



Family Night, Wed. Evening, Jan. 10

Tabor Church News

February 2007

“God’s Simplicity”

—by Karen

“Look at the birds of the air. Are you not of more value than they?”

-Matthew 6:26 NRSV

Worship Themes

Feb. 4 - *“World Fellowship Sunday”*

Jeremiah 1:4-10,
Matthew 10:16-20

Corey preaching

Feb. 11 - *“Youth Sunday”* TGYF

Feb. 18 - *“Carried to Jesus the Healer”*

Psalm 34:1-15, Mark 2:1-12

Karen preaching

Feb. 25 - *“God’s Hand Delivers”*

Lent 1, Communion
Deuteronomy 26, Psalm 91

Romans 10, Luke 4:1-13

Corey preaching

Snowy days can be a good excuse for me to have some “down” time. As I sat quietly one day trying to get into a meditative state, there was a unique chattering outside my window where I had placed a very tall bird feeder. Thinking that God would not mind if my curiosity got the best of me, I opened my eyes long enough to see a beautiful male cardinal sitting in plain view on the feeder. Now I have a history with this cardinal. He seems to be able to escape the clutches of my camera just as King David in the Bible escaped the clutches of Saul (refer to I Samuel). Still, thinking this would be the moment of capture, I ran for my camera and took a picture through the window only to discover that my focus was blurred. By the time I made the adjustments, he was gone. King David had made another successful escape!

The thought occurred to me that it is sometimes hard to just enjoy something without having to pursue it relentlessly. Why couldn’t I just enjoy the simplicity of the bird’s winter song which reminds us of God’s care for all of creation! Why couldn’t I just enjoy the beauty of this creature whose deep red color outshines all the rest! Rather, I was relentless in grasping this simplicity and majestic beauty all rolled into one and missed praising God in the moment. Perhaps it is not meant to be grasped, only enjoyed.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminds us to look at the birds. “They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them” (6:26). “Down” time for some people means despair and darkness. Can we accept Jesus’ invitation to not worry but to rest in the beauty of the promise that God provides all we need? May the simplicity of God’s promises capture us with joy and hope!



Be His Valentine

“For God so loVed the world,
that He gAve
His onLy
begottEn
SoN,
That whosoever
believeth In Him
should Not perish,
but have Everlasting life.”

-John 3:16





Western District News

Choral festival

The WDC Music & Worship Task Force will sponsor a Choral/Hymn Festival at 3:30 p.m. **February 4, 2007**, at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. R. Paul Crabb, director of choral activities at the University of Missouri-Columbia, will be the guest conductor. With "peace" as its theme, the festival program will include five anthems sung by combined area churches and hymns sung by the choirs and congregation. The festival continues a long tradition of such programs extending back to origins in the 1930s. For information, contact Berneil Rupp Mueller: 316-283-1663; tabco@cox.net.

Camp Mennoscah

Two upcoming retreats at Camp Mennoscah:

- 1) Explore the Night Sky Retreat - March 16-18 at the Retreat Center;
- 2) Retiree's Relaxation Retreat - April 23-25. For information, contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290; campmno@mennowdc.org.



Transforming Conflict

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study will be focusing on the topic of *transforming conflict*. Conflict is something we don't like to talk about yet no one is immune to it. Conflict can provide opportunity for growth and change but it takes work. The question is how we deal with it. During the next 8 weeks, we will be learning about different ways to deal with conflict. I am asking a small group of people(4-6) to work through the workbook entitled "Let's talk, Communication Skills and Conflict Transformation" by Barry C. Bartel. (A few more volunteers are needed.) Their results will be shared with the whole group. Bartel (now president of Bethel College) wrote this in 1982 for a class he took under Ron Kraybill who was director of Mennonite Conciliation Service at the time. The book has been revised and seems to be a useful tool in helping us understand how we as individuals deal with conflict. If you are interested in joining us at 7:00 on Wednesday nights, please feel free.

MCC Penny Challenge!

Numerous small contributions to the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale have resulted in large amounts used to assist needy people in many ways. This year's Penny Power collection before and during the sale will support MCC Food Basket Projects promoting Food for Today, for Tomorrow and for All. Let us remember the families in Haiti that can only provide their children with one meal a day or the 1 in 10 U.S. households that do not always know if they will have food for their next meal. The Penny Power project at the Kansas Sale raised a little over \$28,000 last year. Let us help end hunger through our spare change. The sales goal is to raise \$40,000 in spare change. Change Changes Lives!

