to accept- Mel Wengerd, Second-Gene Miller, passed.

-The 2014-2015 Financial Report was presented and reviewed by Tom Yoder, Treasurer. An appreciation expressed for the year-end financial response by the congregation resulting in an ending positive balance.

-Bruce Hummel shared the Annual Richard & Julianna Weaver story that resulted in the Weaver Endowment for Berlin Mennonite Church. Richard & Julianna began attending BMC in 1987 (moving from California). Being warmly welcomed, the BMC became their family and community. In the early 1990's they indicated it was their wish to leave their entire estate (home & contents) to BMC in Endowment. The spirit of Richard and Julianna continue to live with us as their gift shares with us each year into perpetuity. It was their wish that their example would be an encouragement to others.

Motion to accept Financial Report- Barry Hummel, Second-Mel Wengerd, motion passed.

-The proposed budget for 2015-2016 was presented and reviewed by Tom Yoder, Treasurer.

-Notes: Camp Luz, \$1,000 and Love INC, \$1,000 added. \$431,059.05 total. Weekly offering of \$8223.25 needed to balance the budget. Motion to accept- Perry Chupp, Second- Ralph King, Motion passed.

-All other Reports for 2014-2015 were presented and reviewed. Motion to accept all reports- Susie Wengerd, Second-Verna Stutzman, motion passed.

-Looking Ahead

-Moderator, Bruce Hummel reviewed the format of the annual report for 2015-2016 and future years. To follow the story/picture format of the 2014-2015 format but without the 20+ page financial report. The financial report to be made available separate at the annual meeting. The annual report could then be used to share with guests and new members without an overload of information.

-Perry Chupp and Myron Weaver shared some plans from work that has been done by the Playground Committee as well as the Land Use Committee. The Playground Committee is beginning work on the playground at an estimated cost of \$50,000 to be ready to use in the Spring of 2016. Plans were also presented for a pavilion with an estimated cost of \$30,000-\$35,000 and consideration for walking paths. It was noted that a few within the congregation have already committed \$67,500 for these projects and opportunity will be given for the total congregation to respond in the near future. All of these plans connected with the vision & mission of BMC to Grow in Faith and reach into the community as we Branch out in Love.

-We also looked at plans that reflect the long term possibilities of a Family Life Building on the new land. There was a sense of enthusiasm as we vision for future possibilities.

-Motion to adjourn-Leon Miller, second-Bob Habeger, closed with prayer.

**Berlin Mennonite Church
Annual Business Meeting Agenda
October 2, 2016**

Welcome and Opening Remarks	Church Moderator
2015 Annual Meeting Minutes	Church Moderator
2015/2016 Financial Report	Church Treasurer
2016/2017 Proposed Budget	Church Treasurer
Presentation of Annual Report	Church Moderator
Old Business	
Land Use Committee	
100 Year Celebration Committee	
New Business	
Trustee Update	
Adjournment	



Worship Committee Report

We began the new church year by going through the study called, “Begin Anew.” Midway through the study we were privileged to have the author, Palmer Becker, share four messages related to the study. Through the rest of the year, the texts for the Sunday morning worship services consisted of the Lectionary’s Gospel text. The Lectionary consists of a three-year cycle; Year “A,” “B” and “C”. The year 2016 centered on year “C “ and the Gospel of Luke.

Advent and Lent are two of the highlighted seasons during the church calendar year. The theme for Advent centered on the idea that we are “Freedom Bound.” We looked at paths to freedom; the paths of justice, mercy, trust, love, and service. The theme for Lent centered on “Living Ink.” Lent consists of six Sundays. On the first Sunday, we looked at the idea of how we as humans need to let go of the pen and allow God to write our story. During each of the Lenten Sundays, we heard from members of the congregation regarding various ways that God shaped their lives. The culmination of the Lenten season was the celebration of Easter.

This year’s Easter morning consisted of a beautiful Easter Sunrise service followed by a breakfast. The morning worship service was filled with the celebration of our Risen Savior and also the baptism of six youth and two adults.

Guest speakers throughout the year included: Palmer Becker (Begin Anew author), Jesse and Lisa Miller (CFCI, Nicaragua), Dariush and Emily Meraj (MMN, Turkey), Michelle Hershberger (Hesston College), Batha Ncube’s (IVEPER), Steven Anderson (Asbury Theological Seminary, student), Darrin Nissly (The Lighthouse), and Selena Herrera (IWU student).

Other highlights during the Sunday morning worship included: moments in mission, baby dedication, receiving new members, graduation recognition, back-to-school dedications, prayer for the new Sunday school teachers, the Youth reporting on their DOOR experience, communion and a time to remember those who have passed away.

Prayer has taken on a significant role in the life of the church. On multiple occasions we gathered around a member of the church for special prayer. These experiences have been both meaningful and life-giving.

Past bulletins have been a helpful tool in creating this report. Reading through the bulletins has been an amazing reminder of the many gifts we have in the church; of which I am so grateful for. When reading the past bulletins, I am also amazed at the many ways God’s Spirit moved among us. We have experienced sad times, times full of joy, and perhaps for some, anxious times. Yet, God has been with us every step of the way. For this I give thanks!

