

## August 2007

### Worship Themes

**August 5** - *"Raised with Christ"*-

Communion, Colossians 3:1-11

Corey preaching

**August 12** - *"Sabbatical Reflections"*

Karen preaching

**August 19** - *"Persevering in Faith"*

Jeremiah 23:23-29,

Hebrews 11:29-12:2,

Luke 12:49-56 - Corey preaching

**August 26** - *"Christian Education*

*Sunday"* - Karen preaching

## "Welcome Back Home"

*"You have made the moon to mark the seasons..."* - Psalm 104:19

As we head into the hot month of August, I want to welcome you back to Tabor. Many of you were able to enjoy vacations, family gatherings and other excursions over the past few months. Some of you even returned home rested, but the fact is, you returned home.

Getting away gives us new perspectives and offers us a break from our work and the daily grind. Even visiting other churches on vacation is useful to see how other sisters and brothers worship together in community. But as refreshing as it is to get away for a while, it is sure good to be back home again. We miss our own beds, our routines, our church family. We miss the joy of offering ourselves, our gifts and our faith to the community that we are committed to.

So welcome back home to Tabor! If you've been gone for the summer or if you've found yourself in a season of being distant from church life for a few months, welcome back. Or stated a little more strongly, "It's time to get back home."

God has created the world to function in seasons. The moon marks the seasons and the sun knows when its time for setting (Ps. 104:19b). We too experience different seasons in our life. Times of engagement and times of distancing ourselves. It seems that in many churches, summertime is the season to drop out of church activity. The danger in this pattern is that some never come back and the Body feels that loss.

So, welcome back! Welcome back to worship. Welcome back to Sunday school. Welcome back children and retired couples. Welcome back to our faith community of giving and receiving, of loving and learning. We've missed you and we aren't the same when our Body isn't all together.

May God bless you as you acclimate yourselves again into the rhythm and movement of our church life together in this season!

I'm sure glad you're back.

-Pastor Corey

## Believer's Baptism on August 1!

Daniel Funke became a Christian recently and is requesting baptism. Daniel is from Germany and spent the 2005-2006 school year staying at Rudy and Nola Schmidt's home. Daniel grew up an Atheist, but after spending significant time studying the Bible (the Bible that Rudy and Nola bought for him), and having a great experience with Doug and the youth group in San Antonio, he felt the Spirit lead him to the truth, that Jesus died for his sins and rose again that he might have eternal life!

The deacons met with Daniel to hear his wonderful story and plans are underway for a believers baptism service that will be held August 1 at 7 pm, place to be announced. We invite the congregation to come out for this time of celebration and blessing as Daniel begins his new life in Christ and as we receive him as a member into Tabor Mennonite Church.

## Second Annual Mennograss

**August 26. (5:30pm - 8:30pm)**

The second annual Mennograss in the Tabor Park will be held in conjunction with the Miller BBQ. So, make plans to come to the park on August 26th, for some good burgers and some good bluegrass music! Five Times Harder (Tom and Lois and daughters) will perform, Bethany Amstutz and Eric Schrag and a few more surprises will provide the gifts of music throughout the evening. Bring a lawn chair and someone! The meal will begin at 5:30pm and the music will start at 6:00pm.

## Vote for Pastor Karen on August 12

The Pastoral Relations Committee recommends that we call Karen Andres to a three-year term beginning October 1, 2007. This motion was accepted at the May 2 council meeting and the congregation will vote on this after the worship service on August 12th. Karen will be back from her sabbatical and with us in worship on August 5th.

## Sunday School

### **Building the Church.**

Our church building is sketched out on a poster in the foyer. Take a look. On it our Sunday school classes are listed and next to them are lines for individuals to sign up to teach those classes.

The church is more than a building. The church is the people within, the people going out, the people building up the kingdom of God. What greater calling than to build up the Kingdom of God!

In order to effectively 'build the church', people need to be equipped to do so. Studying God's word, conversing and praying together are ways that people equip themselves to 'build the church'. Children need guidance to learn about and grow in Christ so that they too can 'build the church'.

Sunday school is one tool people have to do all of these things. Sunday school classes also need leadership. So do take a look at the poster in the foyer and prayerfully consider which class you can lead. You are needed to 'build the church'. You are needed to 'build the church' starting right here at Tabor. Offer yourself to build up the Kingdom of God.

