

July 20, 2008

Homeland Security

*"But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ." --Philippians 3:20*

Praising Our God

PRELUDE Michelle Unruh

WELCOME Worship Leader, Sharleen Francis

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 95

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

Leader: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

**People: For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

Leader: Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness.

**People: Today we want to listen to God's voice
and offer Him our allegiance.**

ALL: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture!

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

*SINGING OUR PRAISE "O come, loud anthems let us sing" No. 68

*GREETING EACH OTHER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please pass the welcome pads

CENTENNIAL MOMENT Ilona Abrahams

WORSHIPING WITH OUR OFFERINGS AND DEDICATING THEM

CHILDREN'S STORY Carrie Unruh

Proclaiming God's Word

HEARING THE NEW TESTAMENT *Philippians 3:17-4:1* Bonnie Janzen

SPECIAL MUSIC Stacey Young

HEARING THE OLD TESTAMENT Jason Unruh
Reading from Jeremiah 2

GOSPEL "Blest are they" Insert

SERMON "Finding Security" Corey Miller

Responding to God's Word

RESPONSE SONG "O healing river" No. 372

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

SEEING THE ROAD SIGNS Reader's Theater

**We have learned to be content whatever the circumstances,
whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.**

*SENDING SONG "Be thou my vision" No. 545

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Today

Mennonites today, like God's people in the 6th century B.C., are often tempted to focus more on maintaining their place in the "middle" of society than on caring for those on the margins of the culture and of the church. The idols of **security** and **self-preservation** are as tempting today as in Jeremiah's time. How can we live faithfully, trusting that God will provide ultimate security?

We welcome all of you to our time of worship! This morning you were greeted by Ilona & Rod Abrahams and Sharon & Pete Unruh. *Please take time to fill out our friendship pads.* Come back and join us again.

Sharleen Francis is providing childcare in the nursery during worship.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School for everyone. Adults meet in the fellowship hall for a 'Taste of Tabor'. Come and sample a variety of foods from different backgrounds. Children meet in the library, then the South rooms in the basement to experience a Taste of Tabor.

On the table in the foyer are **Prayer Request Cards**. You are invited to fill one out if you have a request and return it to a pastor's box.

7:00-9:00 p.m.—Goessel Area Jr. High Swimming Party at the Hillsboro Swimming Pool. Cost is \$2.50 each. Meet at the Goessel Mennonite Church at **6:30** to carpool. Drivers needed, please call Janice at 367-8152.

This Week

Miller's on Vacation. Pastor Corey will be on vacation this next week. The Miller's plan on traveling to Texas later in the week to visit his sister in Dallas. They will return home sometime on Sunday and Corey will be back in the office on Tuesday, July 29.

Tuesday, July 22

9:00 a.m.—**NOTE TIME!!** Goessel/Peabody/Walton Brunch Bunch will meet at Grace Regier's home. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

Next Sunday, July 27

9:30 a.m.—NEXT SUNDAY we will continue our journey together in reflecting on the Road Signs of Mennonite Church USA. The theme will be "*The Fall*" and the texts will be from Jeremiah 34 and 51 and Acts 10 and Karen will be preaching. If you purchased a copy of *Road Signs for the Journey*, by Conrad Kanagy, you are encouraged to read through chapter 7. You can purchase Road Signs from Faith and Life Press. It is a worthwhile investment.

10:45 a.m.—Sunday School for everyone. Adults meet in the sanctuary for 'Name that Tune'. Children meet in the library, then the South rooms in the basement for your own version naming tunes!

Announcements

Centennial T-shirt and Tote bag orders are due today (July 10). XS Youth short sleeved T-shirts are also available for \$6. Tote bag dimensions are 10 1/2" wide, 14" tall, and 5" deep. Give orders to Diana Schmidt or Carrie Unruh. Order forms are on the table in the foyer.

Tabor's Congregational Sharing List is Growing. Check out the growing list of items that Tabor members are willing to share. If you are considering buying something, maybe you could borrow something instead! Blessings as we relate and share with each other.

Teachers Needed: The new Sunday school year will begin in September. Now is the time to volunteer your gift of teaching. Sing up on the bulletin board for the class that you would like to lead.

Share Your Garden Produce! There is a table in the Food Pantry room where anyone can bring their garden produce to share and anyone may take some home. Just leave a small donation that will help the Food Pantry Ministry. Contact Nancy Miller if you have questions.

Coming up! Women's and Girls' Retreat at Camp Mennoscah September 5-7. The theme is "The Woven Threads Of Sisterhood" with retreat speakers Debbie Schmidt and Raylene Hinz-Penner. Information and registrations forms can be found on the table in the foyer and are due August 18.

Mennonite Central Committee:

>**MCC Warehouse Sale, August 1 & 2-** Help us help others by shopping at our warehouse sale. All are welcome to come and shop Friday, August 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the MCC building in North Newton. Volunteers are needed to prepare and staff this large sale. Proceeds will support the Central States Material Resource Center. Please call Irma Gonzalez or Maynard Knepp at MCC Central States with questions, 316-283-2720.

>**MCC is looking for people to donate 25-27 sows or hogs** to process for the MCC Meat Canner. A local USDA packer has agreed to process and debone at a significantly reduced cost. If you are able to donate hogs or money for the processing and deboning, please contact Maynard Knepp at MaynardKnepp@mcc.org; phone 316-283-2720, or cell 620-386-0710.

Western District Conference:

>Two DVD's of the worship services from the **WDC annual conference** in June are available for \$8.00 each. Worship on June 27 featured Clarence Rempel and worship on June 28 featured Michelle Armster. To order, contact Nancy at the WDC office, 316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowdc.org. Specify one or both DVD's. Order deadline is July 23.