Respectfully submitted by Myron Weaver on behalf of the Worship Commission: Shawna Boyd, Barry Hummel, Shelly Miller, Scott Troyer and Lindsay Stutzman.



Trustee Report

In addition to general maintenance of the church property, the following items were completed:

- Replace HVAC roof unit for Sanctuary
- Replace HVAC roof units for Sunday school classes
- Built new playground on north side
- Built new pavilion
- Replaced portion of north parking lot
- Installed new remote touchscreen thermostats

Respectfully submitted by Perry Chupp



Student Aid Report

The Student Aid Committee members were Tom Yoder (treasurer), Susan Slagle, Vaughn Troyer, Bruce Hummel,. The purpose of this committee is to make our young people aware of the opportunities available through Mennonite educational institutions and to encourage their participation. The primary way of encouraging participation is the voluntary gifts towards tuition made by individuals of the congregation. The tuition assistance would not be possible without the generous donations of individuals; thank you to all who participated to make this happen. The committee administers three separate funds, one for Central Christian School students, second for college students, and a third for seminary students. Any donations money that is received is distributed in equal proportion to the student's tuition. Eligible students are those attending Central Christian in grades 7-12 or any undergraduates at a MC USA college during the 2015-2016 year. We will have four students attending Goshen, EMU, and Bluffton. We will also have 7 students attending Central Christian grades 7-12. We will be supporting one student in seminary.

Respectfully submitted by the Student Aid Committee.



Pastor's Report

In most cases, year end reports are reflective. In this short report, I will not be as reflective. Instead, I will challenge us to consider how to move forward from here.

Over the summer, Jeff, Dayna and I attended a seminar that was sponsored by the Ohio Mennonite Conference called, "Mission Essentials: Engaging God's Mission where you Live, Work and Play." The facilitators of the seminar were Brad Brisco and Lance Ford. The six hours that I spent at the seminar made me wonder if we shouldn't reexamine how we function as the Body of Christ.

Over and over in scripture we see sending language. In Isaiah 6:8, God says, "Whom shall I send." Isaiah responds to God with, "Here am I send me." Again in Isaiah 61:1-3, we see this sending language. Here, the Prophet Isaiah says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has sent me..." In Malachi 3:1 God says, "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way." Here God is referring to John the Baptist.

This sending language continues in the New Testament. In John 20:21, Jesus appears to his disciples after the resurrection and says, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, I am sending you." There seems to be a progression in scripture regarding this sending language. First God sends his Son, Jesus. Then God and Jesus send the Holy Spirit and now God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are sending us. We, the church, are literally missionaries. We have been sent by God. Now the question becomes, what have we been sent to do?

When looking at the life of Jesus, it becomes clear as to what the Body of Christ, is to be doing. We have been sent to model what it means to be a part of the Kingdom of God. We have been sent to introduce the Kingdom of God to our community and to the world; to invite others to join us on this journey. I believe the best way to do this is to be as Jesus was, an Incarnational presence.

Here is where I think we may need to rethink and literally change how we function as the Body of Christ. In thinking about the past year and even in reflecting in my own life, I am struck by how often in life, I/we require people to come to us, versus going to them. In John 1:14, from The Message, Eugene Peterson, paraphrases this verse as, "And the Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood." Regardless of what translation you use, you can't help but recognize that this verse speaks to proximity and presence. The incarnation of Jesus reminds us that the greatest impact we can have on people is presence.

So I ask, who is willing to go and be a part of the mission of God? And let me remind you here, that God is the one who has a mission. Too often it is the church who claims to have a mission. No, it is simply that God's mission has a church. So in light of this, how will each of us as individuals and also the Body of Christ, allow God's mission to guide all that we do over the next year. It is not good enough for us to sit here and wait for people to come to us. No, instead, we must engage God's mission where we live, work and play. We must do as Jesus did; move into our neighborhoods for the sole purpose of being an Incarnational presence to our neighbors.

Respectfully submitted by Myron Weaver

Congregational Care Ministry September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016

Visitation Team

- * Consists of 5 couples & 3 individuals
- * Completed 297 visitation assignments (an average of 24.75 visits per month; a 40% increase from last year)
- * Visits include:
 - Nursing Facilities
 - Shut-ins
 - Hospitalized
 - Illness Recovery
 - The Grieving

Rooted in Jesus...

Stephen Ministry

- * 12 Active Stephen Ministers
- * 11 Care Receivers (including five new caring relationships)
- * Commissioned four new Stephen Ministers
- * Retired six Stephen Ministers
- * Monthly supervision & continuing education

Growing in Faith...

Grief Share

- * "Surviving the Holidays" special event facilitated by Becky Kandel & Terry Miller
- * Spring 13-week session facilitated by Becky Kandel & Barry Hummel
- * 19 people received Grief Books

Branching out in Love...

