

October 2008

Only 13 more days until Tabor's 100th Anniversary!!!!

“The Privilege of Looking Back and the Hope of Looking Ahead”

“Now therefore revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity . . .”
- Joshua 24:14a

Tabor Mennonite Church is now 100 years old! One hundred years of life is a major accomplishment for an individual, a business and certainly for a church. Tabor has now experienced 100 years of business meetings, worship times, missional activities and fellowship. That's a lot of potlucks! What a profound miracle it is to have gathered as God's people for so many years.

Church centennials give congregations the unique opportunity to look back and to look ahead. Tabor has enjoyed the tremendous privilege in being able to look back at our history this past year, thanks to many people who made it possible. Old photos have reminded us of the changes. Memories of significant events have been forever etched in our hearts. Stories passed down through time have shaped and influenced us to this day.

But looking back has not been just a trip down nostalgia lane; rather our look back has become a tapestry of praise to our God, who has lead us all along. Celebrating our past helps us to know who we are today and reminds us of the firm foundation of Jesus Christ that this congregation was built on. What a privilege is has been to look back.

It has also been our prerogative this past year to look ahead. Being alive allows us to look ahead. Tabor is more than just alive; Tabor is doing very well, actually thriving in many areas. Our 'aliveness' helps us to look ahead as we anticipate, dream and plan for a future where Christ is already at. Envisioning and praying into this future has enabled us to move there so we can continue to faithfully proclaim God's good news here and around the world. What hope we have as we look ahead.

One year ago, I kicked off our centennial year by preaching on Joshua 24, the text for this centennial celebration. With Israel, we at Tabor have been asked to remember how “*God brought us and our ancestors out...*” and we have been asked to choose whether we will serve the Lord in our future. We have responded many times it seems, and we will respond again and again and again into our future, “*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!*” Being able to participate with God in God's unfolding vision for Tabor Mennonite in the future is a privilege we don't take lightly, but we joyfully enter into it with faith, courage and renewed vision.

As we *Celebrate the Past and Embrace the Future* at Tabor in these days, let us fully enter into all that God has for us at this historic and Spirit-filled moment time!

-Pastor Corey

Worship Themes

Oct. 5 - “*Becoming the Sent Church*”

John 20:19-23

Corey preaching

Oct. 12 - “*Tabor Church Centennial*”

Communion; Joshua 24

James Schrag and Brenda Martin Hurst preaching

Oct. 19 - “*Spirituality*”

John 15:5-8, I Peter 3:8-18, Micah 6:8

-Karen preaching

Oct. 26 - *Bethel College Sunday*

-Dale Schrag preaching

Prayer and Envisioning: Beyond the Centennial Celebration

The Prayer & Envisioning team last met on September 11 and our assignment for that evening was to “discern the vision in a disturbing way” – or to name some daring dreams or visions that had come to our minds since meeting for the last year.

These were statements that were named:

- ♦ Wouldn't it be great to see the young adults (20 yr olds) meeting intentionally for social, nurturing, Bible Study on a regular basis?
- ♦ Attitude Adjustment! – be ready & willing for change.
- ♦ Tabor responds well to crisis (like caring for needs that arise, which is great) but we are slacking in being involved in programming and enriching our own spiritual growth. How do we find the urgency to keep us alive – The Harvest Is Ripe. We need to refocus.
- ♦ We are weaving some of the same threads, but a different tapestry – our core values seem to remain constant but we need to find new ways to apply them in today's community.
- ♦ Create a Shalom Zone! (are there new ways to create peace?)
- ♦ Can we strive toward 90% of people doing 90% of the work? How can we all find our calling?
- ♦ We have recalled many informal intergenerational mentoring relationships among Tabor people. Could we each more intentionally be a mentor and have a mentor? Bonding with another person and not afraid to name when “I see God working in you when you . . .”

