

## Menno Catches 'Christmas Fever'



The upper elementary students performed 'Christmas Fever' on January 6. The lower elementary class assisted in the singing of the song, "I want." The performance had been postponed from the original December date due to illnesses of cast members. Pictured above, left to right: Devin S. (Dr. Norman), Spencer G. (Bobby Marshall), Linnea S. (Patti Webster), and Ellie G. (Nancy Burns). The plays were directed by Diane Gering, assisted by Sharla Dyck.



The preschool and lower elementary Sunday School classes performed 'A Bunch of Gifts' on December 16, with narration provided by the upper elementary students.

Pictured at left:

Back: Paula H. (Mary), Andrew C. (Joseph), Linnea S. (Narrator), Brandon S. (Star of David), Devin S. (Narrator), Zachary C. (Wise man); Front: Asher Y. (Angel), Leah C. (Cat), Zane S. (Shepherd), Benjamin C. (Angel), Justin G. (Cow), Logan G. (Sheep). (Photos by D. Hostick)

Others involved in the productions included: Butch Gering (pianist), Melanie Gering (pianist), Sharla Dyck

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## News & Notes:

### **Bethel College's 125th Anniversary**

Bethel College celebrated its 125th anniversary with its Fall Festival October 11-14, with a number of the Menno Church family participating in the events. Highlights included the dedication of the repurposed Academic Center (formerly Science Hall). This building has a new addition that houses the Nursing Department with state of the art simulation rooms, a beautiful atrium, and renovated classrooms and faculty offices for many of the departments. A new history of Bethel College written by Dr. Keith Sprunger was released for the event. The drama and music departments performed the musical "The Secret Garden" starring Julianna Schrag, granddaughter of Butch and Diane Gering.

Roberta Hodgson also participated in the Bethel College board meetings during the week. Roberta serves as a Pacific Northwest Conference representative to the Board and is willing to visit regarding any questions you may have about Bethel College.

A team from Menno traveled to Bastrop, Texas with Washington MDS during the week of January 13, 2013. The team helped with new construction following the destruction of homes in fires during 2011.



The 2012 Mennonite Country Auction raised about \$121,700. This included over \$56,000 in auction items, one of the highest totals in the MCA's 35-year history! After expenses and proceeds to Ten Thousand Villages, the contribution to MCC was almost \$93,200.

Cleon and Elizabeth Claassen spent the last half of July 2012 and the first half of August traveling with their fifth wheel RV to Kansas to visit Beau, Rebecca and Micah Froese! Cleon and Elizabeth were charged with the duty of getting then eight-month old grandson, Micah to crawl. A few days before they left Micah was "cautiously" moving on all fours and Grandad Cleon was too, but for different reasons!

Cleon and Elizabeth also had time to visit with Patrice Claassen and with the Dale Froese and Steve Penner families. They also had a great time breaking in the fifth-wheel!

Dorothy Franz, accompanied by her daughters Ruth Gfeller and Katherine Swinger, traveled to North Newton, Kansas in October to attend the 125th anniversary celebration for Bethel College as well as the Fall Festival. Highlights of the trip included visiting family from both the Schmidt and Franz sides and visiting the campus again where Henry and Dorothy first met. Gladwin and Lois Bartel and Walt Reimer hosted the trio for lunch at the Kidron Bethel Village dining room. A special treat was attending the performance of The Secret Garden; Julianna Schrag starred as Mary Lennox and Dorothy's grandnephew Austin Unruh played the part of the gardener.

The New Life Fellowship of Royal City held its first worship service on December 9, 2012. The church was organized by a group of people formerly associated with Warden Mennonite Church. The church is led by Pastor Jeff Smith, who spent the previous 14 years serving as a Mennonite minister in northwestern Ohio. Pastor Smith responded to a call from the Royal City group that formed the new church. More information can be found on the church's website, <http://www.newliferoyalcity.com>.

The *Menno Beacon* is published at the whim of the editor (who tries for at least four times per year). Any address corrections, additions, or deletions can be sent to: **Menno Mennonite Church – 1378 N. Damon Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169**, phone 509-659-0926. Web site: <http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>. If you wish to help with mailing costs of the *Beacon*, donations can be sent to the above address. Matthew Yoder pastor, email: [Matthewpsyoder@mennonite.net](mailto:Matthewpsyoder@mennonite.net), [menno@centurytel.net](mailto:menno@centurytel.net), Sharon Meyer, publisher, and Donna Hostick, editor. You can contact Donna at: 509-585-9214 or email at: [djhostick@charter.net](mailto:djhostick@charter.net).

