

The Risen Christ by the Sea

The resurrection of Jesus was a laugh freed forever and ever. It's a laugh that echoes through the lives of the saints."

*-Patrick Kavanaugh, Irish Poet
Joyful Noiseletter, April, 2009*

Tabor Church News

April, 2009

ōThe Gospel of Springtimeö

"The Lord has risen indeed." - Luke 24:34

Each spring brings a voiceless invitation.
A call to prayer.
Not a formal prayer,
but a spontaneous prayer that rises from the heart.
This invitation invites me to be present;
present to the greening earth around me;
present to meditate on the return of life.

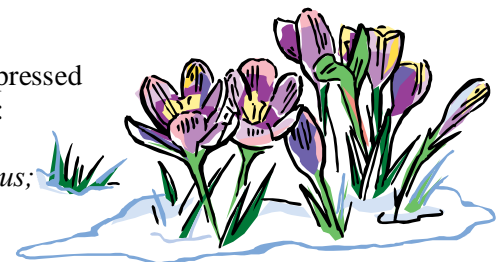
But a late snow falls.
For some, their mood of life is not the
color of resurrection.
Good Fridays do not leave because spring returns.
Many suicides happen in the spring.
Others who are depressed and lonely do not feel
invited to the celebration of new life.
While this prayer calls me to gratitude and praise,
some struggle to break through the soil to new life.
But if I am honest, they are not the only ones
who find it difficult entering the öfestival of life.ö
I too can miss the resurrection unfolding around me
by various distractions of life.

The invitation to be present is not always easy.

Jesus understands,
planting so many seeds of goodness only to have
the hard spring storms rain down the destruction
of life.

Would I have been present in the storm?

But wait.
New life has come.
Resurrection is possible.
That is the gospel of springtime as expressed
so well in this poem by Lilia Royers:
*First a howling blizzard woke us,
And then the rain came down to soak us;
And now before our eye can focus,
CROCUS!*



May the hope of Easter morning help us live in expectancy of new life.

-Pastor Karen

Worship Themes

April 5 - Ruling in Humility + Palm Sunday -Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 118, Isaiah 50:4-9, Philippians 2:5-11
-Karen preaching

April 12 - "Christ is Risen" Easter Sunday -Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8
-Corey preaching

April 19 - The Joy Continues+ Easter Joy Sunday -Acts 4:32-35, I John 1, John 20:19-31
-Corey preaching

April 26 - Esther-Ordinary Faith+ Children of Light Musical
Reception of new members

*Christ is Risen!
Smile!*



WDC News

Becoming a new Humanity+
- Ephesians 2:11-22

Annual Western District Conference
coming August 7-8 at Bethel College.
Watch for details and plan to attend.

Great Plains seminary class

Teaching the Bible in the Congregation will be the Great Plains seminary class for June 2009.

Doug Miller, Ph.D., Hillsboro will teach the 3-credit-hour class. Auditors welcome. A great class for pastors, Sunday school teachers, deacons/elders, and other church leaders. More details available in early April. For more information, contact Lois Barrett, Director, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Great Plains Extension, 316-283-7098.



Wednesday Evening Faith Adventure class prepares plants for the MCC sale



Our Lives are
in Your Hands

A special **Maundy Thursday** service will be held in the fellowship hall on April 9th. We will have a light supper at 6:30pm followed by a worship service of music, scriptures and communion. If you haven't been a part of this evening for a while, we invite you to come out and experience this together as we follow Jesus to the cross.

A special community **Good Friday** service will be held at Tabor on April 10th. A joint choir from Alexanderwohl, Goessel and Tabor Mennonite will share their gifts as well as a new song written by Doug and Jude and meaningful scripture presentations. The worship service will begin at 7:00pm.

On **Easter Morning**, make plans to come early and enjoy an Easter Breakfast at 8:30am in the fellowship hall. *Please bring sweet rolls and Easter breads to share.* Then get a good seat for a life-giving, resurrecting worship service at 9:30am! You will hear wonderful music and we will celebrate Monica Voth's baptism! There will be no Sunday school following the worship service.

You are again invited to **share Easter lilies** in memory of a loved one or in celebration of God's goodness. Bring your lily, with your name on it, to the library by noon Saturday, April 11. Notify the church office no later than Wednesday April 8 with your name and celebration/memory so we can include this information in our worship bulletin.

Women and Girls Salad Supper

All women and girls are invited to the Willing Helpers salad supper on April 20 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Christian fiction author Kim Vogal Sawyer. She writes fiction to create stories that will edify God's children and offer evidence of the hope we can all possess when we place our hearts and souls in God's very capable hands. She is from Hutchinson, KS and will be speaking on "Lessons Learned from Chocolate" a light hearted look at how opening the wrappers on a certain brand of chocolate candy helped open her eyes to Bible-reading and put her on a growth spurt that didn't involve pounds. Kim will bring books she has written to autograph/sell. Bring a salad and come for an evening of good food and fellowship. Sign up on the bulletin board. -Brenda Buller



Spring clean your life:
throw out old grudges, dust off your sweetest voice,
paint a happy attitude, frame every happiness that you can list.
God loves a cheerful giver . . . give some cheer.



Wednesday Night Wellness

Exercise classes coming in April! Our new exercise program, will begin April 22nd. "Active Seniors" a class specifically for senior citizens will be held at 5:30-6:00 pm. From 7:00-8:00 pm the "Faithful Fitness" class open to everyone ages 14 and older will be held. Classes will include instructor led strength training, stretching, outdoor cardio exercises, and variety of other fitness activities. Contact Kevin Nickel with questions.