Hospitality (Meals)

- * 11 families served (four families for new babies; seven families due to injury or surgery)
- * most meals 3 times per week for 3 weeks
- * Coordinators: Katie Troyer & Inga Troyer

Circle of Care

- * Monthly breakfast
- * Support for past & present caregivers
- * Break for summer months

Submitted by: Dayna Schrock, Minister of Congregational Care

Save and Serve Report

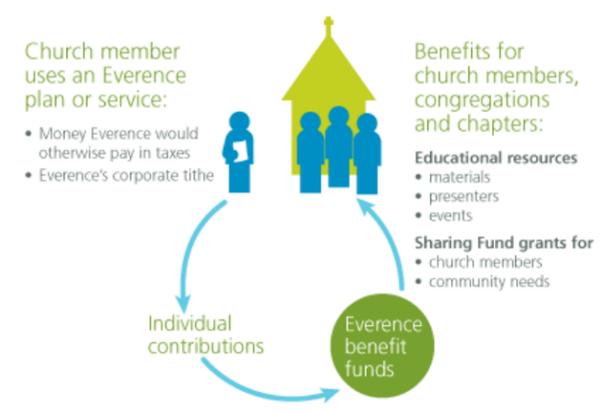
As a part of the MCC Thrift Shop Network, Save and Serve provides quality second-hand items at reasonable prices to our community. Many people in our church are donors, volunteers or shoppers. All are just as important. Each first Monday of every month, at least 8 volunteers serve as check outs at the cash register. Others serve throughout the months as sorters, pricers, and floor helpers. A portion of every purchase goes to the global relief work of Mennonite Central Committee. Thank you to all those who serve by donating and shopping and volunteering!

Respectfully submitted by Norma Sullivan & Carol Miller

Everence Advocate

Everence helps people and groups integrate their finances with faith values through its insurance and financial services. Income earned from these services provides funding for the Sharing Fund and stewardship education. This past year we have maintained a Level 3 status and eligibility for \$1,500 in matching grant. Berlin Mennonite Church has a 20% Everence participation on a reported 201 church membership. That is 40 members – people who own or participate in products and services from Everence Financial or Everence Federal Credit Union.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi Miller.



MCC/MDS

The main MCC/MDS activity for the year was participation in the MCC Relief Sale. For this event, we encouraged donations for Penny Power, organized volunteers for parking and making chicken, supported Eric Yoder in organizing the “24 Hours of Relief” bike ride, as well as encouraged attendance of the sale by our congregation.

We are tentatively planning an MDS trip during the first part of 2017 if there is interest.

Additionally, updates on MCC/MDS are periodically posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Miller



Mission Commission

Mission Members: Eric Miller, Ethel Mumaw, Kelsey Hochstetler, Michael Stutzman, Bob Habeger (Spiritual Leadership Team member)

1. Participated in Holmes County Share-A-Christmas, collecting over 300 laundry soap containers as well as hats and mittens.
2. Supporting New Grounds Café by organizing New Grounds pizza nights.
3. Encouraged volunteering, fund-raising, and attendance to MCC Relief Sale. Organized volunteers for serving chicken and parking cars.
4. Gave support where needed for Jesse and Lisa Millers' mission with Christ for the City International.
5. Supported sales of Hemisphere Coffee.
6. Involved congregation in collecting coats, hats, and mittens for Love Inc. Ministry. Recruiting done for Love INC's "Faith and Finances" classes.
7. Instigated special offering for Denise Erikson medical expenses.
8. Supported Michael Stutzman and Lisa Holmes fundraising for Corner of Love Nicaragua trip.
9. Supported Open Arms fundraising/update Wednesday night meal.
10. Reviewed and made recommendations for donations made from church budget.

Wrote letters to those groups that church donates to, letting them know what support they can expect from us.

The Mission Commission thanks all of you that helped with these projects and the many missions, big or small, that you have participated in personally. We hope that the list of projects and people involved will grow each year.

Thank you, The Mission Commission

Respectfully submitted by Eric Miller

Family Life Pastor's Report

How do we measure the impact of a church in a community? I think a good starting point is by looking at the stories behind the numbers. One of the things I love about our church's annual report is that is a way to try and account for what the Holy Spirit has done in our church over the past twelve months.

I love that our annual report is compiled not simply by one person, but by the whole church. Dozens of people who have spent countless hours serving through teaching, singing, preaching, cleaning, cooking, sewing, studying, playing, and praying have helped write and prepare this document. The pages of this document are, like our church, a group effort.

What do these pages tell us about our community of faith? I believe quite a lot! The future at Berlin Mennonite looks bright! Seven babies were born to people in our church in the last eighteen months. We have 106 youth ages 18 and under who make up our church. We have twenty-two college aged students who the church staff visits annually, as far away as New York City and Chicago.

Our church is involved with lots of outreach in big and small ways. Locally, we help fund Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC), one of the few social service organizations in Holmes County. Love INC. provides financial training classes, coats, food, gas money, and other immediate needs to our neighbors right here in Holmes County. Globally, many in our church volunteer at Save and Serve, which directly supports the work of Mennonite Central Committee. In addition to MCC and Love Inc. our church budget supports the important work of Mennonite Mission Network, which is the mission and evangelism arm of our denomination.

Just as exciting as the opportunities we have to reach out are growing opportunities we have to bring our community to us. Holmes County Center for the Arts is using our building for programming, East Holmes uses our soccer fields, and community members are using our new playground and pavilion.

As excited as I am for the ways God is using our church family, I am encouraged to see the ways God will continue to use us in the future. While part of the work of our church is to *together discern* what God is calling us to, I believe that we are being called into greater engagement with the community around us. God is calling us to greater engagement with our community: our neighbors, businesses, visitors, teachers and students who live, learn, work and play here in Berlin. We are called by God to make an impact in each of their lives.

