

July 2008

“Mind the Road Signs”

“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” - Jeremiah 6:16

If you ever expect to reach your vacation destination this summer, you have to follow the signs along the road. Road Signs generally aren't flashy; they don't exhibit breathtaking scenery; they don't display dazzling colors and they aren't very photogenic. But they are very important, for they tell you where you are at and what is ahead. Without road signs, we'd get lost pretty quick.

God called Jeremiah to a difficult task of telling the Israelites to mind the road signs along the way in their faith journey. Even though God had always intended paths of safety and security for the descendants of Abraham and Sara, they often insisted on their own way rather than God's way.

They stopped following the road signs that God intended and soon they were spiritually lost. Through Jeremiah, God implored the Israelites to “*stand at the crossroads and look for the good path*” to walk in and they would find life. It was a message that Jeremiah tirelessly spoke to Israel, a message that sometimes fell on deaf ears, but a message that God needed to get through to His beloved children. Renewal comes only when we discover and re-discover God's directions for our living and being.

As Tabor Mennonite approaches its centennial celebration, we too stand at the crossroads. We look back to remember with joy our past and we also peer ahead down the road to see where we are going. It is wise for us to prayerfully listen and look at the Road Signs to see exactly where we are at and where our paths are taking us next.

To help prepare us for this journey, we will be reflecting on Road Signs in our worship services in July and August. We will be prayerfully gleaning insights offered in the book by Conrad Kanagy entitled, “*Road Signs for the Journey, A Profile of Mennonite Church USA*”. I invite people to get this book and read it, for it gives some startling information about who we are as a church.

Road Signs don't lie. They don't stretch the truth. They state the facts and I think you'll find this book will do the same for you. Road Signs never intend to hurt us, but rather, their purpose is to inform us where we are at and they direct our paths and point us to the place where we want to go.

And where do we want to go? That is for you to help answer. We want to be a faithful church in this place and in this time, but how that will look is dependent upon you. So get out your maps, sharpen your eyes and look for the signs around us. We'll get there but it will be quite a journey!

I look forward to our travels together.

In Christ,

Pastor Corey

Celebrating the Past Embracing the Future

October 10-12, 2008

October 10: Evening-Lecture by James Juhnke

October 11: Family activities in the afternoon

Drama and Meal in the evening

October 12: Worship Service at 9:30

Potluck meal at noon

Prayer/Envisioning Team hopes to *harvest* a vision

The prayer/envisioning team met on June 19th and with a handful of kernels of wheat before each one, the group thought about being a “*Harvest of Righteousness*” (Philippians 1:3-11). We reflected on how we make decisions as a faith body and who makes the changes at Tabor. Are changes made by the leadership or by lay people? Do changes come from pastors, committees or other places? Do changes come because of vision or because of apathy? The questions that have been raised in this group have given us much to discuss and pray about.

We were challenged by our consultant, John Simmering, to reflect on our core values. In order for Tabor church to truly **Embrace the Future**, we will have to find and own a compelling vision that is shared by the whole body. The core values which make up this vision may be unchanged from the core values of 50 years ago, **but the way in which we live out these core values** - will likely change if the church wants to be relevant and faithful with the Gospel.

The prayer/envisioning team feel that the time is soon coming to reflect with the congregation about our core values. How can we claim our espoused values (head values) together with our lived values (heart values) so that we can most fully embrace the future as a faithful church here at Tabor? We joyfully continue along in this journey of discovering with you a compelling vision for the future.

August 10th is Peace Sunday

We are having a very special speaker come to Tabor on August 10th. Susan Mark Landis is the minister of Peace and Justice of Mennonite Church USA and has recently returned from Iran where she was able to speak with people there about our prayers for peace. Susan will be preaching here on Sunday morning, meeting with the youth at noon and will be speaking again in the evening at Tabor. We are very pleased that Susan is able to come and share God's word with us on this day! Keep watching for more details of Susan's time with us.

