

## Camp Mennoscah

### Camp Mennoscah Birthday Party!

Thanks to all of you- the astounding volunteers, campers, and camp supporters- Camp Mennoscah has had 60 wonderful years. You are invited to help us celebrate on September 20 at 4 p.m. at Camp Mennoscah. Fasma will be served. Bring your camp memories with you! During the party we will be videotaping your stories of camp and collecting pictures to scan. These stories and pictures will be compiled and shared with congregations. If you are unable to join us, send your stories and pictures to us by email at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or by post to PO Box 65, Murdock, KS 67111. Contact us at 620-297-3290 with questions.

### Camp Mennoscah: Fall Retreats!

1. Mental Health Spiritual Retreat for those related to mental illness Sept 6-7.
2. The annual Women's Retreat Sept. 12-13 features our own Karen Andres and Marcene Entz as input persons.
3. Of course, you won't want to miss our Tabor Church Retreat on Sept. 19-20.
4. Work & Play Camp Sept. 20-24 with big plans to clean up camp.
5. MennoFolk Family Camp Oct. 9-11 with all sorts of new things- hedge apple games, treasure hunts, hayrack ride!



Registrations are due to the box in the foyer by September 13.

## Western District Conference

### The Corinthian Plan Draws 400 So Far

One month ago, 400 Mennonite Church USA congregations either had enrolled in The Corinthian Plan or indicated they are planning to enroll. 720 congregations are needed by October 1 in order to meet the requirements for the plan to go forward on January 1, 2010. The health care plan committee has not heard from 400 congregations and have been told that the remaining 125 congregations are not likely to participate. In the WDC, 11 churches have enrolled and 26 are likely yet to enroll. The Corinthian Plan is a mutual aid program designed to provide health-care access for Mennonite Church USA ministers. This plan is the Executive Board's response to a 2007 mandate passed by the Delegate Assembly asking for such a denominational plan for ministers.

### Renewing by Retreating

Laurie Oswald Robinson, a longtime writer, devotional author and speaker from Newton is offering daylong or weekend spiritual journey retreats for small groups -- 6 to 12 participants -- in local congregations and small-group settings. The retreats are geared for members of pastor/peer groups, congregational commissions/committees, various teams -- pastoral staff, worship, prayer -- and other groups. Participants will chronicle their life story in order to renew their personal walk with God and to better find their place in spiritual community. Contact Laurie Oswald Robinson at 316-284-0223 (home), 785-577-6095 (cell) or at [mrslory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrslory@sbcglobal.net). Scholarships are available. Laurie tailors the retreats for the specific needs of your group and will consider groups smaller than 6 or larger than 12 if there is a special need for such size.

### Increase your Bible knowledge in a weekend!

Join Marion Bontrager, Michele Hershberger, and Ted Swartz for Hesston College's fall conference, "Learning the Bible in Life-giving Ways: History, Hooks, and Heilsgeschichte," Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Register early online at [www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu), or call Elaine Schmidt in the Bible and ministry office at 620-327-8290. Child care provided.

Save the dates November 20-22 for:

### Stewardship Author & Storyteller, Lynn Miller

- Friday evening ó All are invited for input and interaction with Lynn Miller.  
 Saturday morning ó Senior adults enjoy coffee & rolls with Lynn Miller and his input on life beyond retirement.  
 Saturday evening ó Night Out for 20-40 year olds. Come and enjoy a catered buffet and input from Lynn Miller.  
 Sunday morning ó Meditation from Lynn Miller. The youth hear Lynn Miller during Sunday School.  
 Sunday Noon ó All are invited to a potluck and visiting with Lynn Miller.

*stewardship*



Work on remodel of South rooms begins.

### Worship Themes

#### September 6 - "Passing on our Faith"

Christian Education Sunday  
 II Timothy 1:3-7, Deuteronomy 6:1-9,  
 Matthew 28:16-19  
 Corey preaching

#### September 13 - "The Power of our Words"

James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38,  
 Psalm 116  
 Corey preaching

#### September 20 - "Getting Away to Pray"

Tabor Church Retreat  
 Mark 1:35-39

Corey and Karen leading

#### September 27 - "Anointing and Healing Prayer"

James 5:13-20, Psalm 124,  
 Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
 Karen preaching



The Sunday school year will begin on September 6. A list of classes and teachers are available to you in your boxes. This is a time for you to share with a smaller group of people what it means to be followers of Jesus. It's a time of faith formation that leads us to hear the stories of others and explore how God is working in our lives. You are invited to join a class of your choice.