We can point to times in our church's history where we have stepped out in faith to do follow God's lead. I am convinced that God is calling us to again step out in faith to share generously the many ways God has blessed our church.

Thanks be to God,

Jeff Hochstetler

Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT)

Members: Vaughn Troyer, Bob Habeger, Brenda Hummel, Ralph King

Staff: Myron Weaver, Jeff Hochstetler, Dayna Schrock

The SLT exists to provide spiritual leadership to the church by assisting the pastoral team in discerning and caring for the spiritual needs of the congregation and its individuals. The SLT also serves in an advisory capacity to support the pastoral staff. The SLT met monthly, usually on the second Tuesday of the month, at the church.

Berlin Mennonite Church has a very stable and strong leadership staff in Myron, Dayna, and Jeff. Their leadership is critical to responding to personal crises, providing counsel, discipleship of members, and attending to the congregational spiritual needs. I am very grateful that each are committed to spiritual development and humbly seek God's guidance in their personal lives.

This year there has been much instability in the greater denomination but BMC's leadership commitment to be rooted in Jesus, growing in faith, and branching out in love unites us in purpose. In the fall the SLT had a retreat to plan for the coming year.

This resulted in 5 areas of focus:

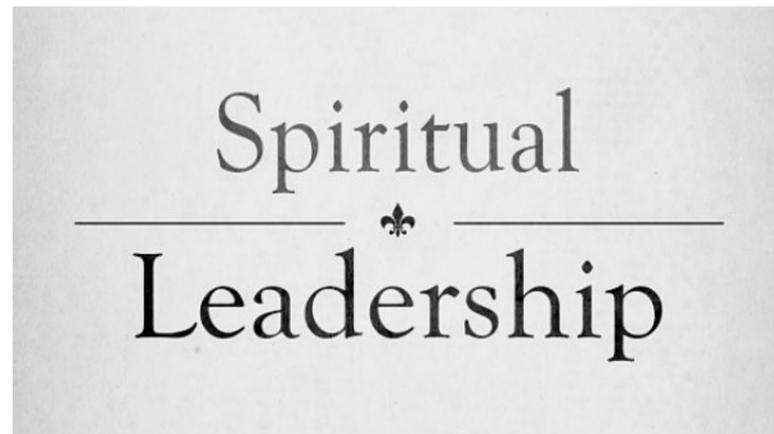
- Embrace the Holy Spirit through teaching, preaching and other creative arts
- Branching out in Love through invitation
- Continued youth focus through children's church and MYF
- Renewed emphasis on music in worship
- Explore the possibility of a refugee family

Some other tasks or projects were:

- Responded to needs with the alms fund;
- Annual pastor evaluations;
- Commitment of membership to the Ohio conference for a year;
- Reviewed how music is presented during worship;
- Started preparation for Myron's upcoming sabbatical;
- Started the process of ordination discernment for Jeff.
- Dayna become certified as a STAR Practitioner (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) through Eastern Mennonite University and plans to use those skills locally.

Thank you for your continued prayers and we are open to your questions, concerns, or comments. Please feel free to contact any of us.

Respectfully submitted by Vaughn Troyer



JYF and MYF Reports

Junior Youth Fellowship (JFY) met throughout the year. There were 4 girls and 13 boys in regular attendance. Of those boys and girls, eight were 7th graders and nine were 8th graders. We started meeting in the fall when family fun nights were held. Our meetings included a get-to-know each other trip to Main Street Popcorn for ice cream, a service project cleaning up Mary Sundheimer's yard, a joint game of 9 Square and Ga-ga Ball with Martin's Creek Mennonite JYF at Boyd's gym, and a movie night (Facing the Giants). During the winter months we attended the annual junior high youth retreat at Camp Luz in January and went to SkyMax Trampoline Center in Canton. We concluded the school year with a Nerf Battle and ta-co bar. In June we spent time celebrating summer going to Lake Park Water Park in Coshocton. Most meetings included a devotional or short Bible study. During one meeting we discussed service without recognition so the group planned and participated in an unrecognized act of kindness for a person in need. It was a great year and the events were well attended.