Caring Group Ministry

It was a real pleasure for our small group to finally meet Joe and Anna Sawatsky and their boys, Isaac, Moses and Levi. We have been communicating with them during their first term in Mthatha through e-mails and we also send packages at Christmas and birthdays.

We thank those of you who also write them and invite others to do so as well. They are very appreciative of all communications and our prayers.

Thank you all for giving them a warm reception at Tabor last Sunday.

-Russ and Barb Abrahams, Keith and Barb Banman, Larry and Brenda Buller, Kent and Rosie Jantz, Denise and Elton Nickel and Les and Lois Voth.

Willing Helpers

The Willing Helpers will have a work day at the MCC Center in North Newton on Wednesday, July 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to come work and should bring a sack lunch.

New Sunday School Year begins in September

VOLUNTEER YOUR GIFTS

Sign up on the bulletin board to teach Sunday School or contact

Kim Funk, adult supervisor
Carol Duerksen, youth supervisor
Kristi Unruh, junior supervisor

Worship Themes

July 6 - *"Being Yoked with Jesus"* Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30, Genesis 6:1-4
Karen preaching

July 13 - *"God's People Then and Now"* II Chronicles 34-36, II Kings 22-25, Galatians 3 Corey preaching

July 20 - *"Homeland Security"* Jeremiah 2:1-19, Philippians 3:17ff, Luke 10 Corey preaching

July 27 - *"The Fall of Jerusalem - Jeremiah's missional message for today"* Jeremiah 25:8-11, 52:12-15, 17-19, 27; Acts 10 Karen preaching

Pastor's Vacation Schedule:

June 29-July 6 - Pastor Doug is gone on TMYF service trip to Cheyenne Reservation in Montana.

July 2-6 - Pastor Corey is gone to SD to speak at Salem Mennonite Church Centennial.

July 6-18 - Pastor Karen is gone to Elkhart, Indiana for a seminary class.

July 21-28 - Pastor Corey is gone on vacation.

July 14-27 - Pastor Doug is gone on vacation.

July 28-31 - Pastor Doug is gone to Native Assembly in Clinton, OK.

Summer Sunday School

July 6 - Western Dist. Conf. Reporting

July 13 - Trip to Russia
Jerry and Leann Toews

July 20 - Taste of Tabor

July 27 - Name That Tune

August 3 - Fellowship Time

August 10 - Peace & Justice Susan Mark Landis

August 17 - The James Waltner Years Rachel Waltner Goossen

August 24 - Mennonite Clothing Fashion Review Marge Shoemaker, Mennonite Heritage Museum

August 31 - Fellowship Fair Education Sunday

Children's Sunday School will continue to follow the same themes as the adults with special activities created just for them. Children are also encouraged to participate in the Summer Sunday School Reading Challenge.

***Everyone!! This Summer:
Plan to participate in the activities
following our time of worship!!***

WDC News

Women's and Girl's Retreat

All South Central Conference and Western District Conference women and girls are invited to come together for the annual Women's and Girl's Retreat, scheduled for **September 5-7** at Camp Mennoscah. The theme for the weekend is *"The Woven Threads of Sisterhood"*.

Debbie Schmidt, pastor of First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS, and Raylene Hinz-Penner, professor of English at Washburn University, who together have shared a four-decade-long friendship and spiritual journey - will be the principle speakers. Through their special sessions, Saturday afternoon seminars, free time, music, and mealtimes, the weekend will focus on the special connections girls and women develop through shared life experiences.

Programming is planned for girls in grades 3-12. Registration information will be sent to churches in July and sign-up is due by August 18. For further information contact Eileen Stucky, retreat chairperson, 620-543-2756 or swp@buhlerks.net.

Jumpstart is Coming!

Save the date: Saturday, **September 13** at Faith Mennonite Church in Newton, KS. Jumpstart will provide a variety of interactive workshops relating to Christian education and faith nurture in the congregation. Topics will include Reclaiming Bible Literacy; Teaching Bible 101 to Adults, and much more. Registration materials will be ready in July. Plan now to send many of your teachers to this affordable and enriching day.