- ♦ Find your spiritual gifts and use them – the process of Called Out, Prayed Out, Tried Out.
- ♦ God is always at task at bringing together Kingdom.
- ♦ I need to persuade you to be who you are!
- ♦ Wouldn't it be exciting to require each Tabor person or couple or family to go on a 3-6 month voluntary service assignment? To enrich our spiritual journey, see other culture, experience different kind of relationships?
- ♦ On an annual basis, we should each make individual goals for our spiritual journey.
- ♦ How does Tabor provide healing & hope for those who suffer from non-peaceful patterns in life – mental illness, abuse, violence, lack of wholeness.
- ♦ Whatever our visions change to be at Tabor, we yearn for enough passion and ownership to support it with time and money.
- ♦ Anabaptists have been adapters throughout the years – and Tabor persons have been very open, nurturing, supportive of our diversity. Maybe now is the time for a more abrupt change and not just “flowing with the times”.

Our consultant, John Simmering, ended by saying – Life Happens, Shift Happens, Never Without Hope!

If you imagine New Vision on the top of a thread, Sustainability at the bottom, new ideas on one side of the thread and new events or curriculum on the other to keep it balanced and aligned---what is it that keeps it weighted? It is Commitment.

Next meeting we are to come up with some practical applications for the above ideas.

—Gayle Funk reporting

Coming Soon: Tabor Church Devotional Book

Early in 2008, Pastor Corey invited Tabor folks to think about writing short devotionals that would be compiled into a devotional book. The devotional booklet, which would coincide with Tabor's centennial celebration, would continue our spirit of thanksgiving for how God has been at work in our lives. The booklet is nearing completion and will be available to all Tabor attenders in early October. Every member/attender will be given a copy of the devotional book (free) and we hope it will inspire us all to continue faithfully following Jesus. Thank you all again who offered devotions. You literally wrote the book!

Commitment Sunday Soon Approaching

As we anticipate our 101st year together as the Tabor faith community, we again will be having a Commitment Sunday on November 2. We are inviting every Tabor attender to reflect on what commitments they want to make to our congregation and fill out a commitment sheet as a sign of your covenant to Christ and Tabor church.

You will find your commitment sheets in your church mailboxes on October 5th. During the month of October, you are invited to pray, discern with others and reflect on where you will share your gifts with Tabor. On November 2, we will receive these commitments and joyfully recovenant ourselves again to serve Christ and his church. The deacons will also be praying for you and corresponding with you as you consider where God is calling you to serve in our faith community. We are the Body of Christ and we look forward to being faithful, committed participants at Tabor Mennonite in 2009!

Men's Bible Study - *Finding Wisdom!*

This fall, the men's Saturday morning Bible study will be studying Solomon's words of wisdom found in Proverbs. In the 11 week series, we will discover wisdom, learn about what children should and should not do and again trust in our God who guides us into all Truth. On **November 1**, there will be a **hot breakfast** planned for ALL MEN and on that day we will share together what it means to be men of faith in our time. The class will meet in the South Sunday school room, at 7:00am, so please make plans on joining us to study and to pray. If you can't make it every time, please consider coming when you can. We welcome you when you can make it!

Practicing Our Faith Continues

During the adult Sunday school hour we will continue to explore some of the biblical practices which have shaped our faith through the centuries. Sermons address these practices and most adult classes are participating in the lessons prepared based on the scripture of the morning worship.

Schedule of biblical practices:

- Oct. 5 – Salvation (Centennial preview Sunday)
- Oct. 12 – no SS (Centennial)
- Oct. 19 – Discipleship/Spirituality
- Oct. 26 – The Church in Mission (Bethel College Sunday)
- Nov. 2 – The Church's Relation to Government & Society
- Nov. 9 – Footwashing/anointing
- Nov. 16 – Stewardship (Honoring our Elderly)
- Nov. 23 – The Reign of God
- Nov. 30 – Wrap-up with everyone

Wednesday Evenings at Tabor

No need to cook supper. Leave the television off. Plan to spend an evening with friends.

Midweek activities at Tabor begin October 1st. New this year is Adult Bible Study beginning at 5:30 pm. Supper will follow. Plan to stay for an evening of activities

for everyone. Another new option this year is a Spanish class taught by Violeta Ajquejay. Class size is limited to 16, so please sign up. If the class fills up, Violeta is open to offering it again in January.