Respectfully submitted by

John and Suzanne Kalman

Neil and Denise Anderson

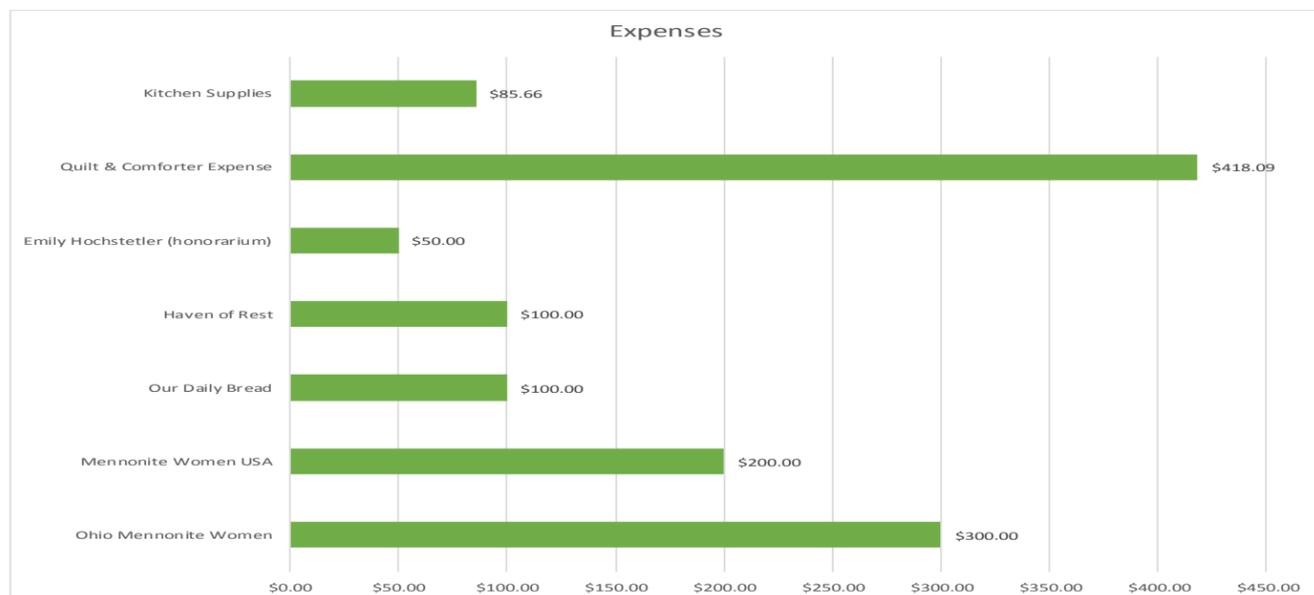
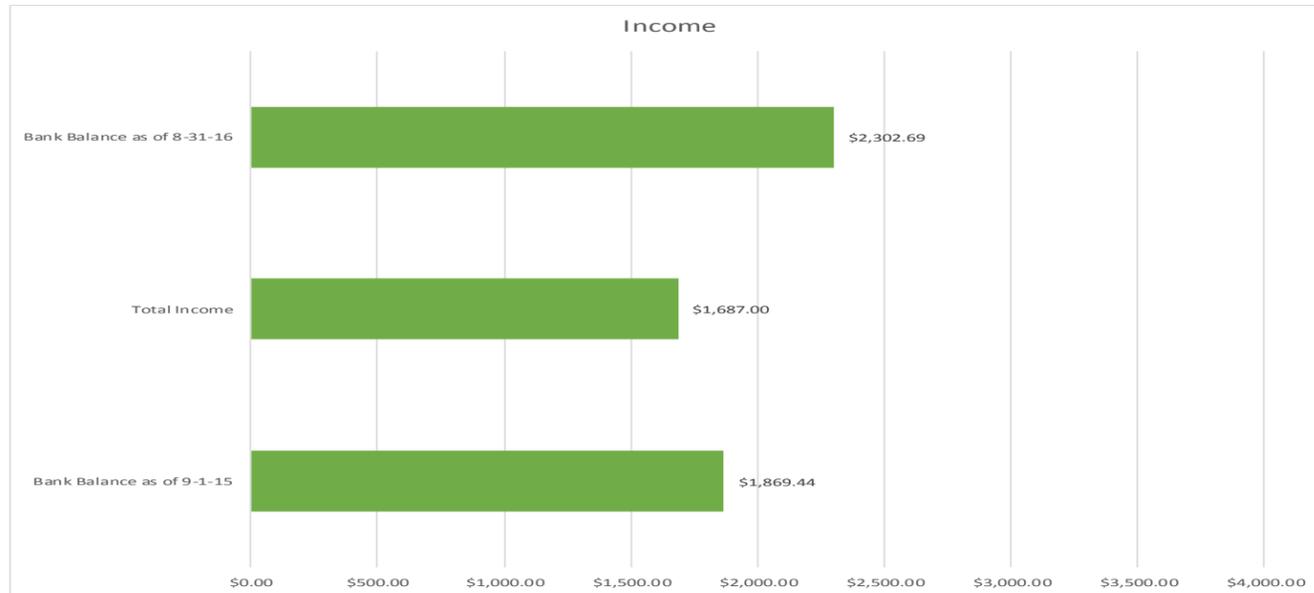


Mennonite Youth Fellowship (MYF) meets regularly on Wednesday nights. This past year's sponsors were Maynard and Emily Miller and Titus and Deb Dutcher. We averaged 15-20 youth a week on Wednesday nights. Each month we attempted to have one night of service, one night of fellowship, one night of input/study (about half of them led by the youth) and one activity night. We had a Winter Retreat at Camp Luz which included an inspirational speaker and good discussions. We also took part in the DOOR program in Chicago this Summer for a week. This experience was a highlight for many of the youth and stretched all of us to see God's work within an urban setting very different from our own community. We are grateful for the support of our congregation both financially and spiritually that help to make all of these activities possible.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Miller

THE FALL 2015 MYF ANNUAL MEAL AND AUCTION RAISED \$17,100

Berlin Mennonite Women



Berlin Mennonite Women met eleven times. We donated a green “Underground Railroad” quilt to the relief sale which sold for \$750.00. Also, we donated quilt to Adriel School Auction and quilted one for Save and Serve. Seven comforters were donated to Adriel School. Six comforters were given to our graduates. Fleece blankets were given to those in our church undergoing illness and health issues.

