

# September 2007

## Worship Themes

**September 2** - *"Laboring for God"*

Hebrews 13:1-8, Psalm 112,  
Luke 14:7-14 - Corey preaching

**September 9** - *"Bringing Refreshment"*

Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21,  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
- Corey preaching

**September 16** - *"Rivers of Delight"*

(Mennoscah) Psalm 36:5-9,  
Ezekiel 47:1-12, Matthew 3:13-17  
- Corey preaching

**September 23** - *"Serving God & Money"*

Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113,  
I Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13  
- Karen preaching

**September 30** - *"Care for our Elders"*

- Eric Schrag preaching

## "Welcome the Children"

*"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Matt. 18:5*

*A six-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."*

Seeing the world through the eyes of a child can bring us joy and wisdom. Jesus honored the children by welcoming and blessing them. His invitation to them had significant meaning in his day as they were considered low class along with women. Jesus knew they had much to teach us about a trusting faith.

In the book Forgiveness, which gives us insight into the West Nickel Mines tragedy, John L. Ruth tells the story of a thirteen-year-old Amish girl who said, "Shoot me first and leave the other ones loose" to the man holding them hostage. Was she trying to satisfy him so others could be saved or just being a protective older sister? Either way, we marvel at her courage and strength. This tragedy is one example of how children pay the price for the "trash" of hate and rage that we pass on to them. The man left a note for his wife with these words: "I am filled with so much hate." He wanted others to pay for his pain in losing an infant daughter nine years earlier. He couldn't live with himself because of his behavior of molesting children. So he took his life as well as the innocent lives of children.

Child abuse in our society is not going away. The affects it has on children lasts a lifetime. Jesus has strong words for those who cause little ones to stumble. He said it would be better if a millstone was hung around their necks and they were drowned in the sea. No one wins in an abusive situation. Abusers are often haunted by their actions and children are forever traumatized.

One way our churches are welcoming children is through the safe sanctuaries program which seeks to ensure that our children are taught by people who will not harm them. Children are precious in the eyes of God. We need to deal with our trash instead of passing its ugly odors on to those most innocent. Let us find ways to welcome the children because they are the key to entering the kingdom of God.

-Pastor Karen

## Baptism Coming at Church Campout!

The worship/fellowship committee has been making plans for our annual campout September 15-16. Last year we didn't have a retreat, but this year we are planning for it, no matter what! The theme is "Rivers of Delight" and Pastor Corey will give some input, but the focus of the weekend is to enjoy God's creation, to drink in God's love and to foster fellowship with our fellow believers. I especially invite those who have never gone to this event to take a risk and make the journey to camp with us. The highlight of the retreat will be the baptism of Jake Schrag in the Mennoscah River. The forms are on the table. Sign up and prepare to get refreshed!

## Devotional Book for Centennial

To help celebrate Tabor's Centennial on October 10-12, 2008, we are hoping to create a devotional booklet that will be written by YOU! We are inviting all Tabor attenders to write a short devotional (around 400 words) that might include a personal story, a scripture text and some reflections on that text and your story. If you are feeling inspired, we invite you to submit more than one. When the devotions are all collected, we will edit them and compile them into a booklet, which will be made available to you to read and enjoy. The purpose of this book is to hear from each other how God is moving in our midst. You can submit any devotions to Corey's mailbox at church, or if you have a computer, you can email them to Corey at [cmiller@tabormennonite.org](mailto:cmiller@tabormennonite.org). The cutoff date for the devotions will be **February 1**, so blessings to you as you write and we trust that God will be glorified in this and the body built up!

## Centennial Stories Gathering

**Sunday evening September 30 at 7 p.m.**

Come prepared to hear and tell stories of Tabor Church life over the past 100 years. Enjoy apple crisp and ice cream. We hope to gather stories from this gathering for the centennial book. You may also bring any old photos related to the topic. If you have questions, contact: Carol Duerksen, John Goerzen, Elaine Schroeder or Nancy Miller.