The Menno Beacon now has a group page on Facebook; just search for "Menno Beacon" and request to join the group. There, you will find photos from the MDS trip to Texas in January, as well as more photos from the Christmas plays!

## One Thousand Gifts

In the last publication of the Beacon, a call was put forth to provide some of God's gifts that we see on a daily basis, and to see if we could get to 1,000. Below is the first installment. Please consider sending in your list of God's gifts, and we will start the next edition with number 51!

1. Geese flying in V-formation
2. Hershey bars!
3. Grandchildren, children, grandparents enjoying one another's company while visiting, constructing Lego cars, exploring new surroundings.
4. Reflections, perfect, in a pond at sunrise.
5. The joy of beach discoveries: a blue boat; rocks to skip; pretty stones to keep' a crayfish!
6. My friend's smile and welcoming spirit.
7. Faithfulness exemplified in aging Auntie.
8. The aroma of apples cooking: applesauce, apple pie!
9. Three little finches outside the kitchen window!
10. Evidence of wind swirling on the calm reflective waters of Moses Lake.
11. Huge soapy bubbles entertaining all ages!
12. Homemade ice cream in plastic bags!
13. Quiet Camrec places--sunlight peeking through tall trees.
14. Christ's body and blood so graciously given for me!
15. The friskiness of house pets in early morning!
16. Fresh peas, brilliant green, lying close together in the pod!
17. The Lord's understanding of our anxieties and His comfort when we consider change.
18. Wonders of the night sky and meteor showers.
19. Plumes on ornamental grass in the landscape.
20. Flocks of sandhill cranes ascending in a spiral.
21. The colors of sunrise and sunset each day
22. God's strength when mine is not enough
23. A loved one's laugh
24. Difficulties that grow me – the hard eucharist
25. Old farmers
26. God's timing in daily devotions
27. Sweet smell of flowers
28. Warmth of afternoon sun
29. Little boys at a lemonade stand
30. Transformation
31. God's faithful work in the lives of my children
32. Meaningful work
33. A beautiful place to do it
34. A good congregation to serve
35. On Sundays I also add thanks for "time." Sabbath time – time set aside for rest.
36. Thankful for rain for the wheat and to wash the earth
37. Thankful for the view of Mt. Rainer as I enter I-90
38. Thankful for a cat's purr
39. Thankful for the birds' songs
40. Thankful for the energy of children running around
41. When the high winds and the dirt blows, thankful that it was not tornado force winds and our homes are still standing
42. Thankful that I found the nail in the gravel driveway before the tire did
43. Thankful for safe travels
44. Thankful for the assortment of potluck food
45. Thankful for fall colors
46. Delightful grandchildren with their own unique talents and personalities!
47. Light, and how it changes throughout the day
48. The tiniest of details in the smallest of flowers
49. Neighbors who become family
50. Baby squeaks and snores

### Menno Annual Meeting

Menno's Annual Meeting was held Saturday, January 26. Randy Franz was elected to a second 3-year term as Deacon. Others elected for Church offices included Shawna Yoder, Elementary Sunday School Superintendent (2-year term), Donna Hostick, Adult Sunday School Superintendent (2-year term), Dennis Swinger, Jr., Sunday School Board Member (2-year term), Regan Bonato, Board Secretary (2-year term), Reed Meyer, Treasurer (2-year term), Don Kagele, Usher (2-year term), Sharla Dyck, Special Concerns

Committee (2-year term), Sharla Dyck, News Correspondent (2-year term), Katherine Swinger, Christian Enrichment Committee (3-year term), Randy Franz Maintenance Committee (3-year term), and Jennifer Gering-Kuch (2-year term). Pastor Mathew Yoder was called again to serve as Menno's pastor. In addition to budget discussions, Michael Claassen provided an update on activities related to the exploration of a new building. Committee members have been talking with an architect to explore the creation of a visual example of what the new building might look like.

# Menno Remembers...

## Clinton C. Claassen

Clinton C. Claassen, 97, of Moses Lake died October 27, 2012. He was born March 30, 1915 to William B. and Anna Claassen in Beatrice, NE, the second of five sons.