Respectfully submitted by Alice Yoder, Sec-Treas.

Council Report

Council met regularly this year on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8:00pm following the Monthly committee meetings. Council did not meet in December and June. David Miller served as the church moderator for the 2015/16 year and due to health issues he was assisted by interim moderators Bruce Hummel and Vaughn Troyer. A special thank you to David for his years of service as Moderator.

The year began with the Annual Business Meeting on October 4, 2015. David Miller led the meeting. Annual Reports were reviewed and approved. The 2015/16 budget was presented by Treasurer Tom Yoder and approved.

Throughout the year reports were presented by the land use committee on fundraising, the installation of the playground, and the building of the pavilion. We celebrate with the church on the success of these projects. They are beautiful, very functional, and will serve the church and community well. The East Holmes School District is using the soccer fields behind the church on a regular basis. They provide the mowing of the fields. Trash receptacles and signage were added to the area. Reservation of the new pavilion is coordinated by the church office and the cost is by donation. The church used a large visual of a potted flower with blooms to represent the number of giving family units to the project. Our goal was for 100% of the family units to be involved in the giving. We are in need of a small amount of money to meet the final expenses of the project. We are waiting for this money to be raised before ordering picnic tables.

The 100 Year Celebration committee has been giving reports on the plans for the celebration in 2017. This will be a yearlong celebration with events throughout the year. Jean Lefurgey has been creating historical newsletters that have been quite educational and enjoyable to read.

LED lights replaced incandescent and florescent bulbs in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and MYF room to help reduce energy consumption. This will reduce the future need to be replacing bulbs and has also improved the lighting. Eric Miller gave leadership to this project.

The library was moved from to the foyer to provide better visibility and to facilitate greater utilization. Scott Troyer built the new bookshelves. This has been a very nice change. Librarian Bonnie Miller is working to have all the books digitally cataloged and have computerized checkout available.

The trustees had new digital thermostats installed throughout the building. These can be controlled via the internet and provide greater control over the temperature settings. Temperatures are varied throughout the week based on building usage to help save on energy usage.

The outdoor sign was refurbished and includes our church logo and mission statement.

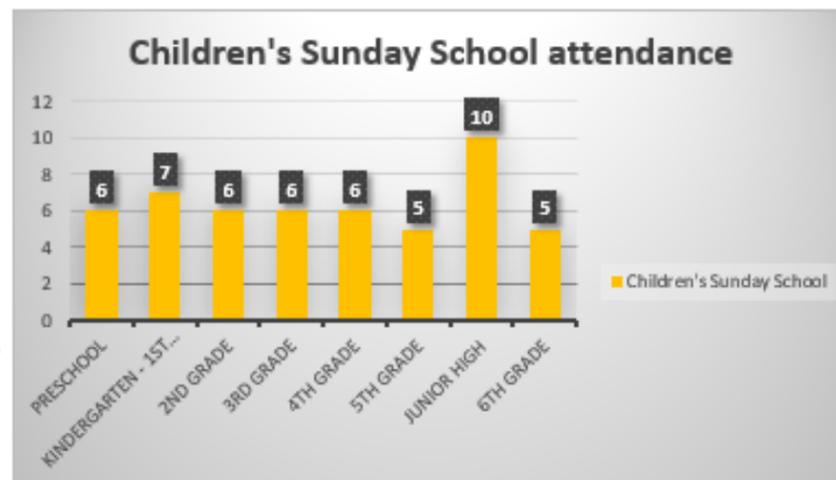
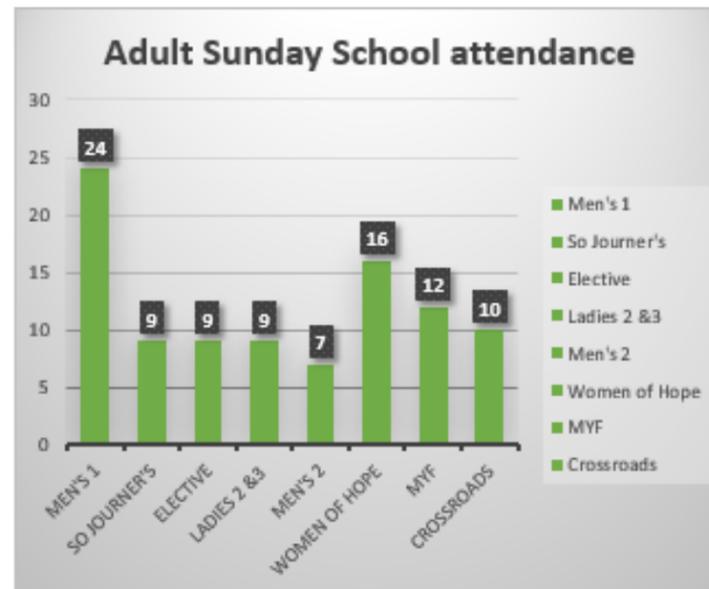
Jewel and Mel Bontrager completed their service as church custodians. A special thank you for their dedicated service through the years. Linda Miller was hired as the new custodian and she will be backed up by Wes and Kathy Kandel.

