

Tabor Church Newsletter

May 2007

Worship Themes

May 6 - "You are Witnesses"

Luke 24:36-53 - Corey preaching

May 13 - "Celebrating New Birth"

Ephesians 4:1-7, 17-24;

Isaiah 43:18-21; Psalm 68:19-20

Karen preaching

May 20 - "Graduation Sunday"

Psalm 97, Acts 16:16-34,

John 17:13-26 - Corey preaching

May 27 - "God's Helper Comes!"

Pentecost! Genesis 11:1-9,

Psalm 104, Acts 2, John 14:8-17

Corey preaching

Memorial Day Services

Sunday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.—Goessel Mennonite Church Cemetery

Monday, May 28, 10:00 a.m.—Tabor Mennonite Church Cemetery

Monday, May 28, 11:00 a.m.—Alexanderwohl Church Cemetery

In Memory ~

Jacob C. Koehn - Jan. 20 1909 - May 25, 2006

Susie Goertzen - March 24, 1922 - July 4, 2006

Milton Schmidt - April 8, 1921- Sept. 19, 2006

Evelyn Lehrman - November 4, 1925 - Sept. 23, 2006

Orlando W. Voth - June 6, 1916 - Oct. 13, 2006

Paul Epp - May 20, 1915 - Feb. 9, 2007

Ruth Epp - February 24, 1914 - April 14, 2007

"A Prayer for the Farmers"

"The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth..." - James 5:7b

We at Tabor have fewer farmers now than we have ever had in our church history. While we have fewer "full time" farmers, we do have several part time farmers and many others who are directly affected by what happens in the fields.

Our farmers are an amazing group of people. They faithfully plant expensive seed in the ground each year, not knowing what may come out of it. They are stewards of the soil. They adjust to the rising fuel prices, changing technology, and they deal with whatever weather comes to them, rain, sun or snow.

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Our farmers have been on a roller coaster ride with this season's wheat crop. They were almost giddy in March as the wheat crop came out of winter with a great stand, adequate moisture, and good color. A bountiful harvest was not out of line to dream about.

But in a few hours, the snow and the cold changed all that. The once promising vital green plants yielded to the heavy snow and the freezing temperatures bruised and yellowed the wheat, and it now looks as if its very life has been squeezed out of them. Our farmers have also felt weathered and as they drive around and look at the damaged wheat fields, they realize the hopeless feeling that there is nothing that can be done. Some of our farmers have crop insurance and some don't. Some wonder if it pays to run a combine through and others contemplate planting beans in the fields. Some wonder where God is at in this situation. Most of them are still waiting to see what will happen.

James wrote: *"The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains"* (5:7). Our farmers have a lot to teach us about patience. As we learn from them may we also learn from God, who is patient with us. God is forever patient with the faith seeds that are planted within us. Like the farmer, God waits with patience to see a harvest within us and God is able to bring about a harvest in some pretty adverse conditions.

Our farmers and our farming heritage is the backbone of this congregation. This winter freeze has been devastating to them and we all are affected by it. So, offer a prayer for our farmers as they go through these trying times. Ask them how they are feeling. Show them that you care and you are concerned for them. Be aware of what they are going through. Let us all pray for healing, hope and a harvest.

-Pastor Corey

Baptisms and New Life

In the month of May, Tabor will be baptizing new believers and dedicating more children to the Lord. On May 13, we will have another child dedication service and we will be baptizing Troy Jantz, Sara Jantz, and Bradley Kohlman. On May 27th, Pentecost Sunday, we will be baptizing some of the members of the Faith Exploration Class. Keep all these people and families in your prayers as we celebrate God's movement in our midst!

Pentecost

On May 27, we will celebrate Pentecost. The Easter season concludes with Pentecost, a festival which celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. Empowered by the Spirit, the church is called to proclaim the gospel to all nations and participate in Christ's ministry of reconciliation throughout the world. Red is the traditional color of Pentecost, suggesting the fire of the Spirit which dwells within the church.