For ten Sundays, starting February 4th, we invite children young and old alike to bring coins, loose change to pour into our buckets during our offering times. We can make a big difference with a few coins. Let's make some noise for God's Kingdom!

Maynard Knepp to Share

On February 25 at 7:00p.m. here at Tabor, Maynard Knepp will be sharing about his recent trip with Mennonite Central Committee to Burundi, Africa. He, along with Tim Friesen, MCC Meat Canning Coordinator and Shawn Hunter, videographer for MCC, observed and helped with the distribution of canned turkey generated by MCC's meat canner. Maynard will share his experiences and the impact they had on him. Over the next year he anticipates communicating these experiences to churches and meat canning committees in a six state area.

Sloppy Joe Fundraiser

The Area Jr. High sloppy joe fundraiser will be held here at Tabor on March 4 at noon. Donations will be accepted toward the Camp WaShunGa retreat Memorial Day weekend. Come out and support this camp which inevitably helps our youth grow in their Christian walk.

Local Events

Stewardship University

Sponsored by Mennonite Mutual Aid, Stewardship University will be held February 17, 2007 at Hesston College. Courses are offered in categories such as: Bible study, Finances, Generosity, Wellness, Family, Congregational life, Business, Environment, Time, and Talents. Stewardship University will help you take charge of and manage all the gifts God has given you: your family, your spirituality, your finances, and your health. Courses are taught by experts in the fields of business, finance, estate planning, time and talent management, environmental and home issues, health, and the gospel. For information, contact MMA at (800) 348-7468, ext. 269, or education@mma-online.org. *And the good news is that our own Stewardship committee has agreed to pick up the entire tab for registration! We need to have registrations post marked by Feb 3 so turn in your registration forms to Harlin Unruh or Barb Abrahams.*

Peace Connections

Doug Anstaett of Topeka, Kansas, executive director of the KS Press Assoc. and former editor of the Newton Kansan, will be the featured speaker at Peace Connections Annual Review. It will be held Thurs., Feb. 22, Grace Community Church, 1600 S. Anderson, Newton, with dinner at 6 pm and the program at 7 pm. Anstaett's presentation will be titled "Turn Down the Volume...I Can't Hear You." Tony Brown, artist in residence at Hesston College, will sing several songs from his new CD, "Each Other's Light."

March 7 & 21 and April 4 & 18, 10-11:30 am – Communicate & Cultivate . . . hope, gratitude, joy, compassion, forgiveness, peace - an interactive study group based on the Nonviolent Communication work of Marshall Rosenberg. Meets alternate Wednesdays in March and April. Learn how we were meant to live: *a new kind of honesty, *observing without criticism, *connecting feelings to basic human needs, *making clear requests, *responding with empathy, *coming back to life when angry. Co-facilitators Molly Traffas & Myrna Krehbiel. Suggested donation: \$20-50/session. Limit 12 persons per session. Call 284-0000 or stop by 612 N. Main, Newton, for more information and to register.

GWCA

Goessel Women's Christian Association (GWCA) will meet February 26, 6:30 p.m. at Goessel Mennonite Church for our annual banquet. "K is for Kansas" will be presented by Bob Regier following the meal. If you have not signed up, give Phyllis Goertzen (367-2430) a call. Likewise, if you need to cancel, give Phyllis a call. Deadline to sign up is Mon., Feb 19.



Mennonite Church USA

LETTER TO MENNONITE CHURCH USA CONGREGATIONS

The Leadership Team of the Peace and justice Support Network gathered for our fall meeting at the Christian Peacemaker Teams office in Chicago, IL on Sept. 7-9, 2006. We greet you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who calls his followers to live in peace with their friends, neighbors and enemies. We have identified 3 goals for the coming years:

>To strengthen the work and interconnections between **peace, justice and spirituality within Mennonite Church USA**. We recognize the hunger in Mennonite Church USA for a holistic faith journey, which nurtures Biblical study and spirituality along with our peace and justice activities.

>To provide education and resources to conferences, congregations and constituents on the issue of **immigration**. We affirm God's love for all people and we support aid to persons in distress, regardless of their legal status.

