



Baptism of Monica Voht
on Easter Sunday

Tabor Church News

May, 2009

“The Spirit Springs Up!”

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages...” - Acts 2:4

It finally feels like spring here in Kansas. The long winter has finally come to an end. Easter’s celebration of Christ’s victory over the grave is mirrored all throughout God’s creation, where dormant seeds and bulbs are now finally able to push up and bloom in all their glory. The grass springs forth in lush green color. The meadowlarks gather to sing their melodies of praise. Even the oft despised dandelions cannot stop offering their vibrant color on the landscape. All creation is bursting forth into praise as a sign that a new season has come! Indeed, Spring has sprung!

The Spirit of God that raised Christ from the dead sprung into the lives of the disciples in stunning power on Pentecost and the church was born. The disciples were given courage, passion and the ability to speak in new languages so that Christ could be proclaimed to the world. Like the Kansas wind, the Spirit blew in unknown ways upon the church, leading and guiding it along the way.

During these weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, we continue to celebrate the new life that Jesus Christ gives us and we anticipate being refreshed by the wind of the Spirit. The prophet Isaiah understood the symbolism of spring when he said: *“For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.”* - Isaiah 61:11

What will God spring up in your life? What seeds will surprise you this season? Where will you find unexpected color in your faith? How will your life represent righteousness and praise? If you don’t pray for this or yearn for this, it probably won’t happen, but if you open yourself to the Spirit, amazing things will happen.

Easter to Pentecost is the longest season of the church year. It is full of unknowns and it is filled with new life. The challenge over these next 50 days is to remain open and aware of the explosive and wild nature of the Spirit we’re celebrating, rather than trying to domesticate the Spirit. As you celebrate the season of spring, as you witness the transformation of God’s wonderful creation, may you see yourself as a part of creation that God wants to spring forth to the praise of His glorious grace!

Come Holy Spirit Come! Fill the hearts of thy faithful people and kindle in us the fire of your love!

- Pastor Corey



Worship Themes

- May 3** - *“Empowered to Serve”*
John 21:1-19, Acts 5:27-32
Corey preaching
- May 10** - *“The Gift of Mothers”*
Matthew 12:46-50, Prov31:10-31,
Colossians 3:12-17
Corey preaching
- May 17** - *“The Race set Before You”*
Hebrews 12:1-3
Corey preaching
- May 24** - *“Signs of Jesus”*
Doug preaching
- May 31** - *“The Spirit Unleashed”*
Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:22-27,
Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 15:26-27
Karen preaching



Vacation Bible School

June 1-5, 8:30 - 11:45

Tabor Mennonite Church

*Come learn about
the Holy Spirit in our lives,
in the church,
and with God's people
around the world!*



WDC

Associate Conference Minister

On May 1, 2009, Clarence Rempel will begin serving Western District Conference as the Associate Conference Minister for Kansas and Nebraska. He will bring pastoring experience and familiarity of WDC to this position and is eager to serve pastors and congregational leaders.

Upside Down King musical

Special preview before Columbus! There will be three "dress rehearsals" at Krehbiel Auditorium on the Bethel College campus on Saturday evening, June 27; Sunday matinee and Sunday evening (June 28). Details later—but tell your friends and reserve the dates! Offerings for expenses to send cast and band to MC USA!

Coming Up:

Aug. 7-8 - **WDC Annual Conference**, Bethel College and Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton "Becoming a new humanity" Tabor is allowed 11 delegates this year. Talk to deacon chair Denise Nickel or church sec. Kim Funk if you are interested in being a delegate.

Aug. 22 - **Day on the Farm**

Sept. 11-13 - **Women & Girls Retreat** at Camp Mennoscah. The theme for the weekend is "Our Kaleidoscope of Life." Karen Andres Marcene Entz will be the principal speakers offering their Mary & Martha+skits.

Oct. 30 to Nov. 1 - **Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship** at Hesston! Learning the Bible in Life-giving Ways: History, Hooks, and Heilsgeschichte." Discover how the Bible's stories are connected to each other, and how God has worked in history to "solve the sin problem.+ Celebrate Hesston's centennial year!



C. Howard Unruh
~ September 16, 1929-August 26, 2008

Irene Schmidt
~ March 9, 1916-October 13, 2008

Memorial Services

- ☛ Sunday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. ~ Goessel Mennonite Cemetery
- ☛ Monday, May 25, 10:00 a.m. ~ Tabor Mennonite Cemetery
- ☛ Monday, May 25, 11:00 a.m. ~ Alexanderwohl Mennonite Cemetery

Pastor Corey ~ Sabbatical

Pastor Corey will begin a three-month sabbatical at the end of May. Study, renewal and service leaves (ōsabbaticalsō) for pastors are good for the pastor, good for the congregation, good for the Church. Pastors tend to stay longer and serve with greater enthusiasm if their ministry includes opportunities to learn and have exposure to other ministries. They experience spiritual refreshment, new vision, strengthened skills and wider perspectives. Congregations benefit from a chance to exercise lay leadership gifts and by having a refreshed pastor return to lead them. A sabbatical is not an entitlement for pastors, but a part of the congregation's and the pastor's strategy for enhancing ministry. It is not a reward for past service, but an investment in future ministry.

The Tabor deacons have recommended that Pastor Corey have a sabbatical this summer, starting at the end of May and going to the end of August. They have agreed to pay him his full salary while on sabbatical as well as increase pastor Karen's time to 3/4 time during the sabbatical. Corey is very grateful for this opportunity to grow, study, reflect, rest, and pray, so that he will find renewal and refreshment for his ministry here at Tabor.

Corey has several trips planned, including a week long spiritual pilgrimage in Kentucky (through the seminary), the Bike Across Kansas trip with wife Nancy in June, and a weeklong service trip to the Gulf States at the end of June as well as volunteer at the Homeless Shelter in Newton. In addition to this, Corey will take a vacation with his family and attend his high school class reunion where he will speak at the Alumni Banquet. Corey will focus on three issues while on sabbatical: rural issues and the church, technology and ministry, and worship in the church. He will read and research and interview churches and pastors who are learning and growing in these areas. He also hopes to spend time gardening, running and restoring a lawn mower tractor.

Corey hopes this sabbatical will give his hands something to feel (garden, tractor), his body something to do (run, walk, serve), his mind something to learn (books) and his spirit something to feel (rest). His itinerary will be posted on the bulletin board so you can get a sense of where he is at and what he will be doing. He will begin his sabbatical on May 23 and will be back in the office on August 24.

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Middle School**Goessel Middle School**

May 20, 7:00 p.m.
Shane Goerzen

High School**Goessel High School**

May 16, 7:00 p.m.
James Goerzen
Kristin Unruh
Laura Unruh
Justin Fensky
Lars Osland

Newton High School

May 16, 7:00 p.m.
Janina Schmidt

**College****Bethel College**

May 24
Michael Unruh

Kansas State University

May 16
Dylan Buller

Hesston College

May 3
Sheldon Goerzen
Jason Unruh

**The Corinthian Plan**

The Corinthian Plan is a health coverage plan for all credential and practicing pastors in Mennonite Church USA. The idea came from the delegate body at San Jose 2007 and it offers all congregations the opportunity to share in the giving and receiving of resources, much as the Corinthians did in II Corinthians 8. The trustees, pastors and pastor relations committee are all working at seeing what these numbers would mean for our congregation and for our pastors. There will be a congregational meeting sometime to help educate and give opportunity for feedback to this opportunity.

Tabor is looking for Care Givers

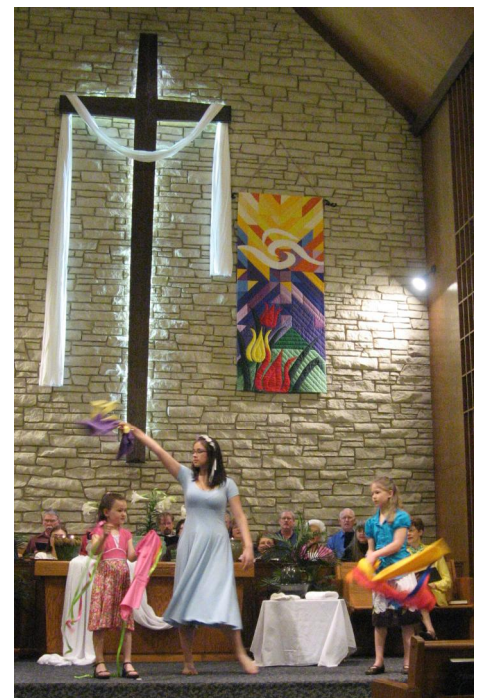
Our church is full of busy people that lead full lives. In our day and time, we need to be cared for and nurtured by our community of faith. The nurture comes in the form of Sunday school classes, Caring Groups, and friendships that connect us to each other. Our deacons continue to pray for each person at Tabor and several years ago, empowered some 20 care givers to offer love, prayers and support to all Tabor folks who were not involved in a Caring Group. Since that ministry began, thousands of prayers have sustained you, many notes have been written, and countless ðhellosö have graced your lives. We are grateful for the caring that these ðmini-deaconsö have given.

But, our group has changed and some are no longer able to care for their 4-6 families anymore. If you are feeling called to pray and care for people at Tabor, give pastor Corey or Karen a call. This might be the perfect ministry to test out whether being a deacon is right for you and it might be the perfect ministry to do after your deacon term is over. If you are feeling nudged by God's spirit, consider talking to the pastors about this ministry. We become the body when we care for one another!

**BBQ ~ For You!**

Come on over to the Tabor Church Park on May 3 at 5pm to enjoy a grilled hamburger. Experience the outdoor beauty of a spring evening in Kansas and come together to show appreciation for those Taborites that make education at Tabor possible. The Education

Committee will provide the hamburger, buns, desserts and drinks. Individuals coming to show appreciation please bring a generous side dish. Those who help with Wed. evening education and teaching on Sunday's, this is in appreciation of YOU, so just come! Everyone, please bring your own table service and lawn chairs. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer to aid in planning.



Jasmine, Karina and Emily Brandt offer praise through dance on Easter Sunday.



Small group tours salt mines



Down, down, down into the deep darkness . . . small group puts their hard hats together to find the salt of the earth.

*Happy
Mother's
Day*



*I have been reminded of your sincere faith,
which first lived in your grandmother...
and in your mother...and...now lives in you also.*

2 Timothy 1:5

Mennonite Church USA

Executive Director Transition

Adapted from article by Marathana Prothro

At its April 16 to 18 meeting in Rochester, N.Y., the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board approved a staff recommendation that, in the event a new executive director has not been named, current associate executive Ron Byler will serve as acting executive director for the denomination beginning Aug. 1. At the same time, current executive director Jim Schrag plans to compile a history of the transformation of Mennonite Church USA until he retires in November.

In January the Executive Board appointed a search committee to find and name the next executive director, and this group recently completed work on a job description and now is in the process of seeking candidates. According to search committee chair, Ed Diller, the committee meets every other week by phone and continues to seek prayer from across the church as they continue their work.

Schrag says this arrangement gives him an opportunity to complete a project that is close to his heart. Trained as a historian and social scientist in his undergraduate work at Bethel College in North Newton, Kan., Schrag has continued to be fascinated by history and the perspectives it provides contemporary leaders. Schrag continued this kind of research while studying at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind.

“I’ve been encouraged by historians like Robert Kreider to compile a history of Mennonite Church USA’s transformation,” Schrag said April 22. “It’s not going to be a memoir; rather I’m going to write more of a primer on the whole scope of the events that happened prior to Nashville 2001 and those that have happened since.”

Mennonite Creation Care Network

April 22 was Earth Day and all over the world, people tried to live more “green” for a day. It doesn’t seem enough because according to the Ecological Footprint Network, humanity is currently using the equivalent of 1.3 planets to provide resources and absorb waste. This is not a sustainable pattern.

Mennonite Creation Care Network exists because scriptures call us to enduring values: a God who created and blessed all things, a role as caretakers of the garden, the idea that trees and rivers are our companions in a choir of praise, and the capacity for confession and a fresh start when we do wrong.

Mennonite Creation Care Network is a place to root ourselves as we confront environmental challenges. The problems are too complex and too pervasive to be solved on a few individuals’ “green” acts. We are urged to think corporately and bring our congregation into this conversation with us. For more information, go to <http://mennocreacioncare.org/>

Stewardship Update

2009 Budget	Goal through April 19	Giving through April 19
\$288,742	\$111,055	\$86,855