## Spiritual Direction Offered

The Church Leadership office of Mennonite Church USA and the Western District Conference are offering a Spiritual Guidance Seminar for nine pastors/lay leaders starting this fall. This class, led by Marlene Kropf, is actual training in learning how to be a spiritual director. The class is already formed and will meet until June of 2008. You have an opportunity to benefit from the class. Each person in the class is asked to work with two people in the next year who are seeking spiritual direction. Spiritual direction involves walking with someone one-on-one in their relationship with God. It is not counseling but rather helping others to discover who God is to them and who they are to God. As a part of this class, pastor Karen is informing the congregation of this opportunity for individuals to receive spiritual direction. If you are

interested in receiving one-on-one spiritual direction with someone, please talk with Karen.  
Karen will speak with her

advisor, Marlene, who will then discern whether that person is to meet with Karen or someone else in the class. You would meet at least seven times with your spiritual director and there is no charge for participating. Those in the class receive experience and hopefully others receive some benefit as well. Let Karen know if you are interested.

## TGYF

The TGYF wasn't very active this month because with school starting for everyone, things were pretty crazy!!! We did manage to wrap up the 2006-2007 year with a Senior Farewell Party at Lewis and Carrie Unruh's pond. Everyone enjoyed the hotdog roast, the fellowship and talking, and playing Frisbee. We want to wish all of our senior graduates "Good Luck" in college!

~Kristin Unruh, Reporter

## *Praying and Acting for Peace*

The Annual Goessel Area CROP Walk is being planned for Sunday, September 30 at 1:30 p.m. We will begin the walk at Tabor Mennonite Church in a 2 mile mini-walk or 6 mile crop walk. People in many countries walk that distance simply to obtain water or firewood. Walkers are invited to bring an item for the Tabor Food Pantry on the day of the walk. There will be a drop off box at Tabor when you begin walking.

Each year MCC or CWS uses your CROP Walk dollars to send millions of pounds of food to hungry people around the world. Some of your CROP Walk dollars are donated to the Tabor Food Pantry to assist local people with their needs. In 2006 the Tabor Food Pantry received \$1500.00! The total amount received from our Goessel Area Walk last year was \$6842.00. This amount was donated by the sponsors of the 60 walkers who participated last year. Your church recruiter can give you a pamphlet explaining how you can also raise funds online for your CROP WALK ([www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)).

Ask a friend, family member, mentor or mentee to walk with you or encourage a group such as a Sunday School group or youth group to walk. It's a great activity! Let's see if we can match last year's amount, or better yet, increase the number of walkers and donations this year! Let's "**Walk to make a difference**".

***The JR HI Area Youth will again be walking but need to get their envelopes from your church recruiter, since there won't be a local meeting until later in September.*** Sign up and get your CROP Walk collection envelope from our church CROP Walk Representative, Kevin Nickel.

## There is Still Work to be Done

Mennonite Disaster Service is still looking for volunteers in Greensburg, Kansas, after the May 4 tornado destroyed that town. If you can do electrical, plumbing or roofing work along with general building skills, you are needed! If you are willing to work alongside others, you are needed!

You can volunteer for a day, two days, a week or more. The MDS Greensburg site can house eight people or more. To volunteer, contact MDS in Greensburg: 985-291-1296.

# Caring Group Ministry

As a new church year begins, perhaps caring groups can look for new ways of caring for one another in the coming year. Our vision statement says that we “provide a safe place where people feel loved and cared for.” How have your members felt cared for in the past year? What could be improved on? This may be a good time to review your *Caring Group Covenant* to set some new goals. We are reminded in the covenant that groups seek to: grow in their relationship with God, encourage discipleship, be a community that offers nurture for one another, and have fun and fellowship with one another. May God bless you in the coming year and may you feel truly cared for!

# Free Family Caregiver Services

Prairie View has caregiving counseling and caregiver support groups available without charge for anyone who is caring for someone who is over 60. This is an opportunity to process the stressors of caregiving and discuss with an aging specialist some of the difficult decisions that frequently arise during the caregiving journey. Call Joan Brucacher at 1-800-362-0180 or 316-284-6400 for further information.