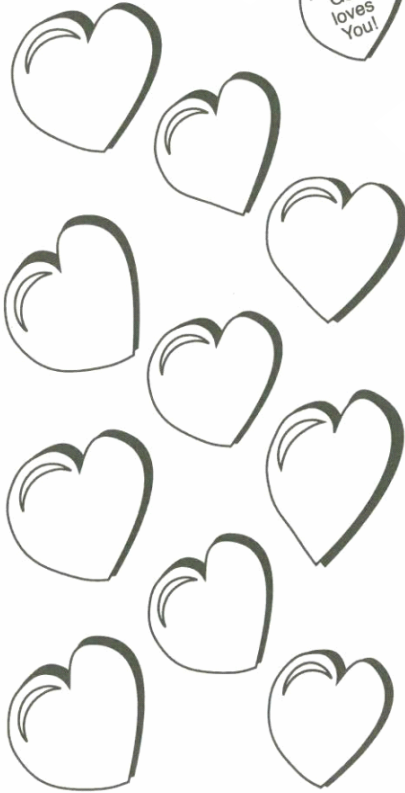
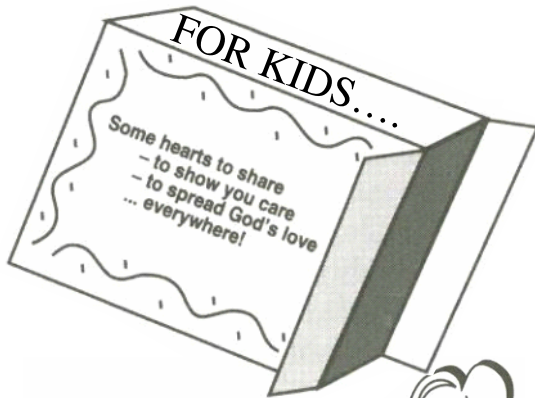
>To provide education and resources to conferences, congregations and constituents on the issues of **war and peacemaking**. The Spirit of God pleads with the church to clearly reject the overt violence of war.

PJSN Mission

The mission of Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA is to proclaim and promote God's desire for justice (Micah 6:8), Christ's call to peacemaking (Matthew 5:9), and the Spirit's reconciling work (Ephesians 2:11-22).

Praise God, everybody!
 Applaud God, all people!
 His love has taken over our lives;
 God's faithful ways are eternal.
 Hallelujah!

-Psalm 117 ~ The Message



You will need:



Write a special word or message on each "candy heart." Color or decorate them. Cut them out and give them to people who need to hear these messages! Make someone smile!

Caring Group Ministry

Talking in Circles

Have you ever been accused of "talking in circles?" That may not necessarily be a bad thing. While this generally refers to talking a lot and not saying much, there is something to be said for "talking circles." Some of the greatest conversations or meaningful times have occurred around circles. Sitting at the kitchen table, singing around a campfire, or circling someone with prayer provides a way for people to communicate with one another in special ways.

On February 4, caring group leaders are invited to our annual meeting with their families. Among other things, we are going to explore how "talking circles" can be used in caring groups. The material comes from a book called *Circle Processes* by Kay Pranis. This will be a potluck at noon and will last no longer than 2:00. Families are welcome to come to the potluck and can stay for the meeting if you wish. Bring table ware.

Kansas MCC Sale Notes

39th annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

April 13 & 14, 2007 - Kansas State Fairgrounds

By working together for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, we have the opportunity to share with the needy of our world. This year's theme "Love not in word, but with Action" is generated from 1 John 3:18. The sale provides us with an opportunity to share what we have in order that the needy of our world are provided for. The sale generated around \$400,000 for MCC last year (total donations from the 46 relief sales in the US and Canada generated over \$4 million dollars for MCC). This year's sale is scheduled April 13 & 14 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson.

Get ready for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. What can you bring as your gift to the hungry and hurting at home and abroad? Quality woodwork and needlework items, quilts, cotton tea towels, hobby items, crafts, plants and baked foods are much in demand. Also requested are "recycled" quilt supplies and linens for Quilter's Corner.

Please consider helping along with the pre-sale expense budget this year. The purchasing committee needs cash gifts for 48 items ranging in cost from \$150 for potatoes to \$7,500 for building rentals. The budget is almost \$80,000. As in the past, we want to raise this money so all proceeds of the sale go to MCC's work. If you or your Sunday School class can support the sale budget in this way, get in touch with Jerry and Leann Toews or Archie and Kristin Schmidt, our relief sale contact persons. REMEMBER, many people each giving a little makes it happen.

Don't miss a fun & easy way to raise \$\$ for MCC! Plan now to run or walk in the KS Mennonite Relief Sale Run for Relief. The event is open to all ages and there are 2 options for participation: Option 1 is to solicit your own sponsor donations & Option 2 is to pay an entry fee. *More people are needed to try Option 1!* If you choose Option 1, mail in your entry form or email Amy Schmidt at mattamy2249@sbcglobal.net. Join the Run for Relief at 8 a.m. Sat., April 14 (day of the relief sale) at Rice Park in Hutchinson.