

**January 2008**

## “A Season of Revealing”

*“When they saw that the star had stopped,  
they were overwhelmed with joy.”*

Matthew 2:10

—

January 6 is Epiphany, the Christian feast that celebrates the “shining forth” or revelation of God to humanity in the person of Jesus. Epiphany means “to appear, to show or to manifest” and is remembered by the coming of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. God’s Good News in Jesus was revealed to others and therefore, to the whole world! “*God has made known to us the mystery of his will....*” Paul writes in Ephesians 1:9. God has revealed Christ to the world!

Even though most presents have been unwrapped by now, most parties have been hosted, most decorations have been put away, we followers of Jesus are just now entering this **season of revealing** that will continue this month until Lent begins in February.

In this new year, I wonder what will be revealed to us through Christ’s Spirit? I am particularly excited at what God will reveal to us as we prepare for our centennial celebration. I look forward to celebrating with those who will be getting married this year. I anticipate being a part of some baptism services this year, as Christ is revealed to our young people. I suspect that some new ministries will be uncovered in this new year, giving joy to those who will serve in them.

I wonder who will experience hardship, tragedy or distress in this year and I wonder how God’s comfort and healing will be revealed to those who will hurt and grieve. I trust that certain insights, truths and thoughts will be revealed to me this year as I shepherd the Tabor flock.

As we begin this year, all seems hidden and unknown, but by the end of the year, all will be revealed. Let us all move ahead together in this season of revealing. Some of us long that God’s plan would be revealed more quickly to us and some will be content with God’s slow-revealing purposes.

Can we trust that God’s spirit will continue to make known to us all that we need to know? As we wait for the full revelation of God’s Kingdom, can we continue to go about our faithful business of following Jesus? It is Christ’s life and teachings that inspire us and transform us, so that through our lives, God’s love is revealed in Jesus Christ to the world. What a gift!

May God bless us all in this Epiphany season, for it will be revealed to us.

—Pastor Corey

## Worship Themes

### January 6 - "Epiphany"

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7,  
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12  
-Corey preaching

### January 13 - "First Sunday after Epiphany"

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17  
- Karen preaching

### January 20 - "Immigration"

Deuteronomy 24:14-22,  
Jeremiah 7:1-7, Ephesians 2:13-20  
- Corey preaching

### January 27 - "World Fellowship Sunday"

Matthew 4:1-12; 28:16-18,  
Mark 16:15, Psalm 27:1  
-Corey preaching

## Wednesday Evening Activities Resume

Welcome 2008 by joining the activities here at Tabor on Wednesday evening. All Wednesday Evening Activities will resume on January 16, beginning with supper at 6:00pm. Then choose an activity to participate in that fits you. There is something for all ages.

6:00-6:45pm: Supper-*sign up for meal*

6:45-7:00pm: Supper Cleanup

6:30-7:15pm: Children of Light Choir

6:45-7:15pm: Sonbeams Choir

7:00-8:00pm: TGYF

Adult Bible Study

7:15-8:00pm: Worship Team Practice

7:15-8:15pm: Jr FaithWeaver Friends

FaithWeaver Friends

Youth Explorers

8:00-9:00pm: Adult Choir

## 10 Reasons to attend Tabor's Annual Meeting January 27th - noon

10. You don't have to cook dinner (that's a pretty big one!)
9. To celebrate what God did in our midst last year.
8. You'll help build community by spending time together!
7. You don't have to clean up after yourself!
6. You'll see pictures in color through a multi-media powerpoint presentation!
5. You'll hear a riveting "State of the Church" report!
4. You feel some obligation because of your membership at Tabor.
3. There's no football game to watch.
2. There will probably be a give away prize!
1. To discuss important missional ideas!

Make up your own list if you want, but do plan on coming to our meeting on January 27th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Let's be faithful and break 100!

## Pizza Party for Tabor Children and Youth

The Faith Weaver Friends and Junior Friends, Youth Explorers and Youth Group are invited to a big Welcome to 2008 Pizza Party held in the Fellowship Hall at **6:30pm on Wednesday, January 9th**. We are inviting all children and their parents to attend this event as well. There will be music, prizes, and games for all! We look forward to this our third annual pizza party. Come out and see how God is nurturing our children's faith!

## Adult Bible Study

Have you ever wondered why there are things in the Bible that seem to contradict what we have learned about a loving God? Even Jesus said some things that we find hard to digest. Wednesday night Bible study will concentrate on these difficult texts of the Bible. There are texts that are never used in the lectionary. These include stories in the Old Testament and passages in the New Testament which we find difficult to understand. Adults of all ages are encouraged to come and participate in some good discussions about these texts. We begin January 16. Hope to see you there!  
-Pastor Karen

## Tabor's Centennial Devotional Book

We have doubled our devotionals for the Centennial Devotional Book (from 4 to 8!). We still have quite a ways to go if we want to make a book. I would remind us all that the cutoff date for the devotionals is **February 1**, (that's less than one month). Now that the Christmas season is over, and before the warm weather hits, why don't you consider writing a devotional. Your story will bring inspiration to others and above all, it will glorify God, which is the whole purpose for our lives anyway!