Leon Miller was approved by the congregation to serve as the new SLT member, replacing outgoing member Vaughn Troyer.

Respectfully submitted by Vaughn Troyer, Interim Moderator.



Christian Education by the Numbers



Seven people chose to take the Christian discipleship class and get baptized this past Spring!

Average Sunday school attendance for 2016:
 Sept – Nov 134
 Dec – Feb 115
 Mar – May 109
 Jun – Aug 119

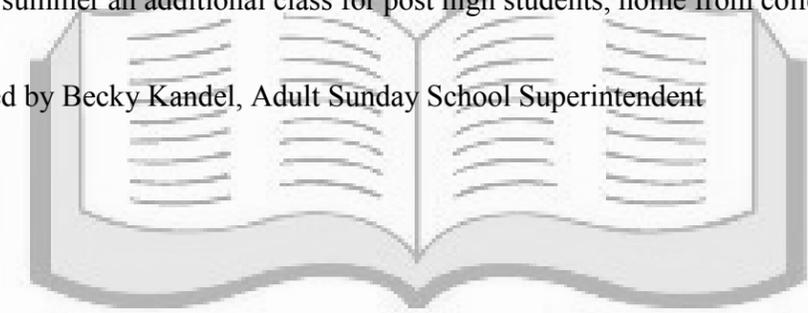
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. – Psalm 119:105

Adult Sunday School Report

Sunday School classes continue to be an important part of Berlin Mennonite Church. It is often through this smaller, more personal setting that we develop a real sense of caring and community. Classes continue to be well attended with an average of 12 per adult class and 11 per Sunday in the MYF class.

Classes are using a variety of resources to instruct and disciple including the quarterly curriculum of the Mennonite Church, special book studies, the Bible and sermon reviews. We wish to make the Sunday School experience worthwhile and meaningful. There are presently seven adult classes plus the MYF class that is currently active. This summer an additional class for post high students, home from college, led by Selena Herrera was added.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Kandel, Adult Sunday School Superintendent



Vacation Bible School Committee

Message Received: Surprise
 VBS 2016

Stories of discovering Jesus! Jesus surprised and blessed the people he met, and with each encounter people discovered more about Jesus. Each day the kids learned a different story. 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 loafs of bread and two fish, Nicodemus seeking wisdom at night, and two travelers on the road surprised by Jesus after his death. The kids also did a great job memorizing their bible verse which was Mark 10:14-16. We averaged about 50 kids per night with an overall total of 75 kids registered. We did offering every day and raised \$958.59. for Love INC> The VBS Committee would like to thank everyone who was involved in making VBS a success this year. Thank you for all your hard work.

Respectfully submitted by the VBS Committee:

Katie Troyer
 Merry-Lynn Sigrist Straits
 Marlea Leinbach



Women's Ministry September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016

Rooted in Jesus...

Events

- *Sept, 2015: Beth Moore Simulcast
- *Oct, 2015: Sponsored Chili Cook-Off
- *Dec, 2015: Christmas Cookie Exchange
- *Jan, 2016: "Coffee & Canvas" painting class
- *July, 2016: Kitchen Kits

Growing in Faith...

Bible Studies

- *Fall - Beth Moore Community Bible Study, "Esther"; 10 weeks
- *Spring - Priscilla Shirer Bible Study, "Gideon"; 7 weeks

Service Projects

- *Freezer Meal Ministry to the community
- *Feb, 2016: Valentine gift delivered to 30 single adult men & women
- *April 2016: College Student Gift Cards mailed
- *Summer, 2016: Kitchen Kits for Love Inc. launch

Branching out in Love...

Table Talk

*Quarterly event Speakers:

- Sept: Hannah Troyer (Trades of Hope)
- Jan: Marlea Hershberger Leinbach (painting class)
- April: Vicki Conn (Love Inc.)
- July: Bethany Nussbaum (MEDA)

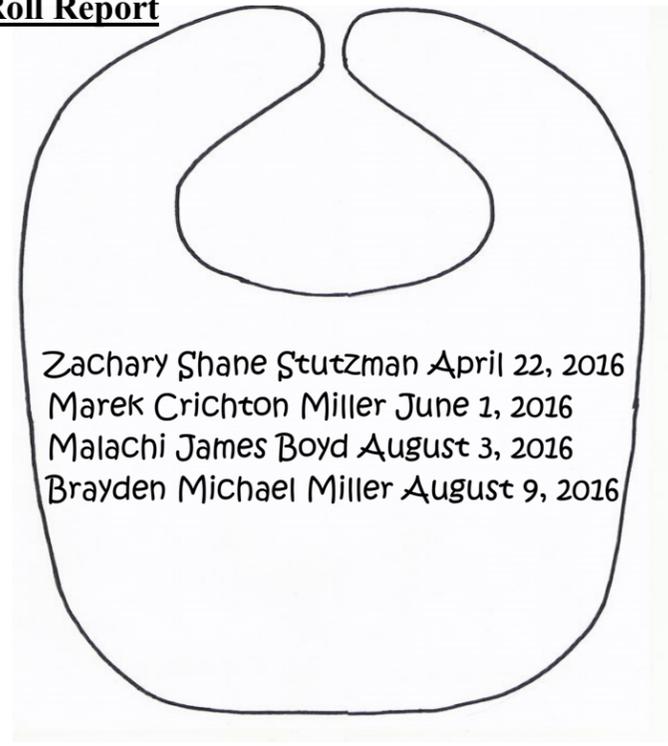
Baby Showers

- *5/22/16: Michael & Lindsay Stutzman & son, Zachary
- *8/21/16: Zak & Shawna Boyd & son, Malachi