Coming in June: 30 Days of Generosity

Jesus had much to say about our financial decisions - because he knew they were really spiritual decisions. Yet too many congregations pile all stewardship teaching and preaching to one Sunday a year. What would happen if a whole church decided to spend ONE MONTH learning about and living out biblical stewardship?

Tabor Mennonite will experience just that during the month of June as we learn from a brand new curriculum from MMA called 30 Days of Generosity. For 30 days, our preaching,

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our teaching and our sharing will focus on how we can live as good stewards of the time, money and talents that God gives us. 30 Days of Generosity will reinforce the notion that every financial decision is a spiritual decision and after the 30 days are over, we hope that we will be a changed congregation that sees our giving as an act of worship to God's goodness to us.

After reflecting on God's generosity during the worship services, we will then have Sunday school for all adults in the basement around tables. Every participant will get a booklet/journal that will be the basis for our discussions during the SS hour. Special drama's are being written by Carol Duerksen for this series.

These sessions are being planned by the Education Commission and the Stewardship Commission.

We are really excited about this opportunity to reflect on God's Generosity for 30 days and we look forward to the fruit it will bear in our lives and in the life of our congregation!

Grocery Shower Ministries

We are blessed to have LeNora Duerksen step forward to lead our newest ministry that endeavors to offer hospitality to our young married couples. We believe that giving grocery showers to those who are getting married is a good way in which Tabor nurtures our young adults and offers a blessing on their marriage. A job description is being created for LeNora, but she will communicate with the congregation as to the "hows, whys and wheres" of this ministry. Praise God!

Pastor Karen on Sabbatical

I will be on a two-month sabbatical in June and July. This will be a working sabbatical as I plan to do an independent study on spiritual direction with Kathryn Damiano, Ph.D., adjunct professor at AMBS-Great Plains, for five weeks. Kathryn lives in Wichita and has been working in the area of spirituality and psychotherapy for many years. I will not be attending MCUSA conference in San Jose or the Western District conference in July. In July, I will possibly be taking a two-week course at AMBS if enrollment is adequate. During this sabbatical, I will not be giving leadership to Tabor activities or attending Sunday morning worship. There will also be time for family as there will be an extended Krehbiel family reunion in July as well. I want to thank the congregation for their generosity in providing me this time for renewal and learning.

—Pastor Karen

Women's Ministry: What is Lunch Bunch?

One of the ways in which women can meet together and discuss what is happening in their lives is through *lunch bunch*. *Lunch bunch* was set up to give women a time and place once a month to take a break from their busy day and connect with other women of the church. So far, lunch bunches have been set up in Newton and Hesston. Now there will be a lunch bunch opportunity for women from Goessel, Peabody, Walton or other surrounding communities. This will be held on May 24 from 12:00-1:00 at the Agape Center in Goessel. The center is happy to have business and will provide a meal for a fee. Women will sign up ahead of time at Tabor church for this lunch bunch since the number could vary from month to month. Nancy Schmidt will be cooking the meal. Unfortunately, some women will not be able to attend because of their

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job schedules. But hopefully this will provide an opportunity for people who are seeking to connect with other Tabor women the chance to do so. Here is the current schedule for *lunch bunches*:

-Newton – meets once a month from 12:00-1:00 at Breadbasket on the first Thursday of every month

-Hesston – meets once a month from 12:00-1:00 at the Hesston College Snack Bar the first Tuesday of every month

-Goessel/Peabody/Walton – meets once a month at the Agape Center from 12:00-1:00 on the fourth Thursday of every month

Any woman is welcome to attend any lunch bunch if you are in the area on those days. Reminders for Goessel will be in the bulletin. Come join us for fun and fellowship! If you would like to be put on an email reminder list for the Hesston and Newton *lunch bunches*, contact Pastor Karen.