In 1929 the family moved to Colfax, WA where he graduated from high school and worked on the family farm. Through church activities he met his partner in life. He married Evelyn Jantz at her father's home near Ritzville on May 31, 1941. They moved to the Ruff area where together they farmed for over fifty years, enjoying the help of numerous friends and relatives during harvest and

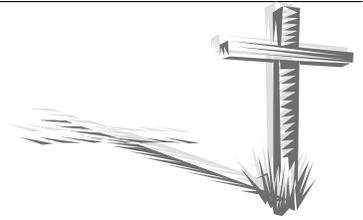
other busy times. He was a member of Menno Mennonite Church serving in multiple roles and sharing his love of Jesus with others through his wit, generosity, and gentle smile. He was a devoted husband, father, granddad, and great granddad. Three years after Evelyn's death, he moved to Monroe House in Moses Lake in 2007 where he continued to find joy and strength in the time spent with family and visits to the farm.

Survivors include four children, Sharon (Stan) Meyer of Moses Lake, Eugene (Dorene) of Marlin, Cleon (Elizabeth) of Moses Lake, and Patrice Claassen of North

Newton, KS; seven grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and two brothers.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn, and two brothers, Rudolph and Ernest.

His life was honored at services held Friday, November 2, 2:00 pm at Menno Mennonite Church, with burial preceding at the Menno Mennonite Cemetery. Memorials may be designated to the Washington Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service in care of Menno Mennonite Church.



## Maria K. Janzen

Maria was a happy go lucky, live your life kinda gal. Like her father, no one was a stranger; she treated everyone like a long lost friend. Her greatest gift in life was always trying to help people and animals. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother; doing all she could to support, love and protect those she loved. To her friends and family, her laughter was her trademark. You could hear it anywhere and know who it was without even seeing her. Although it will be a little quieter around here; it will be that much louder in Heaven.

Maria Kay Janzen entered this world on July 23, 1965 to Herb and Terry Janzen in Ritzville, WA. She was the youngest of six

children. To us, she was Gia and sometimes the Gia Monster. She died unexpectedly on the early morning of November 6, 2012 in Ritzville. She grew up in Ritzville and graduated from Ritzville High School in 1983. On September 28, 1983, Maria and Duane welcomed their daughter Nicole Bailes into their lives. Maria married Duane Bailes on October 24, 1984 in Portland, OR. Maria and Duane were married nine years. In 1993 Maria met Simon Tedrow, and they were married on December 1, 1996. They were married for three years. Maria would then live the rest of her days in Ritzville, WA. On May 5, 2000 she met Mark Anderson and together they were raising his daughter Hannah. They continued their life together until her untimely death.

She leaves behind a loving daughter, Nicole Bailes and future son-in-law, Mike Stromberger; two grandchildren: Taylor Davey and Jonathan Stromberger; her parents: Herb and Terry Janzen, sisters: Chris (Roger) Smith and Debi (Thomas) Balfe; brothers: Orris (Teresa) Janzen and Leslie (Carolyn) Janzen; many nieces, nephew; her companion Mark Anderson and his daughter Hannah Anderson. She was preceded in death by her brother Ronald Janzen and grandparents Peter and Mary Janzen.

Memorial Services were held Saturday November 17, 2012 at Danekas Funeral Home in Ritzville with a private inurnment at Ritzville Memorial Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Maria K. Janzen Memorial Fund, for her grandchildren, at any US Bank.

## Harris H. Waltner

Harris H. Waltner, North Newton, Kan., a longtime Mennonite pastor, died Nov. 23, 2012.

Harris was born on Jan. 17, 1925 to Henry Jac and Ida (Kaufman) Waltner on the family farm near Freeman, S.D. Harris had an older brother Harold (who died at birth), a younger sister, Hilda, and two younger brothers, James and Calvin.

Harris attended country school and graduated from Freeman Academy and Freeman Junior College in Freeman. He also attended Bethel College in Kansas where he graduated in 1950. While there he met Christine Duerksen who would become his wife on Aug. 15, 1951. They moved to Chicago, Ill., where Harris attended Mennonite Biblical Seminary and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1954.

He was ordained into the ministry at Salem Mennonite Church, Freeman, June 21, 1953 and received his first call to a congregation

from West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, Kan. During this time all three of the Waltner children were born: John (1954), Carol (1955) and Marilyn (1959).

In 1963 the family moved to Ritzville, Wash., where for the next 10 years he served the Menno Mennonite Church. This was punctuated by a 10 month interim pastorate at Maplewood Mennonite Church in Ft. Wayne, Ind., during the 1969-70 school year. In keeping with a 10 year pattern, Harris and Christine accepted a call to the Bethel Mennonite Church in Mountain Lake, Minn. Having had a number of opportunities to travel, Harris and Christine next accepted a call to serve the Maseru United Church in Maseru, Lesotho, Africa.

