



Pastors present their annual reports in a unique and refreshing way!

Tabor Church News

February, 2009

ōRooming with Godö

ōIn my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" - John 14:2

Often in my dreams I see houses. They are all different sizes but all unique. Most frequently, I dream of a huge house which encloses a stairway lined by dark woodwork. When I arrive at the top, I open a door and find a most interesting room. This room, circular in shape, is filled with light. The pews are curved and set on graduated layers of floor. There is a balcony all around. At the center is an organ generating beautiful music which rings in my ears even though I have never seen anyone play it. The room is always empty but feels warm and comfortable. Somehow I know God is there.

Jesus talks about a place filled with rooms ó a place he is preparing for us. Because this was spoken to his disciples on the night before his death, we assume he was talking about heaven. The word öroomö can be translated to mean *infinite dimensions and expressions of God's love*. This could refer to this world, space, and time as well as other dimensions we cannot see.

What if God were preparing for you a room right now? Here is a way to pray for the future: Think about your worst fear. You may be facing a future job, health issues, new relationships, travel plans or other changes. Imagine Jesus, in strength and confidence walking ahead of you and entering that business office, hospital, church, airplane or classroom; touching it, lifting his hands in healing and blessing every corner. He looks back at you with a smile giving an invitation for you to enter knowing his presence and comfort are there to welcome you. You may choose not to enter and you will not be forced. Jesus replies: öI have prepared this place for you.

When someday you enter this door, you will feel warmly welcomed and ready.ö Together, you and your Lord walk back to your present place. You are still surrounded by warm light in the present. You give thanks and turn your attention to the place where you are, knowing the future is in God's hands. (Adapted from *Prayer, Stress and Our Inner Wounds* by Flora Slosson Wuellner)

The meaning of my dream is not exactly clear to me but I hope someday to play that organ (if only in my dreams). In the meantime, it is comforting to know that God's healing love encompasses not only the past but also the future; not only heaven, but the present. As the great Methodist preacher Leslie Weatherhead once said: öGod will meet you at every corner you come to.ö

- Pastor Karen

Worship Themes

Feb. 1 - "Learning Jesus"

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
I Corinthians 8:1b-3, 10-11,
Mark 1:21-28
Corey preaching

Feb. 8 - "Following Jesus in a World that is Not"

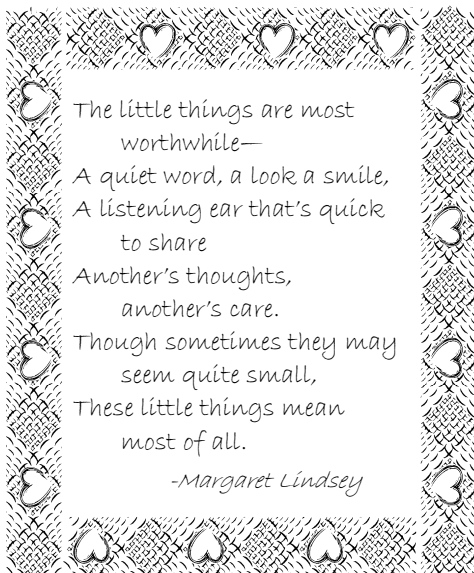
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Psalm 146,
Luke 19:1-10, Ephesians 5:1-12
Karen preaching

Feb. 15 - "Living in the Empire"

Genesis 41, Psalm 96,
Matthew 22:15-22
Corey preaching

Feb. 22 - Hesston College Sunday "Broken To Beautiful"

Mark 16 and Luke 22
Dustin Galion preaching





News from Mennonite Central Committee US - Washington office

For information about MCC's ongoing *Waging Peace in Sudan* campaign, contact Mary Stata, mstata@mcc.org.

Available online: a new *Guide to Native American Issues*, as well as Spanish translations of our *Guide to Christian Advocacy* and our *Guide to Immigration Reform* (<http://mcc.org/us/washington/issues/>).

Also available online is a *Guide to Predatory Lending*, at www.mcc.org/us/Washington/resources/guide/predatorylending_guide.pdf

Redesigned print newsletter, the *Washington Memo*. Subscriptions are available for \$10/year, with a free one-year trial for new subscribers - see <http://washingtonmemo.org/washington-memonewsletter/>.