# TGYF

The highlight for many TGYF-er's this past month was our service trip down to San Antonio, Texas. We were a part of the DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) Program. We helped out in San Antonio by doing various activities. Some work opportunities included soup kitchens/soup lines, Mission Road Developmental Center, RAMP, assembling furniture, and a food bank. We lived in the San Antonio Mennonite Church along with 2 other groups that were also doing DOOR. This meant that we had 4 showers for 80 people to use!! In the evenings we usually had speakers, followed by a reflection time. One evening we went to various tourist attractions such as a Mexican Market, the Riverwalk, and the Mall.

~Kristin Unruh, Reporter

## *Praying and Acting for Peace*

### **Conflict resolution training.**

The **Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR)** functions as an institute within Bethel College to strengthen conflict resolution and peace-building capacities in the communities and institutions it serves. KIPCOR encourages research, education, skill development and dialogue to enhance the understanding and practice of managing conflict, and to prepare individuals and groups to be peacemakers and to seek social justice. KIPCOR announces upcoming fall training sessions: **Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict**, September 4-5 & 11-12; **Domestic Mediation Training**, October 24-26. For more information, see: [www.bethelks.edu/kipcor/](http://www.bethelks.edu/kipcor/)

## AMBS - Great Plains Extension

The Great Plains Extension of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary is offering courses in North Newton and Wichita this fall that would be especially helpful to persons just beginning seminary studies:

- 1. Reading the Bible**, an introduction to the Old and New testaments, taught by Jerry Truex, M.Div., Ph.D.,
- 2. Thinking Ethically**, an introduction to Christian ethics, taught by Duane Friesen, M.Div., Th.D.,
- 3. Human Development and Christian Formation**, a survey of spiritual formation and personal growth processes, taught by Kathryn Damiano, M.Div., Ph.D.

**Registration deadline is August 20.** More information is at <http://www.ambs.edu/greatplains>.

## Mennoshirts.com

Can evangelism be done with T-shirts? Doug Krehbiel and Alan Stucky hope so. These two WDC pastors have started a new ministry for the Mennonite church with T-shirts as the focal point. Mennoshirts.com is a new website selling T-shirts with Anabaptist themes, ranging from silly to serious, designed to help people show their Anabaptist roots and share their faith in a new way. Half of all profits will go to WDC youth ministry. In the future Krehbiel and Stucky hope to expand with more t-shirt designs and opportunities for ministry as the online world of Mennonites continues to grow.

## WDC NEWS

### **Summer concert!**

Plan now to attend the (final) **Possum Boys** concert on Sunday, August 12, at 7pm at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton. This benefit concert will donate all proceeds to Western District Conference Vision 2012--for camping, congregational leadership, church planting, and resource ministries.

### **Day on the Farm**

The 12th annual "Day on the Farm" is scheduled for Saturday, **August 18**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Maynard Knepp/Carol Duerksen farm (from Goessel, KS: 3 miles north, 4 miles east, 3/4 mile north). This Agri-Urban event features rural/urban connections - whose fundraising supports Western District Conference, Bethel College and Mennonite Church USA.

### **Women & Girls Retreat**

#### **September 7-9 at Camp Mennoscah**

Do you feel that your life is constantly on "GO"? Or that, despite all our advanced technology and "time-saving" devices, it's hard to "save time" for yourself or for relationships? Come join women and girls from Western District and South Central conferences for a weekend to focus on the importance of rest in our personal and spiritual lives.

There will be time for relaxation, reflection, rejuvenation, refreshment, recreation, and rest. Programming for girls in grades 3- 12 is being planned as well as mother-daughter activities. Speaker: Beverly Baumgartner; Music: Cousins Four; Seminars include: intentional quiet time, yoga, Bible study, book reviews, pedicures, water aerobics, laughter, coping with stress. *Registration forms are on the table in the foyer.*

## Mennonite Church USA

### **The Purpose of our Missional Church**

*By Jim Schrag, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA. from Equipping July /Aug '07*

Joining in God's activity in the world, WE develop and nurture missional Mennonite congregations of many cultures.

All parts of Mennonite Church USA, united in vision and purpose, are committed to the following priorities between now (2006) and then (2020): *Witness*. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is practiced and proclaimed through a seamless web of evangelism, justice and peace across the street and around the world.

*Antiracism*. We will honor the dignity and value of all racial/ethnic people in Mennonite Church USA, ensuring just and equitable access to church resources, positions and information.

*Leadership Development*. Church members with leadership gifts are called, trained and nurtured in Anabaptist theology and practice in order to fulfill the church's missional vocation.

*Global Connections*. Mennonite church USA fosters fellowship and develops partnerships with Anabaptists and the broader body of Christ around the world.

Tabor Church Retreat

at Camp Mennoscah

September 15-16

*Save this date.*

*More information is on the way!*