Submit your devotionals 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).

## Willing Helpers

Willing Helpers Society will begin a new year on Wednesday, January 16 at 9:30 a.m. for a work day and soup lunch. The theme for the new year is "Freely You Have Received, Freely Give." Anyone wanting to join us at any time throughout the year is welcome. -Norma Graber

## Caring Group Ministry

As a new year begins, we thank God for the ministry of caring groups at Tabor and look forward to a new year. We especially want to thank Phyllis Goertzen as the caring group deacon who helped with planning and sharing of ideas these past few years. Thank you, Phyllis! Replacing her as a caring group deacon is Carol Duerksen. She along with Denise Nickel will help provide leadership for this ministry. We look forward to a new year.

For each newsletter, we invite people to share a caring moment from their group or what the group has been doing through the year. Here is one submitted by Helen Schmidt:

*We try to meet the second Sunday of every month. We take turns at leading as well as hosting the group in our homes. We usually have a 6 p.m. fasha (each person/couple brings a food item - our menu being zwiebach, cheese, fruit salad, relishes and cookies.) We are studying the Sunday school quarterly lessons from summer 2006.*

# 2008 First Fruits Giving

Please read the first fruits giving form which was found in mailboxes and prayerfully determine what your giving to Tabor's mission will be for this year. Are you able to determine a percentage increase in your giving for this year? You do not have to return your giving intent, but rather fill it out and keep it as a reminder of your covenant to Tabor Church for 2008. The deacons will also be sending confidential quarterly and end of year giving reports to you for you to check your giving progress and also for tax purposes.

## 11 Steps to a Joyful You

- 1) Work towards a healthy sense of self. Remind yourself that you are striving for progress, not perfection!
- 2) Jump start your heart with an attitude of gratitude. Count your blessings daily. Practice random acts of kindness.
- 3) Choose to live in the "now." Let go of yesterday and quit worrying about tomorrow. Slow down and enjoy life.
- 4) Let go of hurts and disappointments. Make some mistakes. Learn to forgive yourself and others. Forgiveness means freedom.
- 5) Smile at yourself in the mirror. Smile at others. Give compliments generously. Receive compliments gracefully.
- 6) Gently poke fun at yourself. Silliness will help you relax and become more spontaneous and less self-conscious.
- 7) Hang around with positive, optimistic, fun-loving people.
- 8) Set realistic goals on a regular basis. Beginnings create exciting energy and new experiences rejuvenate us. Take time to celebrate accomplishments; then give yourself a break from the hustle and bustle of life.
- 9) Try to keep your life balanced by prioritizing your wants and needs. Pray for wisdom and courage. Practice saying "no."
- 10) Take risks using healthy, compassionate humor with your family and friends. Make joyful connections in your world.
- 11) Feed your soul once a week by doing something you love.

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## WDC News

### **Conference Resource Library now open Thursday nights 'till 8:**

Beginning Thursday, January 10, the Western District Conference Resource Library at 2517 N. Main in North Newton will be open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Curl up with a book and a fresh cup of coffee or tea. Hang out, meet new friends. Bring children and have a family story time or . . . schedule a committee meeting in the library lounge. Come on over, open and read!

**Listening Circle begins at Western District Conference Resource Library:** Looking for a place to explore theology and ask questions in a gentle environment? Come to an exploratory meeting of "The Listening Circle," a group for women of any age who want to learn together through study, sharing and listening carefully to one another. The meeting will convene at 7:30 pm in the Conference Resource Library on January 10, 2008. Please call convener June Thomsen (283-0106) or librarian Marlene Bogard (283- 6300) for more information. See you there!

**Welcome to Education (WEB),**

sponsored by Bethel College Women's Association, will be held January 19, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Bethel College, North Newton, KS. This event offers a variety of workshops (antiques, financial security, whole foods for a whole community, digital photography) and a brunch. The registration deadline has been extended to January 10. Mail your registration and \$20 to Valerie Klassen, 9108 SE 36th St., Whitewater, KS 67154. More information is available on the church bulletin board or call 620-367-8219.

***“The Upside Down King”*** musical is a new, upbeat, fun, and powerful re-telling of the life and ministry of Jesus. This original musical, with script by Carol Duerksen and music by Doug & Jude Krehbiel (Road Less Travelled), features a five member young adult cast, and a live classic rock and roots band.

Cast and Band members: Doug Krehbiel, Jason Peters, Ben Kliewer, Ted Krehbiel, Bethany Amstutz, Tonya Keim Bartel, Lowell Wyse, Bridget Kratzer, Jude Krehbiel.

Geared for youth and all ages, ***“The Upside Down King”*** focuses on the flipped-over aspects of Christ's life and teachings, including loving enemies, being servants, and going the second mile. Seven presentations (4 in Kansas) will be done throughout WDC in January, 2008 - choose one to attend! Offerings will be received for WDC youth ministry.

**Saturday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.**

First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS

**Sunday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.**

Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS

**Sunday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.**

Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS

**Wednesday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.**

Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS

*Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.*

-Vesta M. Kelly  
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