A mouthwatering dessert bar to benefit the Mennonite College TASK Force was enjoyed at our annual meeting.

Youth Explorers share about Know Jesus 2009

10 youth attended the Know Jesus event sponsored by WDC and Hesston College on January 17-18, 2009. In addition to great worship times (lead by Michael Unruh's band, Lost in Lights of Bethel College), we heard inspiring preaching from Kevin Wilder and enjoyed learning about the Anabaptists in the Anabaptist Adventure game. Here are some quotes from our kids....

ÉI learned that the Anabaptists had a very rough time, that they died for their beliefs.ö - Kaylee Casper

ÉI liked Margaretha Satler, because she had a chance to say she did not believe about Jesus and she did not.ö - Sara Booth

ÉI learned how fast someone is to turn someone in for money (in the game)ö - Reece Hiebert

ÉI found myself calm when in a bad time during the game.ö ö Mark Schmidt

ÉThe Anabaptists were loving and kind, even when they were sad, like Anneken Wensö - Hannah Miller

ÉI grew in my faith.ö - Carson Voth

ÉI have a part of my voice that I never knew existed.ö (during one frightening moment in the game) - Kellen Froese

Calling all New Members!

If you have been attending Tabor for some time and are interested in becoming a member of our faith community, please talk to Pastor Corey in the next few weeks. He is working at getting a group of folks together to talk about Tabor, membership and what it means to follow Jesus. We look forward to this time of sharing!

Spring Adult Bible Study

Many Christians today feel powerless and defeated in their attempts to grow spiritually. Some false beliefs regarding the Christian life have been learned in the church but are not necessarily biblical. Some of these include: 1) It's selfish to have my needs met, 2) If I change my behavior, I will grow spiritually, 3) Just doing the right thing is more important than why I do it, and 4) Leave the past behind, just get over it. These are just a few to mention. The purpose of this class is to explore false assumptions and help clear away old paradigms so that we can find the means to reengage with God and truly live transformed lives. Resources used will include *12 Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy: Relief From False Assumptions* by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend as well as scripture passages from the Gospels. Anyone is welcome to join us in the basement beginning February 4 from 7:-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Pastor Karen will lead these sessions.

Caring Group Celebration

Caring Groups are invited to gather together for food and fellowship on Feb. 15 at noon for a potluck at the church. We want to celebrate this ministry that has been a part of Tabor for many years. There will be some time for table discussions with your group as well as sharing with the whole group. Bring your table ware. Drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there.

Sunday Night at the Picture Show

Bring your date, mate, friend or just yourself to Tabor Sunday night, Feb. 15, 6:00 p.m. for a picture show and popcorn. Travel to Costa Rica with Michael Unruh and New Zealand with Marie Unruh as they share pictures and stories of their experiences in these countries. Admission is free and so's the popcorn!

Ash Wednesday Service

We welcome all to a special Ash Wednesday service on February 25 to begin the season of Lent. The worship service will include special music, scripture readings and the invitation to place ashes. The service will begin at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

Stewardship University Practical solutions for life

Stewardship University, sponsored by MMA Stewardship Solutions, will be offered on **February 21** on the Bethel College campus in North Newton, KS. Courses invite you to discover the solutions you need to live a God-honoring life of holistic stewardship. Learn ways your use of the time, talents, money, health and relationships God has given you can enhance and deepen your faith, drawing you nearer to God! **Talk to Harlin Unruh or Gayle Funk and see about your scholarship!!!!** *Please turn registration in to church office by Feb. 8.*

How Can I Keep from Singing

On March 21-22, Ken Nafziger from Eastern Mennonite University will be at Eden Mennonite Church to lead a Saturday workshop and Sunday hymn singing on *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story* hymnal supplements. Anyone who is interested in music should come. Churches are invited to donate \$100 and bring as many people as they want. The Music and Worship/Fellowship Committees from Tabor have agreed to each donate \$50 for this cause. So, all you need to do is sign up. Brochures are on the table in the foyer. Please turn these in to the church office (Kim) by March 6. This event is sponsored by Eden Church and the Worship and Music Task Force of the Western District Conference. Come join us for a wonderful time of singing together.



Wednesday Evening Family Fun Night in January. A good time for all!



Camp Mennoscah Hooray! New Retreats!

Camp Mennoscah will hold its first Scrapbooking Retreat March 6-7. Workshops will be offered for those interested and you will have hours upon hours to work on your scrapbooks. Join us for some cropping fun!

Camp Mennoscah is also having its first Sustainable Foods and Farming Retreat March 21-22! The theme is Growing and Eating Faithfully: Sustainable Communities. This retreat is being held as part of an effort by the Mennonite Camping Association and Mennonite Creation Care Network to raise awareness about sustainable living. We hope to see you there for fun, fellowship, and growing in God's creation! Contact us for more information about either retreat at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org.

Catalogs Ahoy! The 2009 Camp Mennoscah Catalog has been sent to individuals and church copies will soon follow. Check out our snazzy Family and Friend Retreats and figure out which week of our summer youth camps you'd be coming to. And, hey- Olivia's giving away (old-style) camp tee shirts to the first 10 folks contacting Camp Mennoscah about typos. The tee shirts may be ugly colors and weird sizes, but they all say Camp Mennoscah! Find the catalog at www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html and contact us at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org for your own copy.

Camp Mennoscah Summer Schedule:

- ~ Junior High I--May 31-June 6
- ~ Junior I--June 7-13
- ~ PreJunior I--June 14-18
- ~ First Camp--June 18-20
- ~ Junior II--June 21-27
- ~ June 28-July 4--**NO CAMP**
- ~ Pre-Junior II--July 5-9
- ~ Junior High II--July 12-18
- ~ Junior III--July 19-25
- ~ Senior High--July 26-31



KIPCOR

Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Sider to speak about CPT

Ronald J. Sider will speak on ~~the~~ Time to Get Serious About Christian Peacemaker Teams+in Krehbiel Auditorium on the Bethel College campus, North Newton, on Sunday, February 15, 2009, at 4:30 PM. Sider is Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry and Public Policy, and director of the Sider Center on Ministry and Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood PA. He is founder of Evangelicals for Social Action, a founding board member of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, and author of *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* and other books and articles. His books will be for sale. This lecture is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) at Bethel College, with support from the Peace with Justice Task Force of the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Winfield Fretz Peace Lecture Series Fund, and Eden Mennonite Church. Contact KIPCOR (316-284-5217) for further information, or check <http://www.bethelks.edu/kipcor/lectures/pls.php>.

KIPCOR offers course

Bethel College's Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) offers "**Managing Differences within Faith Communities**", a course to examine how to transform conflict into spiritual and community renewal on **February 24-25, 2009**. Cost: \$325 (\$300 if received by February 3). Academic credit is available. Contact: kipcor@bethelks.edu or 316-284-5217.

What (or Who) Gives?

Last Sunday, everyone who gave offerings to Tabor over the past year, received a financial statement prepared by Bonnie Janzen. Did your statement surprise you? Did it make you feel guilty? Are you doing something different this year? Some research has indicated that most church attenders want to give more than they currently are. They often feel limited in terms of their resources and the way they handle their funds, but the desire to do more is there.

Does that resonate with you? Do you desire to give more? On the one hand, this is a very difficult time in our economy to be asking that question when many are losing jobs and living expenses continue to go up. Increasing our giving might be the last thing on our minds. But on the other hand, maybe, for such a time as this, we are called to give **more** to Tabor, not out of guilt but out of joy, out of the realization that we still have so much, even though we may feel the squeeze.

Someone has noted that the most generous levels of giving tend to come from persons who directly connect their financial giving to their spiritual lives. The most generous givers tend to be those who have thankful hearts, who recognize that God is the source of all that we have.

The more we all can experience that thankfulness, the more generous our giving may become. I would like to see our giving increase at Tabor, not so much to meet our budget, but more so to signify the spiritual vitality in our community. There are some that are facing situations that make it difficult to give much at all and I recognize that, but there are others who are able to give more and I recognize that as well.

As you reflect on what you gave last year, I invite you to visit with others about those numbers or those patterns of giving that you practiced last year. Enter a conversation with those in your caring group or a Sunday school class. One way to release money's God-like power over us, is to start talking about it with each other. The conversation must be done in love and trust, but I think if we talk more about our money stories, it releases us from the anxiety it causes.

May God bless you as you give to Tabor (and other places) this year as part of your response to God's abundant love to each of us.

- Pastor Corey



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