When they returned, he served the Manhattan Mennonite Church in Manhattan, Kan. After six years as pastor at Manhattan, Harris retired, completing 40 years in the pastoral ministry.

They moved to Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton in 2001.

the end! He set a wonderful example for his grandchildren on how to live a life of purpose, loyalty and grace—such a gentleman. He will be missed by all his family, friends, and extended family.

A service was held at the Menno cemetery on April 6th. Memorial gifts may be made to Hospice of the Northwest, or the Menno Mennonite Church.

After living with Alzheimer's for several years his earthly journey ended peacefully on Nov. 23, 2012.

Harris is survived by Christine, his wife of 61 years; his three children: son John and wife Pam, Woodinville, Wash., and their three children, Jonathan and wife Morgan, Portland, Ore., Laura, Seattle, Wash., and Lindsay, Spokane, Wash.; daughter Carol and husband Stan Buller, Lenexa, Kan., and their three children, Sara, St. Louis, Mo., Erica, Lenexa, and Christian, Boulder, Colo.; daughter Marilyn and husband Joe Loganbill, Newton, and their two sons, Reid and Ross. He is also survived by his sister, Hilda and Ken Kaufman, Freeman; sisters-in-law: Lenore Waltner, North Newton, and Shirley Waltner, Freeman. His parents and three brothers, Harold, James and Calvin, preceded him in death.

A memorial service was held at the Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton on Saturday, Dec. 29.

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enjoyed crosswords, bridge, reading, classical music, proper manners and grammar, decorum and always good food and friends. On the farm in Othello he was an avid gardener, harvesting fruits and vegetables. He and Jane enjoyed the local dance club, golf and Grange. He was a member of the Kennewick Kiwanis, a supporter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Palm Springs. As an undergraduate he was inducted into Zeta Mu Tau, mathematics honor society at the UW. He had a great wit until



Be faithful  
unto death,  
and I will  
give you  
the crown  
of Life.  
Revelation 2:10

# Menno Remembers...



**Marjorie Fast Schowalter** preceded her in death in 1987.

Marjorie Fast (Franz) Schowalter died at the age of 84 on Feb. 4 at Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton Kan., where she had resided for the past five years.

She had been an elementary music teacher, an accomplished pianist and costume seamstress prior to the onset of crippling arthritis. She received her music degree from Bethel College in N. Newton, Kan., with additional studies at Wichita State University.

Her first husband, Duane Schowalter, a Boeing engineer,

In 2000, she married Earl Franz of Lind, a former friend from Bethel College days.

Also preceding her death were her parents Dr. Henry and Ethyl Fast, and an eight-year-old sister Elinor.

She is survived by her husband Earl; sons, Tim (Cathy) Schowalter, Steve (Marna) Schowalter; daughters Cynthia and Stephanie; two granddaughters, Shannon and Corin, a sister Florence and Merle Siebert; a brother Richard (Mary Ann) Fast; three step-daughters Yvonne Re-

delfs, Gail Hudson and Jeanette Filan; seven step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held in the Bethel College Mennonite Church in N. Newton, Kansas on Saturday, February 23. She has donated her body to the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Memorials can be sent to "Bethel College Christian Education Student Scholarship Fund" or the "Bethel College Fine Arts Building."

## Albert F. Franz

Albert F. Franz passed away March 11, 2013, at his home on Fir Island, Mount Vernon, WA. He was born August 30, 1917, at the family homestead in Schrag, WA. He was the fourth child of six born to Peter and Agnetha (Ewert) Franz.

The Franzes were German immigrants, from the Crimea area in Russia where they had emigrated on agreement they would teach farming practices in exchange for relief from conscription (military draft).

The family first settled in South Dakota then subsequently settled north east of Warden, WA. Al was raised on the homestead farm near Schrag, graduating from Lind High School in 1934. As the story goes, Al wanted to attend college,

saving money for two years after High School and when his father gave him \$200, he went to WSC and UW, graduating from the UW in Mechanical Engineering. There he met Jane Montgomery, who would become his wife of 58 years.

He served his country during WWII as a civilian working for Boeing as a tooling engineer on various programs including the B47 bomber. Al was an independent thinker, with an entrepreneurial bent and returned to farming in the Columbia Basin Project in Block 49, west of Othello in 1953 with Jane and their two young sons, Paul and Jim. He later joined the Grant Co. PUD working on Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams as construction inspector, mechanical maintenance supervisor, advancing to project engineer. Following retirement, he and Jane

traveled extensively all over the world.

After Jane's death in 2000, Al spent the last 12 years with his special friend, Ruth Wylie, where they spent winters in Palm Springs, and the warm months in Kennewick and then recently on Fir Island.

Albert was preceded in death by his parents, wife Jane, son James, siblings Walter, Arnold, and Bertha Franz. He is survived by his son Paul; grandchildren Dana, Kathryn, Elizabeth, Natalie; siblings Victor and Sylvia (Adams); daughters-in-law Charlene (James) and Rochana (Paul); and his very special friend, Ruth Wylie.

Al was a quiet man, wise, humble and kind. He had a keen intellect,

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## Menno Welcomes New Church Members

On November 4, 2012, Bailey Kuch, son of Ryan Kuch and Jennifer Gering-Kuch, and Morgan Shields, daughter of Tina Shields and Michael Gering, were baptized and received into membership. Pastor Matthew presented Bailey and Morgan with Bibles that had been marked with favorite or meaningful scripture passages by members of the congregation.

On February 24, 2013, Derek and Susan Schafer and Shawna Yoder were received into membership through a confirmation of faith.



Morgan Shields, Pastor Matthew Yoder, Bailey Kuch (Photo by D. Hostick)

*(Continued from page 1)*

(props), Elizabeth Claassen (props), parents (costumes), Bill Dyck (light and sound), Tina Shields (programs), Staci Claassen (back stage manager), Sharon Meyer (back stage manager), Chris Gering (duet in Christmas Fever), and Sunday School Teachers Elizabeth Claassen and Staci Claassen (pre-school), Sharon Meyer and Susan Schafer (lower elementary), and Chris Gering and Cleon Claassen (upper elementary grades).



### Camrec Upcoming Events:

**WMF Annual Meeting** - April 26-28, 2013

**Birds & Blossoms Retreat** - June 13-15, 2013

Mark your calendar for a relaxed weekend at camp to enjoy bird watching, wild flowers, and fellowship. Bring your field guides, camera, sketch book, and hiking boots.

### Summer Youth Programs

Jr./Sr. High Camp - July 8-13, 2013

Junior Camp - July 16-20, 2013

Pre-Junior Camp - July 26-28, 2013

Our theme this summer will be "Breathe It In: God Gives Life". Campers will explore how God's own breath was used to create people, and how the wind of the Spirit helped the young church to grow. More information is available at:

<http://camrec.org/programs/summer-camps/>

**Women's Retreat at Camp Camrec** will be October 18-20 this year. Seattle Mennonite Church will be in charge. More information to follow.



**Remember** that you can find Camrec's "The Chumstick" newsletter at:

<http://camrec.org/the-chumstick>

PNMC conference news can be found at: [www.pnmc.org](http://www.pnmc.org) *The Evangel* is only published electronically now and can be found three times a year at the following:

[www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel](http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel)

You can go to Menno Church's website to find all the above in the links tab. The *Menno Beacon* will be on the website too, as well as the bulletins.

<http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>

Menno Mennonite Church  
 1378 N. Damon Rd.  
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### Calendar of Events

<b>April</b>	9	10am	Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
	9	7pm	Church Board Meets
	10	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	11	9am-2pm	Menno Women in Mission
	17	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	24	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	24	6pm	Crafters Supper
	26-28		Washington Mennonite Fellowship Annual Meeting at Camrec
<b>May</b>	1	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	1		Early Bird registration for summer camps due
	7	noon	Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
	8	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	9	9am-2pm	Menno Women in Mission
	14	10am	Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
	15	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	17-19		Menno Church Retreat at Camrec
	22	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	29	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
<b>June</b>	4	noon	Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
	5	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	11	10am	Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
	12	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	13	9am-2pm	Menno Women in Mission
	13-15		Birds and Blossoms Retreat at Camrec
	19	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
	21-22		PNMC Annual Meeting at Warner Pacific College
	26	6-7:30pm	Women's Bible Study
<b>July</b>	1-5		Mennonite Church USA Youth convention
	8-13		Jr. and Sr. High Camps at Camerc
	16-20		Junior Camp at Camrec
	27-28		Pre-junior Camp at Camrec