# College Student Updates

## FRESHMEN:

**Travis Buller** is at Friends University in Wichita majoring in communications.

**Brittany Dirksen** is attending Bethel College.

**Alex Drake** is attending Baker University this fall. He is a full time student majoring in wildlife biology. Alex is also participating in football at Baker.

**Brett Goerzen** is attending Friends University.

**Sheldon Goerzen** is attending Hesston College and majoring in Aviation.

**Jason Unruh**: Although I had planned on attending K-State for the last 4 or 5 years, I will be attending Hesston College this fall. I plan on taking my general education classes and then transferring to K-State for further studies in Agriculture.

**Janessa Wedel**: This fall I will be attending KSU where I am pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I will be living on-campus in the Goodnow residence hall. I plan to attend Manhattan Mennonite Church while I'm up in Manhattan, but I'm glad to call Tabor my home and I look forward to returning. Thank you so much to all the members of Tabor who have made me feel welcome in Tabor and like a part of the church body.

## SOPHOMORES:

**Brittany Voth**: This fall I will be starting my 3rd semester at Bethel College. I am looking forward to being involved in music, a rec. volleyball league, and the Student Alumni Association committee. I will also be working on campus.

## JUNIORS:

**Devin Schroeder** is working at Manufacturing Solutions in Newton making airplane parts.

**Jacob Unruh** is attending Vo-Tech school in Salina.

## SENIORS:

**Sara Adrian:** This fall I will begin my final stages of completing the education part of my music degree by student teaching in Goessel. I will be working with the K-12 vocal music department with Marcia Brubaker and Greg Bontrager. I am looking forward to this experience of being able to practically apply my music background in a classroom setting. In January I will be taking my last academic class at Bethel, which is an upper level religion course entitled Basic Issues of Faith and Life or BIFL. I will then have fulfilled all of my requirements to graduate so I will not have any classes Spring semester. I will plan on graduating in May.

**Dylan Buller** is at K State majoring in Construction Science and Management.

**Darla Funk** is at KS State University majoring in Animal Science/Pr-Vet and plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in May.

**Brittany Goerzen:** I will be planning on attending Bethel College and majoring in elementary education. I also plan on student teaching at Sunset Elementary in the Spring.

**Tara Goerzen** is attending Bethel College.

**Emily Newhouse** is attending Wichita State University.

**Joshua Schmidt** is studying Business Management through Fort Hays State University and will be working and living in Overland Park..

**Katy Schmidt:** I am looking forward to living with my mod mates again. My senior year at Bethel means a senior seminar (major research project) which I plan to do at the Sedgwick County Zoo with the gorillas. I will continue my campus job in maintenance, working with my fellow Tabor Church members who are employed there. Chapel and hymn sing continue to renew me each week..

**Marie Unruh** is attending Wichita State University this fall and will attend college in New Zealand after January.

**Michael Unruh:** I will be attending Bethel College this fall where I will be studying Biology. I plan to graduate in May with a major in Biology and minor in Chemistry. I will be playing football for my fourth and final year. My year will be busy with football and work on my senior seminar project, but I look forward to an exciting year!

**Philip Unruh:** My plans for this year include finishing my undergraduate education, playing football, coaching and continuing my wonderful marriage to Sarahanne. In May, I will graduate with a double major in Computer Science Administration and Mathematics. I am also working on completing a Coaching minor. In the fall, I will play my last year at football where we will look to improve on a 6-11 season and get a win over the Threshers of Bethel. I will once again be an assistant coach for basketball at Marion High School. There is a good possibility that I will also be coaching baseball there in the Spring. Sarahanne will be working to support me as I finish up. Her patience and support in our first two years of marriage are greatly appreciated. I don't know what I would do without her love and support.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Luke Schmidt:** The beginning of school will be hectic because he just closed on a house. He will be moving during the first two weeks of classes. He is looking forward to getting to know his fellow graduate students better and having a house and yard to care for as a break from studying physics 24/7. -ks

**Daniel Unruh** is at Notre Dame in South Bend, IN.

# Historical Moments

To nod or not to nod, that is the question. Webster defines nod as to raise and lower the head in agreement or acknowledgment. In some Mennonite groups who take communion the word indicates assent.

If you are a member of Tabor and take communion on a regular basis you already know that Tabor practices the nod. I, along with others have become interested in finding out more about this practice.

It would seem natural that since we are a daughter church of Alexanderwohl the nod would have been practiced there also. After some delightful interviews I found out it is not used now, nor has it ever been. In fact, the three individuals I spoke with had never heard of it being done. So much for the, “like mother, like daughter” theory. D.C. Wedel and Velma Franz, both in their nineties, had fathers who preached in the Alexanderwohl church but knew nothing about this practice, although they did have other wonderful stories they shared with me. My next logical step was to look through some of the early minutes of the Alexanderwohl Church to determine if this practice had been used and then dropped. I hit another road block when Alexanderwohl church historian, Judy Unruh, shared that very few early minutes were ever kept and later minutes had never been translated to English. So, I turned to the internet to try and determine if this practice may have come from the early church.

I found several sources that spoke to this idea. *The Lord's Supper in Mennonite Tradition*, written by John D. Rempel, states “In the Russian (Mennonite) tradition, the deacons passed one cup (or more) through the rows, with each partaker nodding assent to the person next to him or her before passing the cup along.” This source also indicates the practice was still in use in Berlin as well as in Gottingen in the 1950s and probably came from West Prussia. Another source, “*Communion*,” *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online* provided this information. “When Rues visited the Old Flemish of Holland he found them using small pieces of white bread, which the minister broke and distributed, followed by the deacon with the basket of bread. The bread was eaten in unison. In front on the table were the cups and the bottles of wine covered with white linen. The elder filled the cups, drank first, and passed them from person to person. When one person passed the cup to the other he nodded without saying, anything (Vos, 10).” Now this sounds familiar. Some of our ancestral journey does follow the Flemish of Holland to Prussia and then on to Russia, so there could be a connection.

After brainstorming with several people, one begins to wonder if perhaps this practice was one that Rev. P.H. Richert was familiar with from past experiences in Russia. He may have decided to implement this in the new church he was to serve, even though Alexanderwohl had chosen not to use it or continue using it when they reached Goessel, Kansas. Our church records do not mention any discussion about this issue. How interesting to know that a simple nod at communion may date back to Holland. Because of someone's decision Tabor Church continues to convey the grace of God to those who participate in communion.

As a side note I would like to share a short story D.C. Wedel shared with me. D.C. asked me whether I understood Low German, which I do. He proceeded to tell me that originally the juice had been passed from member to member in a large goblet. That practice was eventually stopped because of two reasons. The first, you can probably guess, would be the purpose of not spreading germs. The second, he told me was because, men (more than the women) would want to take a second “schlucks” (drink). Then with a huge grin on his face he said, “of course they were drinking wine and not grape juice!”

—Ilona Abrahams

## **UPCOMING DATES:**

### **TABOR:**

**Oct. 7** - Narrative Request Due

**Oct. 14,** Noon-Lunch and fun for mentors and youth at Maynard and Carol's farm.

**Oct. 28,** Noon - Budget Workshop

**Nov. 11,** Noon - Annual Meeting

**AREA HAPPENINGS:**

**September 29:** Communication Skills to Enhance Personal, Family and Congregational Life sponsored and hosted Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing. Registrations due Sept. 7.

**October 12-14:** Menfolk on the Prairie Family Camp at Camp Mennoscah. Registrations due Sept. 28. Watch for bulletin announcements.

**October 19-21:** Anabaptist Vision & Discipleship Series Conference: Hesston College for information and to register go to [www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu).

**October 20:** "What every individual should know about poverty", St. Mark United Methodist Church, Wichita.

**November 2:** Seminary Sampler at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN.

*Details for all events will be in the Tabor bulletin announcements, or call the church office for information.*

## Meet Our Exchange Students

LUKAS BAMBACH is from Germany and staying with Lewis and Carrie Unruh. One of his favorite hobbies is playing basketball, and he's also out for football at Peabody High School. Lukas was an expert at the "I'm going on a trip" game they played at the exchange student retreat—ask him about it. He's thinking about being an air traffic controller in the future.