# Tabor Church News

September, 2009

## õChanging Landscapesö (We're not in Kansas anymore!)

Over the past three months, I have gazed upon some of the most amazing geographical sites in the southwest United States. One of the most striking of these visual delights came on the first day of our vacation, where we traveled from the familiar farm land of south central Kansas to the more unfamiliar sandy, rugged terrain of New Mexico. In just one day, we saw the landscape change from lush green fields of corn and soybeans, to dry desert conditions. When we saw the beautiful adobe homes, felt no humidity, and did not see corn anywhere in site in Albuquerque, New Mexico, we knew we weren't in central Kansas anymore.

My sabbatical experience was a journey that took me to spiritual landscapes that were both very similar and yet very different to the land, the people and the faith of south central Kansas. Those different landscapes were refreshing, challenging (110 degrees in Nevada brought new meaning to the word õwarmö), stimulating and invigorating. As it is for anyone who travels to new places, you come back home changed because of what you saw and experienced.

I fully realize that I am coming back to Tabor as a different person than when I left. I have had much time to reflect, pray and think about Tabor and my leadership in this congregation. I am coming back to my same office, my same computer, my same calling, but yet I come back as a different person with renewed perspectives and ideas. At the same time, Tabor church is also not the same church as when I left. Perhaps not much has changed, but I am aware that the landscape does change, even in subtle ways.

As we both reunite together again in our joint call to serve our Lord Jesus and continue the journey of making disciples and sharing the Good News to all people, we might find ourselves at a different place than before. At times that might create some anxious feelings but it also might be part of the fresh wind that God's Spirit is breathing upon us with.

I look forward to sharing about my journeys with you in the months to come and I also look forward to hearing of your journeys as well. With God leading us, indeed, the best is yet to come!

-Pastor Corey





CROP Walk -  
October 4

The Annual Goessel Area CROP Walk is being planned for Sunday, October 4 at 1:30 p.m. We will begin the walk at Goessel Mennonite Church in a 2 mile mini-walk or 6 mile crop walk. People in many countries walk that distance simply to obtain water or firewood. Walkers are invited to bring an item for the Tabor Food Pantry on the day of the walk. There will be a drop off box at Goessel Church when you begin walking.

Each year MCC or CWS uses your CROP Walk dollars to send millions of pounds of food to hungry people around the world. Some of your CROP Walk dollars are donated to the Tabor Food Pantry to assist local people with their needs. In 2008 the Tabor Food Pantry received \$1,734.25! The total amount received from our Goessel Area Walk last year was \$6,937.00. This amount was donated by the sponsors of the 61 walkers who participated last year. Your church recruiter can give you a pamphlet explaining how you can also raise funds online for your CROP WALK ([www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)). This year, if you want your CROP Walk donation to go to MCC, please write the check to MCC.

For women and girls living in the Pokot region along the Kenya/Uganda border, enough means water that is safe and accessible. CWS and MCC supports innovative programs to develop sustainable sources of fresh water.

Ask a friend, family member, mentor or mentee to walk with you. Groups, such as Junior High, Youth Groups or Sunday Schools are encouraged to challenge each other to walk. It's good exercise and a great activity to help those in need! Let's see if we can match last year's amount, or better yet, increase the number of walkers and donations this year! Let's "Walk to make a difference".

**Sign up and get your CROP Walk collection envelope from our church CROP Walk Recruiter, Kevin Nickel.**

## Pastoral Ministries Student Comes to Tabor

We are pleased to introduce Tony and Tara Hartman to the Tabor congregation. Tony is enrolled in the pastoral ministries program at Hesston College and he will be doing his required practicum at Tabor this fall. He will begin in September and go until May and experience many of the responsibilities that come from being a pastor of a congregation. He will preach, attend meetings, teach, do pastoral care and generally observe the functions of our congregational life. During this past summer, Tony worked at Preferred Builders in Hesston and Tara is a sixth grade Science teacher in Wichita. Tony and Tara have been attending Tabor this summer to familiarize themselves with our congregation. We look forward to getting to know them better in this school year. Let's give Tony and Tara a warm Tabor welcome.

## Praying Through the Psalms

Because we believe that spiritual growth will come about only through prayer, I am inviting the congregation to pray through the Psalms with me in this next year. We will cover 25 psalms a month and we will meet Saturday mornings to reflect on our readings at 7:00am and to offer our prayers. If you can come to the Tabor church to join me in this discipline, that would be wonderful. If you can't come, but want to rise at 7:00am to read the psalms with us in spirit, that too would be great. The goal would be to have as many of our congregation reading the psalms together at the same time. I am confident that God will do something amazing in this.