TGYF

This past month the TGYF has participated in a range of activities. We incorporated some service work into our schedules as 15 TGYF-ers beared the cold and snow, and helped fry New Year's Cookies at the MCC sale. We also spent two nights watching "Bruce Almighty." This movie helped teach us that all people that God calls have problems in their lives, and that we also need to take the gifts that God has given us and use them to serve others (Even if they're not the gifts that we wanted).
~Kristin Unruh, Reporter

Caring Group Ministry.

We are excited that a couple of new caring groups are being formed as we speak. Many of these include young adults. If there is anyone who is attending Tabor and would like to be a part of a caring group, contact a caring group deacon (Phyllis Goertzen or Denise Nickel) or Pastor Karen.

Several resources are available if your group is looking for something to do over the summer:
DVD's

-*God is Closer Than You Think* – Illustrates the ways God reaches out to us in everyday places and people and how we can reach out to God to complete the connection. Six sessions.

-*Network: the right people in the right places, for the right reasons* – Helps Christians understand who God has created them to be and guide them to a meaningful place of service in the local church. Six one-hour sessions with DVD, powerpoint, and leader's guide.

Books - (Ages 18-35)

-*Faith Matters for Young Adults: discovering the faith* – Features 13 sessions that encourage lively discussion on basic beliefs of the Christian faith.

-*The Power of a Focused Heart: 9 life lessons from the Beatitudes* –

Designed for small group or individual use, featuring short chapters, weekly exercises & many helps for decision making on how to serve and use spiritual gifts.

-*Faith Dilemmas for Marketplace Christians: a resource for small groups* –

13 brief chapters on business and Christian ethics with scripture and questions for discussion.

These and many more are available from Western District Conference resource library.

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Healthcare Ministry

We always hear of the need to exercise and take care of our bodies. Not everyone can run a marathon but several people at Tabor seem to have the discipline and endurance to (literally) go the extra mile when it comes to exercising. Recently Carol Duerksen swam six miles (which is equivalent to running a marathon) in less than four hours. She began training in January and accomplished her goal with her parents as spectators. Kevin Nickel is training toward the triathlon the first weekend in May at Columbus, Missouri. Wendy Goerzen is participating in the Oklahoma Memorial Marathon on April 29 running a half-marathon (13.1 miles) and also the Emma Creek event in Newton. We've already heard of Tam Perry's accomplishments at the Boston Marathon. There may be others we don't know about. Certainly many other people have regular times of exercise as well. We want to congratulate these people and wish them well. Healthcare is a stewardship issue. Being good stewards of our bodies is important.

One way Tabor is helping others be good stewards is by offering blood pressure checks periodically. If you would like to have your blood pressure checked, these will be offered. Times will be announced in the bulletin

Praying and Acting for Peace

Service Anyone?

MCC is launching a new direction for its voluntary service program in Akron PA. Now called Akron Connection, the opportunities will focus on learning and gaining job experience while developing a greater understanding of MCC's work in the world.

This program is ideal for the **young person** recently graduated from college, as all living expenses are covered by MCC, along with a monthly personal stipend. However volunteers are welcome from all stages of life including **families** and **retired persons** who have the desire to serve, and would enjoy serving in a U.S. location. This ministry is committed to bringing an ethnically and regionally diverse volunteer base to Akron. They have had service workers from Germany, Paraguay, India as well as Canada and the U.S. Current openings include Housekeeping Coordinator, Canner Operator, Receptionist (Sept), Maintenance Technician, and Graphic Designer.

For more detailed information about opportunities with Akron Connection, please feel free to call 717-859-1152, ext. 322 or check out the Web site at mcc.org/akronconnection.

-James Boulton

BE BOLD!
GOD IS WITH YOU
Vacation Bible School
Tabor Mennonite Church
June 4-8
8:30-11:30am

For more information contact:
Pam Abrahams or Eunice Nickel