ALEX BENGTTSSON is a German boy living with Harlin and Doris Unruh. He also loves basketball and is out for football at Peabody. His presence in the Unruh home is an "international family connection" because his older brother Chris was an exchange student there several years ago and continues to be part of the family, and Marie stayed with Alex and his mother in Germany for a short time this summer.

TINA HUBNER is a German girl who loves music and sports, and when you see her with the Fred and Diane Unruh family, you'll think she's one of the Unruh girls. In fact, she's so connected to the family already that when she was gone for a weekend, the Unruh's were moping around the house, complaining that a family member was missing! She's playing volleyball at Goessel High school this fall. Ask her about being an aerobic champion in Berlin!

MARIUS SCHREWE is spending 5 months in the Maynard Knepp/Carol Duerksen family. He loves tennis and is running cross country at Goessel High School. Marius has a great sense of humor, was very active in a Christian youth group in Germany, and has learned how to water ski, wakeboard, and ride a 4-wheeler since he's been here in Kansas.

## WDC NEWS

### 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.

## **Work and Play Camp**

Need to get away and play? Come to Camp Mennoscah for the annual **Work and Play Camp September 16-20**. Work together on projects, Floyd Bartel will lead Bible Study and special presenter will be Paul Jantzen of Hillsboro, KS. Brochures available at your church or contact Camp Mennoscah: 620-297-3290, [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org)

## **Tabor's Summer Campers**

### **Camp Mennoscah**

**Jacob Herrel, Leah Unruh, Michelle Unruh, Hannah Miller, Rebekah Herrel, Monica Voth, Carson Voth**

### **Rock Mountain Mennonite Camp:**

**Kristin Unruh**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

More than 50% of personal bankruptcies are related to healthcare costs. Healthcare access and affordability is a moral issue: *Jesus said, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me." (Matt. 25:34-36)*. Healthcare is a business issue: *Productivity and public cost lost to under and un-insured is higher than basic coverage for the uninsured*. Healthcare is an ethical question: *A society may be judged by how well it cares for its weakest members*. **You** have a voice! Find it at **Healthcare Summit: Finding Our Voice** on Saturday, **September 15** at Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church. For more information and/or to register check your church bulletin board or go to [www.viewofhope.org](http://www.viewofhope.org) or call 620-585-6733. Registration deadline is **today**.

## **We're Listening!**

At Tulsa, we at Mennonite Mission Network heard delegates saying: "Come visit our churches. We want to see Mennonite Church USA people, not just Mennonite Church USA literature." We'd be happy to come see you, and we have a number of staff people available for church contacts. You can view our list of speakers at <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Resources/SpeakersGuide/> or contact Angela Rempel in our Newton office: [AngelaR@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:AngelaR@MennoniteMission.net), 866-866-2873 or 283-5100.

## **SOME STATS FROM OUR CONFERENCE MINISTER DOROTHY NICKEL FRIESEN**

(shared at the Western District Conference in Tulsa, July 27-29)

- Fundraising for Vision 2012 is one third of the way done!
- Within WDC, there are contrasts:
  - Rural Kansas is in decline while Dallas has seen 31% growth rate (at least 10 churches are in the Dallas area)
  - "Road Signs for the Journey", a book about MC USA membership profile reveals that:
    - in 1972, 36% of MCUSA members lived on a farm
    - in 2006, only 12% of MCUSA members live on a farm
  - Church attendance more than one time a week in 1972 was 43%.
  - Church attendance more than one time a week in 2006 is 8%.
- We are aging, both congregations and pastors, but we are more educated.
- We are losing our Peace Witness:
  - in 1972, 11% went into the military and 84% went into a service of some sort.
  - in 2006, 21% went into the military and 65% went into a service of some sort.

- Loyalty to denomination and to conference and to local congregation - numbers are going down (all 3).

**As of August 15**, WDC has received \$164,846 (35%) towards its 2007 annual budget of \$472,300.

The Vision 2012 capital campaign's total is \$691,945 (3-year goal of \$1,500,000).

**TABOR  
CHURCH  
RETREAT**

Camp Mennoscah

September 15-16

*"Rivers of Delight"*

**Pastor Corey - resource person**

*Make plans to come!*