### Wednesday Evenings at Tabor

- 5:00-5:30 - Active Seniors (exercise class)
- 5:30-6:30 - Supper for everyone
- 6:30-7:15 - Faith Friends, Faith Adventure, Youth Explorers, Adult Bible Study
- 7:15-8:00 - Sonbeams, Children of Light, Worship Team Practice, Faithful Fitness (exercise class)
- 7:00-8:00 - TMYF
- 8:00-9:00 - Adult Choir



Wednesday night activities are coming soon in October. Christian Education believes that our children's needs come first so we have developed a new schedule to help accommodate those needs. There are activities for children and adults so please feel free to choose one and join us for study, exercise, choir or fellowship. Cooks and clean-up crews are always needed. This is a great opportunity for caring groups or Sunday school classes to participate. We are allowing no more than one Wed. night fundraiser meal each year (Oct-Apr.) per organization. We would allow up to two fundraiser meals per semester. If you would like to plan a fundraiser, please contact Brenda Buller, Wed. night coordinator. Please pray for the upcoming activities. We are grateful to all those who work hard to make these evenings a meaningful time for all.

## Faith Exploration Class Will Begin

Pastor Corey and Pastor Doug will be teaching the Faith Exploration Class beginning on September 6. Leah Unruh, Michelle Unruh, Josh Booth, Jasmine Brandt and Austin Unruh will be in the class. Please be in prayer for this class as it begins and pray for each of these students and their parents as they learn and grow in this year. We look forward to seeing and hearing how God will work in their lives.

## Lunch Bunch

Every month Tabor lunch bunch groups are meeting in three different communities. These were initially formed to help women stay connected with one another. One meets in Newton, one in Hesston, and one in Goessel (which also includes Walton and Peabody). In July, the GWP lunch bunch met at the Agape center. We had people from Oregon (Virgil & Jenny Peters) there as well as Elton Nickel's mother Bertha, who just moved here from Colorado. A good time was shared by all. If you are ever in one of these areas and would like to join us for lunch, you are welcome. Hesston meets the first Tuesday of every month usually at the Hesston College snack bar. Newton meets the first Thursday of every month at Breadbasket. GWP meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Agape Center in Goessel. Sometimes we divert and meet other places. Grace Regier and Leann Toews have graced us with their wonderful hospitality in the past. So, if you would like to be on a list that reminds you of the upcoming lunch bunches in your area (either by email or a note in your box), please let Karen know. (Women only)



## What Motivates People to Give \$\$ to a Congregation?

A survey of 26,184,335 people from 15 denominations revealed the seven greatest motivations for giving money to a church:

- (1) I am grateful to God.
- (2) Giving is part of my spiritual relationship to God.
- (3) I feel privileged to serve.
- (4) God asks for an appropriate percentage of my income.
- (5) I like to help other people.
- (6) I want to help my church.
- (7) Giving adds meaning to life.

Items at the top of that list motivate far more people to give than do items at the end of the list.

(Douglas W. Johnson and George W. Cornell, *Punctured Preconceptions* [New York: Friendship Press])

What is your greatest motivation to give to the ministries at Tabor Mennonite?

Stewardship Update	2009 Budget	Goal through August 23	Giving through August 23
	\$288,742	\$211,004	\$168,624

## Ervin R. Stutzman Named MC USA Executive Director

Mennonite Church USA Executive Board named Ervin R. Stutzman of Harrisonburg, Va., the denomination's next executive director.

Ervin is the right person for this time in our denominational history, says Mennonite Church USA moderator and Executive Board member Ed Diller, Fort Thomas, Ky. His experiences in the church and his commitment to the healing and hope vision of MC USA will serve him well in this role.

Stutzman is vice president and seminary dean as well as professor of church ministries at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg. He served on the Executive Board for Mennonite Church USA from 1999 to 2005 and as denominational moderator from 2001 to 2003. He expects to begin as executive director in early 2010.

A search committee of 10 members from across the denomination unanimously recommended Stutzman during meetings held earlier this month.

Born in Iowa, Stutzman grew up in Kansas. He served on pastoral teams at Mennonite Christian Assembly in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mount Joy Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pa. He worked as associate director of home ministries at Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. An ordained minister and bishop, he was moderator of Lancaster Mennonite Conference before beginning at EMU in 1998.

Love Mennonite Church USA, says Stutzman. It's an affirmation and a privilege to be asked to serve in this role. It's also a sober responsibility. The Spirit-led search process gives me confidence that God is calling me to this role. By God's grace, we as a Mennonite church can face the future with hope. We have a significant place in God's mission in the world. As we collectively walk in the Spirit, we will experience God's amazing power happening at all levels.

Stutzman and his wife, Bonita Lee Stutzman, attend Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg. They have three adult children - Emma, Daniel and Benjamin.

by June Krehbiel, interim identity director for Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership