

SMCHA Annual Meeting March 9, 2014 at First Mennonite Church of Halstead KS 2:30 p.m.

Brian Harmon, pastor, gave devotional with Mt. 5:38-48 scripture.

Ruth Waltner read the history of the Halstead church, written by Dorothy Dick. 1874 people came from Sommerfeld and purchased land here. In 1875 another group arrived and many of these settled north of Halstead. Christian Krehbiel made arrangements for those who came from Florence. Krehbiel organized and they made a constitution with the help of David Goerz. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom" from Luke 12:32 – John Gaeddert made a plaque with these words which hangs in the sanctuary. 1975 Easter elected pastor Valentine Krehbiel and deacons. 28 charter members. Where to meet? Garden Valley school house and Halstead school. Two Sundays at Halstead and two Sundays at Garden Valley so that people didn't have to travel so far. As group grew, they started First Mennonite Church of Christian. Built a building used as both school and church. 1878 asst. Two parts in 1878, sister churches. Started other churches: Bethel College and others started out of Halstead church.

Barbara gave summary of minutes from 2013 annual meeting.

Clemon explained finances of 2013. Motion by Ron Preheim. Presented the budget 2014. Wayne Stucky motion and Ben Stucky second.

LaVern gave overview of the year. Membership increased 16%. Ukraine Tour with Gary Waltner leader. April 26 2014 Tour of local sites planned; now waiting list; Brian Stucky leading. Recording graves ongoing project; \$500 grant. Annual meeting was at McPherson with Marlene Krehbiel speaker. Banquet at Whitestone with David Ortman speaker. Benjamin Richter buried at Hoffnungsfeld May 4, 2014. Number of plots reserved. Added rows AA & BB. New treasurer Clemon took over after resignation of Ryan Goering. Three issues of Salt sent out in 2013. Gave four \$250 scholarships: Caley Ortman, Jacob Landis, Mary Schrag, Ariane Bergen. Properties more attractive, weed control. New recipe project. Check web site for information.

Election: LaVern Stucky president, Clemon Kaufman Treasurer, Keith Albrecht, and Roy Kaufman (Emil & Lillie Krehbiel Kaufman parents). David Stucky motion, Brian Stucky second to accept the ballot.

Need for helpers to photograph graves.

Wishing to have more younger people join SMCHA.

Alice Suderman reported that at least 30 people have received SMCHA scholarships in these years.

Alan Stucky support for theological education and leadership emphasis. He came from Goessel, BC, working in joint program with other churches at Buhler; attended Great Plains courses. In 2007 Katie and Alan moved to Elkhart to complete M.Div coursework. Pleasant Valley. Finding that many in the community are not familiar with church. Have made youth trips to Santa Cruz Bolivia for service work. For four years. In Jan-Feb 2013 for 6 weeks there. Attended leaders of South America Mennonite churches in Santiago, Chile. Met Old Colony people. People he stayed with were indigenous people. Old Colony people were white, Low Germans from Russia who have moved every 50 years from Mexico, Paraguay, Bolivia. They almost perfectly presented the culture. Communities were laid out the same way as Russia. Felt at home there. Sad part was that many colonies had kept the culture but the Anabaptist faith was not there, lost the faith. Our history is not static. Culture and history continues to grow and change. How to keep faith as we change in the future? But also helping us write our history.

Bernie Kaufman: Appreciates SMCHA focus on ancestors and efforts to encourage Anabaptist education. Personal thanks in early 1980s help. Timing was affirmation of personal. Journey to AMBS. Born 1950s. College-marriage-family was the normal track for women. She had strong family religion. As a lay person in church and denomination. Eastern CO teaching 2nd grade was great. Could not be involved in the church she attended which was very discouraging so she found a Mennonite Church and was affirmed there. Taught 4th grade and enjoyed but asked the question, "Is this all there is?" Converted age 12. 1 yr VS. Looked at MCC in Tanzania. So felt she needed more spiritual education to serve in that capacity so looked at AMBS and found she loved it there and received affirmation. Changed focus from mission to Christian Education and Counseling. Worked with the culture of poverty and appreciated this area of work. Striving to be faithful to the call of God. Terminated AMBS before graduating. Worked recruiting until felt bad about asking people to give all they had to missions. Now Mennonite Women in Newton. Greatest revelation was an awareness of real ministry. Those Jesus held and preached and who he called friends were real people. On the periphery of society not by their choice. Jesus called me to serve them. Circles of McPherson. There is always more on the journey.

David Roth. Ecclesiastes "Cast your bread upon the waters." Valuable asset was HC in 1999, went to LA 6 ½ years, moved to Kingman. Internship at Hoffnungsau and knew little about Swiss Volhynians. Tabor BS on exegesis and conflict resolution classes. Masters at Fort Hays State in counseling. Melted church. Ethnicity. Where the cemetery is is where the original church was.

Jim Ostlund. Convinced Anabaptists are my family. Needed a place to anchor. Resisted pastor call because of baggage of different family thinking. Good relationships with Mennonites. At 23 preached at Eden and part time interim and associate and AMBS Great Plains. Glad for help so that he had no out of pocket expense. Six years in ministry and part time studies. Went to Fuller. Convinced him that he was an Anabaptist. Problem of the Good News. Felt a tug to church planting. Starting family. Took a position with a big church with a big salary. Called to do something different. Saw his gift as Apostle because he dreamed new visions and create new things. Wrote. Thought about bivocational. "Starving for the Kingdom" Talked to SCC. Multisite 90% success rate. 2012 sold house and moved to McPherson. Began Journey at McPherson. Gathered mobile equipment. Jan 27, 2013 launched with 60 core people. 128 each week worshipping there now. Emphasis on youth and children. "Sent" Vision: All becoming missionaries. Seeking permanent home for the church. Jesus is the Head of the Church.

LaVern announced Jason Holcomb at PV July 6. And if there is interest in another tour, let him know.

Adjournment at 4:00 p.m.

Refreshments provided by Halstead Church (home made goravei, cherry moos, cookies, coffee, tea, and water) and poppyseed rolls purchased from Deanne Loganbill.

SMCHA Scholarship Funds Well Spent

Four of the 30 recipients of scholarships awarded by the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association spoke to the Annual meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2014 at the First Mennonite Church of Halstead.

Alan Stucky, pastor of the Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church in Harper KS, has led service youth groups to Bolivia. On a recent trip, he met Old Colony people who were white, Low Germans from Russia. He noted that they kept the culture but sadly lost the Anabaptist faith. His words were a warning that our challenge is to keep the faith and write the history in faithful ways.

Bernie Kaufman offered the perspective of walking in ministry as a woman. Her scholarship gave her opportunity to study at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. However, few ways were open to a woman desiring to serve the Lord in ministry. As she struggled with her call, she asked herself, "Is this all there is for me?" Her experiences however opened to her a new awareness of the people on the periphery of society. Circles of McPherson gives her opportunity to walk now with people in need and Mennonite Women gives fulfilling interaction with other Christian women.

David Roth, pastor of the Kingman Mennonite Church, used the Scripture Ecclesiastes 11:1, "Cast your bread upon the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days" to show how God has lead him in remarkable ways. His scholarship opened possibilities for him to continue his studies at Tabor College and now he is working on his masters degree in counseling, a path that God has shown him.

Jim Ostlund calls himself a convinced Anabaptist. He found in relationships with Mennonites a place "to anchor." He pastored at Eden Mennonite, Moundridge KS also taking courses at AMBS Great Plains part time. Because he felt a tug to church planting, he took courses at Fuller Theological Seminary. He could not put aside his gift of Apostle so searched how he might live that call. South Central Conference leaders and Jim worked together to initiate a multi-site church, and Journey at McPherson church launched January 27, 2013 with 60 core people. Their vision is "Sent" - all becoming missionaries, as Jesus is the Head of the Church.

All in attendance were blessed by the words of these church leaders who had received scholarships from the SMCHA organization. Young people who desire assistance as they take steps to answer God's call are invited to send requests for scholarship to Alice Suderman at Box 526, North Newton KS 67117 before July 2014. Donations can also be made to the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association, Box 93, Moundridge KS 67107 to increase the scholarship fund.