These activities are planned with you in mind! Join us!!!

Willing Helpers

Willing Helpers Society had about 35 people attend the demonstrations on how to make zwieback and bread. Many told of a baking experience they had. Our devotional was "Creation-Seeing the Gift in the Giver" Affirmation sheets were handed out for officers for next year. Several ladies took white handkerchiefs home to iron for our centennial communion on October 12.

Our next meeting is Monday, October 20 for a work evening at the EtCetra Shop in Newton from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Your spouse or a friend are also welcome to help with sorting or pricing items. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to go so the EtCetra has an idea how many are coming to help.

Joyful Noise CCC Needs Your Support

Joyful Noise daycare is a not-for-profit childcare center that was founded by community members and support from local churches. The daycare has been blessed over the years by many individuals who have made donations or volunteered their time in so many ways. It's hard to say "thanks" for every act of generosity but each gift of time or money is greatly appreciated. Joyful Noise has a budget shortfall of about \$1000.00 dollars each month that requires fundraising and/or donations to make ends meet. As you all know the cost of everything continues to rise. About a month ago we raised our rates but we continue to struggle to meet our budget. We, the Joyful Noise board of directors, have been praying about our financial situation. We felt that it was time to let the community know about our financial hardships as we do need your support in order to keep this mission alive. Please pray for us and consider making us a part of your mission to help those in need. Whether it's a one-time donation, a quarterly gift, or monthly support, every gift will be instrumental. As a not-for-profit organization, your financial gifts are tax deductible. We look forward to serving the community's childcare needs for many years to come.

WDC News

Radical discipleship - Is your congregation ready to "go green?" What is a Christian response to environmental issues? How can Anabaptists make Jesus the real agenda of social activism? Want to read an intriguing story of a soldier who walked away from the war in Iraq? This month's issue of **Check It Out** from the Conference Resource Library highlights stories, insights and challenges from folks who live radical Christian discipleship. As usual, the listing may be found at: www.mennowdc.org/Library.html. Email or call us

to reserve materials for your use: crlib@mennowdc.org / 316-283-6300.

Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series - We live in a digital world. FaceBook... cell phones... google... blogs... Does this new world present fresh challenges to being faithful to Jesus? Does it impact community? Education? How we gather and process information? Does it change the way we view reality? The AVDS Series at Hesston College on **November 7-9** will address: **Digital Discipleship: Forming Faith in an Electronic Culture**. For information, go to: www.hesston.edu/AVDS

Camp Mennoscah

Another season of camps has come to a close. Campers this year from Tabor were: Austin Unruh, Carson Voth, Luke Unruh, Hannah Miller, Kellen Froese, Karina Brandt, Kylee Unruh, Mikayla Lare, Kolton Lare, and Jasmine Brandt.

Thank you to all our Work & Play Camp attendees for their hard work! Many of the tasks needed to prepare Camp Mennoscah for the winter months have been completed. We had a great time and look forward to seeing you and others next year.

College Student Updates

Freshmen:

Kurtis Duerksen - Southeast Community College, Milford, NE
Nathan Ensz - Hesston College
Jake Schrag - K-State Salina
Anna Unruh - University of Kansas
Duane Unruh - Bethel College

Sophomores:

Travis Buller - Friends University
Brittany Dirksen - Bethel College
Alex Drake - Baker University
Brett Goerzen - Friends University
Sheldon Goerzen - Hesston College
Jason Unruh - Hesston College
Janessa Wedel - Kansas State U.

Juniors:

Brittany Voth - Bethel College

Seniors:

Josh Andres - Kansas State U.
Dylan Buller - Kansas State U.
Ashley Ensz - Wichita State U.
Jeremy Newhouse - Bethel College
Michael Unruh - Bethel College

Graduate:

Jeff Franzen - Kansas State U.
Luke Schmidt - New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Daniel Unruh - Notre Dame U.