Committee: Laura Yoder, Peg Brand, Jewell Bontrager, Kelsey Hochstetler, Dayna Schrock

Cradle Roll Report

*A baby is a blessing.
A gift from Heaven above,
A precious little angel
To cherish and to love.*



Respectfully submitted by Connie Weaver

Conference Delegates

Bruce and Anne Hummel
Gene and Candace Miller

The 46th Ohio Annual Assembly was held at Central Mennonite Church on March 11-12, 2015. Attended by delegates and pastors. The conference was challenged to develop a platform that would provide the greatest potential for unity. It decided to allow churches to remain members of the Ohio Conference and not be a part of the larger Mennonite Church USA. It is always amazing to experience the love and loyalty that the Ohio community continue to offer in the midst of significant disagreements.

Central Christian School in Kidron will host the 2017 Annual Conference Assembly (ACA) of the Ohio Conference March 24-25, 2017. "Who is my Neighbor?" will be the theme of the 2017 ACA. This theme is based on Luke 10:25-37. Delegates are representatives from member congregations and serve as a liaison between the congregation and conference. Delegates also attend cluster meetings throughout the year to stay informed.

Please feel free to direct questions or suggestions to your delegates.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Miller, Delegate



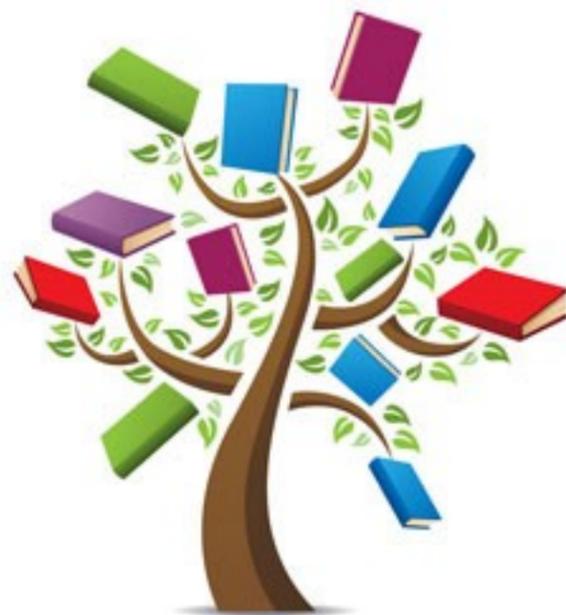
Library Report

The main happening for the library was the move from the back classroom to the corner of the lobby. This was accomplished with the help of many individuals. Another major change was the conversion to a computerized system. Although it is not in full operation, it will simplify checkout & check in.

As a result of the move, many outdated and/or unread books were discarded.

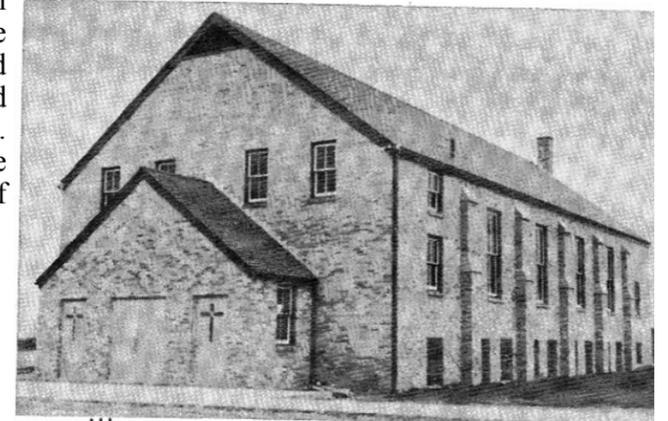
It is the hope that many of you will visit our new library location and enjoy the pleasure of a good book.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Miller, Librarian



Historian Report

As we at Berlin Mennonite Church approach the Anniversary Celebration Year 2017-2018, there are many exciting plans in process to make the year and its activities a memorable time. Much good use has been made of the materials in the archives room which have been preserved for us by the previous generations that were Berlin Mennonite. How interesting it will be as we find out who we've been throughout the early years and leading up to our church family of today. Perhaps we may even get glimpses of where we are heading in to the future and what the church of tomorrow may look like in 2067.



Respectfully submitted by David Miller

Berlin Beacon Newsletter

The staff of the Beacon works hard to keep you in the loop of what goes on with members of your congregation! From new items in the church library to vacations to recipes and sometimes an e-mail poll....we want to keep you up to date! If you find something of interest, please feel free to contact us and help us fill the pages! This is YOUR newsletter and we want your input! Looking forward to the upcoming year and what you might have to submit!

Respectfully submitted by Stacey Beck