Mennonite Church USA

New Leadership:

Lee Lever has begun a new assignment as interim director of denominational ministry for Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership. He will lead a team of denominational ministers providing support and encouragement for conference ministers. Lever and denominational ministry staff also oversee the pastoral call system, pastoral salary guidelines, resource packets for conference ministers, and more.

Nancy Kauffmann will join Lee Lever as a denominational minister for Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership, effective May 1. She joins Linford King, Phil Bergey and Iris de León-Hartshorn as denominational ministers responsible for building strong, churchwide relationships with Mennonite Church USA area conferences and their staff.

Esther-Ordinary Faith

"Extra, extra! Read all about it! The queen has changed her nation's fate. Spread the word within and without, it's a day to celebrate her Esther-ordinary faith."

The children of Light Choir will perform a full musical, "*Esther-Ordinary Faith: a kids' musical for "such a time as this"*" by Kathie Hill on Sunday, April 26 at 9:30 a.m.

The story of Queen Esther in the Old Testament book is one of intrigue. There is a heroin (Esther), a hero (Mordeciai), and a villain (Haman). We are learning many lessons through this musical that are faith building. In the song "God's Child" we sing that the key to being God's child is to have faith and believe. Confess our sins and God will do the rest. In "What The Future Holds" we learn that God knows the future so just trust in Him. In "The Present" we find understanding that each day is a gift from God.

We look forward to sharing this musical with the congregation.

Champions From Marion County

The Tabor Mennonite Church men's basketball team captured first place at the Western District Conference tournament held March. They competed in the Division II level. Our mother church also didn't fare too badly. Alexanderwol Church took first place in the Division I level. Maybe the two teams should play each other and discover the true champion of WDC!

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Jude Krehbiel and Monica Voth help serve at TMYF fundraiser.



Children enjoy a piñata at the Fiesta Fundraiser March 22



Camp Mennoscah

We have MVSers! We are so utterly and completely excited that we have two absolutely stunning folks joining the Camp Mennoscah staff as Mennonite Voluntary Service workers. Michael Unruh (Tabor Mennonite, Newton) is joining us as a general maintenance genius, and Jennie Warkentine (Hope Mennonite, Wichita) will be our kitchen and office superhero. We are looking for two twin beds and two dressers- we weren't prepared to have TWO wonderful folks joining us.

Looking for ways to start or renew a men's group in your church? **Men & Boys Retreat** is the perfect place to do it. Start talking to your brothers about going to Camp Mennoscah April 24-26.

Retirees' Relaxation Retreat is coming soon! We invite all retirees, nearly retirees, and those wishing they were retirees to join us for 3 days of rejuvenation, April 27-29, in the prairie gardens of our great God. Our theme is Great God! Great Gardens!

We are ever so joyful! The **JOY (Just for You) Retreat** for those with special needs will be May 24-25. Individuals 18 years and older and their families and/or caregivers are invited to join us for a wonderfully fun time. Activities ranging from crafts to a hayrack ride will be offered. A nurse will be on site for this retreat. Limited scholarships are available.

We still have openings available for cooks, kitchen staff, and one nurse. Nurses and head cooks are paid positions or can choose instead to receive a parent discount (up to full camp fees) for a camper. Kitchen staff receive a parent discount for a camper- only a fun-loving attitude and the ability to follow directions needed.

Corinthian Plan

At the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly in San Jose 07, the church affirmed a commitment to basic health coverage for eligible pastors and approved a resolution for the Executive Board to develop and implement such a plan. The **Corinthian Plan** is the answer to this resolution. The Corinthian Plan offers all congregations the opportunity to share in the giving and receiving of resources, just as Paul urged the sharing of resources in II Corinthians 8:14, *It is a question of a fair balance between your abundance and their need.*

This plan offers a long-range solution to needs that Tabor may have in the future - as well as enabling our congregation to participate in the community of congregations working together to see that all our pastors have access to health coverage and health care. At a minimum, each congregation participating pays a \$10 annual for each person who attends their church. (Tabor's fee would be about \$270). This mutual aid support helps other congregations that can't afford to pay for health premiums. This is an important way of working for justice.

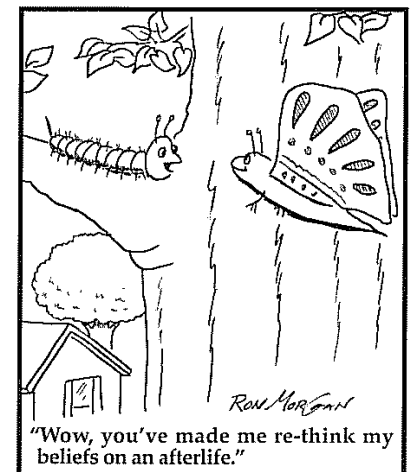
MMA Matching Grants provide Mutual Aid for many

Mennonite Mutual Aid believes in practicing mutual aid by offering Sharing Fund Grants to congregations who have an MMA advocate. Last year, MMA approved of 3,602 grants and over 1 million dollars was distributed to over 2,747 households who were in need. In Kansas alone, 215 grants were approved and \$70,027 of Sharing Fund Grants were distributed. The Tabor deacons applied for and received several matching grants that were used to help people with various unexpected needs that arose during the year. In 2009, Tabor is allotted over \$6000 to help Tabor folks who find themselves in need.

Bill Unruh is our MMA advocate and was recently selected to serve on the MMA President's Council of Advocates for 2009. There are 9 MMA Advocates chosen from across the U.S. to serve on this council for a one year term. The role of this council is to advise the MMA President and the MMA leadership team about ways to improve MMA's ministry. Bill will be attending the MMA National Conference in Cincinnati, OH April 30-May 3.



Faith Friends show off the pockets they decorated for the MCC Sale



"Wow, you've made me re-think my beliefs on an afterlife."

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