>Put a fire in your youth ministry with **Ignite!** a resourcing event on August 24 at Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston, 3-8 pm. Designed for youth leaders, Ignite! will inspire and equip your youth ministry for the coming year with vital networking, workshops, and resources. This year Ignite! will have special focus on small youth groups and youth groups without youth pastors. Ignite! replaces and expands the former Youth Pastor Sponsor Banquet. Registration fee is \$20 per person which includes a banquet meal. Sponsored by Western District/South Central Youth Committee. Contact Nancy Funk at 316-283-6300, wdc@mennowdc.org. Please RSVP by August 15.

Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum, July 27, 2008, 3:30-4:30 pm, "Photographing the Quiet in the Land: The Mennonites in Texas Project." Laura L. Camden of Northern Arizona University will share her experiences photographing Old Colony Mennonites in Seminole, Texas. The photographs are featured in a new special exhibit on display July 27-September 21. This program is sponsored by the Mennonite Library & Archives and the Berneil R. Mueller Trust and is free and open to the public. Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is located at 27th and North Main in North Newton. Call 316-283-1612 for more information.

In Your Mailbox

Program of events for the **Tabor Church Centennial celebration**. Save these for future reference!

On the Bulletin Boards

* E-mail update from **Ben Schmidt** serving with Mennonite Voluntary Service in Hutchinson.

Peace, lived out in us.

There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence, and that is activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of this innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone and everything, is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful. - *Thomas Merton*

Resources for the Journey: A Profile of Mennonite Church USA

Homeland Security

Key themes: Peacemaking, inequality, social justice, church and state, nationalism

Central thesis: Mennonites today, like God's people in the 6th century B.C., are often tempted to focus more on maintaining their place in the 'middle' of society than on caring for those on the margins of the culture and of the church. The idols of security and self-preservation are as tempting today as in Jeremiah's time. Questions in this module are: What do Mennonites own? What economic and other status differences exist among Mennonites? Are Mennonites embracing a simple lifestyle or one of greater homeland security? What are the effects of upward mobility for Mennonites becoming more suburban, more wealthy, more professional, and more educated?

Daily Scripture Readings

Homeland Security

Psalm to be read each day of the week: Psalm 37

Monday:	Jeremiah 23:1-27
Tuesday:	Revelation 3:14-22
Wednesday:	Matthew 6:19-34
Thursday:	Matthew 19:16-30
Friday:	Matthew 25:31-46
Saturday:	Luke 6:27-36
Sunday:	Luke 14:25-34

Reflection Questions

Homeland Security

1. In *Road Signs for the Journey*, Kanagy argues that the sins of idolatry which plagued God's people in Jeremiah's day were really sins of homeland security. As God's people abandoned their worship and love of God, they quickly turned to other things and persons for security, including nations to the south and north as well as wealth and affluence. In the meantime, they also abandoned the poor and those who were on the margins of society. How do you struggle with the kind of homeland security that Kanagy describes, where do you find yourself placing your trust and confidence in things or persons other than God?

2. Abandoning those on the margins of society (the poor and those discriminated against) was an indication that the people in Jeremiah's day had also abandoned God. How effectively has your congregation connected with those on the margins of the church and society, those who have been abandoned and rejected by others?
3. One Mennonite pastor, Jane Peifer suggests that many of us live with a sense of entitlement, a belief that we deserve or are owed certain rights and privileges. What are the things that many of us today feel entitled to? What rights do we often claim as ours? What does Jesus say about rights and entitlement?
4. Another pastor, Judy Zook claims that following Jesus will mean struggling with lifestyle questions that others might not struggle with such as: How do we care for the poor? What does it mean to store up treasures on earth vs. treasures in heaven? How might we be more faithful as parents, so often tempted to cater to our children's wants and to provide them with endless opportunities? What lifestyle issues should Christians who are concerned about overcoming their focus on homeland security struggle with? What would the church look like and what would our lives look like if we truly abandoned any concern for homeland security?
5. Mennonite pastor Jerry Truex has noticed the "absorption" of Christians into the larger culture, an absorption that is shaped substantially by the media. Pastor Jerry suggests that the church has an opportunity to provide loving relationships that otherwise do not exist in a self-absorbed world. How do members of your congregation struggle with absorption and with being sucked into the messages that the world gives about success, power, and wealth? How has absorption into the world affected the church over the last several decades?
6. Pastor Jerry Truex talks about the pain that members in his congregation are facing, who though living in a first-world country do not have enough resources to take care of themselves. In that congregation, a sharing fund helps to redistribute resources. What is the responsibility of Christians in the U.S. to care for the poor, within our churches, in our communities, and around the world? What does it mean to follow Jesus as Christians in a country that has achieved near empire status in the world? In what ways, if any, are your spending patterns and financial decisions more about investing in homeland security than about investing in God's kingdom?
7. Pastor Willmar Harder suggests that the church will be countercultural people, and that in doing so will practice hospitality even when doing so might be dangerous business. Such danger was a reality for early Anabaptists in Europe and remains a danger for Anabaptists today living in other places in the world. What dangers might God be calling your congregation to enter?
8. Many Mennonites today freely pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States. Pastor Willmar Harder raises a critical question for Mennonites today. Do we pledge allegiance to Jesus Christ first and foremost? What evidence will Christ see when he returns that our allegiance has been to God and not to our own security and preservation? Will he find us with a religion that looks after orphans and widows in their distress (James 1:13) or a religion that has failed to care for the "least of these?"