



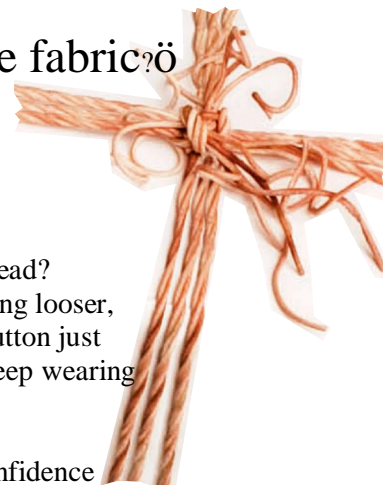
Children were presented with Bibles on Sept. 5

Tabor Church News

October, 2010

“Hanging by a thread” .
Or Woven deeply into the fabric?

“A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”
– Ecclesiastes 4:12



Worship Themes

- Oct. 3** - “Carrying the Thread - Community” **Communion**
Psalm 133, Acts 4:32-35, Hebrews 10:23-25
-Corey preaching
- Oct. 10** - “Carrying the Thread - Peace”
Isaiah 41:9-13, I John 4:7-21
-Karen preaching
- Oct. 17** - “Carrying the Thread - Facility”
Isaiah 54:2-4, Acts 2:43-47, Matthew 18:19-20
-Corey preaching
- Oct. 24** - “Carrying the Thread - Mentoring”
I Samuel 3:1-21, II Timothy 2:2-7, John 21:15-17
-Corey preaching
- Oct. 31** - “Bethel Collage Sunday”
-Daniel Klassen preaching

Remember having a button that hung on by a thread? You might have noticed that the button was getting looser, but you kept using that shirt or jacket until the button just hung literally by a thread. Even then, we often keep wearing a piece of clothing until the button falls off.

The term “hanging by a thread” doesn’t relay confidence or assurance. Rather, it conveys that something or someone is barely holding on. Sometimes we feel as if we are living by a thread. We live busy lives that are often hurried. We experience financial difficulties. We struggle to eat and live well. Our church life also “hangs by a thread” when we get disconnected from the Body, when we don’t find ministries to plug into and when the gap widens between our expenses and our offerings. Right now we are hanging by a thread!

During the month of October, we will be reflecting on the five threads that the Prayer/Envisioning Team has prayed out and discerned. These threads have been important to Tabor’s well being in the past and we claim that they are vital to our ministry and mission in our future. Peace and justice, Community, calling out Gifts, Mentoring from our older members, and a good Facility are important at Tabor.

But I wonder if they are like a thread that’s barely hanging on us or are they a thread that is being woven (again) deeply into the fabric of our existence as a church? Time will tell. Our mission, outreach and ministries will bear witness to how each of these threads are doing. The writer of Ecclesiastes claimed that “a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” I hope that as we playfully and prayerfully receive these threads into our lives and the life of our congregation, we will begin to see a beautiful tapestry that is strong, vibrant and tied in with God’s love.

Let’s work the threads this month and see what God has in store for us! Let’s not wait or the button may fall off.

ô Pastor Corey



- 5:45-6:30 p.m. **Supper**
- 6:30-7:15 p.m. Children of Light **Choir** (grades 1-8)
Faith Friends (ages 3-grade K)
Adult **Bible Study**
- 7-8 p.m. **Youth Group**
- 7:15-8:15 p.m. Faith **Adventures** (grades 1-5)
Youth Explorers (grades 6-8)
- 7:15-8 p.m. **Worship Team** & Crossroad practice
Faithful Fitness
- 8-9 p.m. Adult **Choir**

Western District News

Clarence's Clarion Call: The More-with-Less Church

What would more-with-less cooking and more-with-less living look like as a more-with-less church? I was recently inspired by one of the new books in the Western District Conference library called *Deliberate Simplicity: How the Church Does More by Doing Less* by David Browning. If it had been written by a Mennonite it surely would have been titled The More-with-Less Church.

Under the theme of *Minimalism* David writes, *in a Deliberately Simple church, we think big but act small. We keep asking "What is the simplest thing that could possibly work?" We try to have just enough to facilitate our mission. Just enough money. Just enough time. Just enough leaders. Just enough space. Just enough advertising. We don't want to stockpile assets. We want to have everything in motion for the kingdom.* (62).

Simplicity in the church means that programmatically the church does only three things: 1. Worship together . Love God more. 2. Small groups . Love people more. 3. Outreach . Love more people. Members or teams take initiative in creating any additional ministries. Members are challenged to become *prosumers* instead of consumers.

We are not on a pleasure cruise. We are on a rescue mission (157). When Browning is asked, *What is the church for those of us who are believers?* he replies, *No the church is not for us. The church is us, but it's not for us. We are here for the lost.* (65).

I am challenged by both the intensity and the intentionality of Browning's vision. I wonder, *What would the more-with-less Mennonite church look like?* Try this book on as a growth commitment by your governing board and your pastoral leaders. It will stir your imagination and challenge your heart.

• Clarence Rempel, Conference Minister

Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

Hello!

We are Russ, Sharleen and Tristan Francis. We have lived in the Goessel community for almost 4 years now, but have been attending Tabor for about 8 years. We really enjoy living and worshiping in a close community, where hospitality is all around.

Russ works as a Systems Administrator for Associated Colleges of Central Kansas in McPherson. He is responsible for keeping the network and data center functioning for the six colleges within ACCL. Russ really enjoys working in an atmosphere where prayer and devotions happen weekly (not every job is like that!)

I (Sharleen) am a Registered Nurse and currently work at the Wichita Clinic in Newton in the pediatric department. I also still work from time to time at Newton Medical Center on the labor/delivery unit. I really enjoy working with children and watching them as they grow up!

Tristan, our 3 year old, enjoys being outside, running and jumping! He will start preschool this fall, so that will be a new change for him! Our family is growing and in February, we will welcome our second child. (Luckily, it won't be until after the football season is over, as football is our favorite sport to watch!)

Not having grown up at Tabor, we are still learning faces, names and all of the family connections!
ô Russ,
Sharleen and Tristan



Wednesday Evening Kick Off ó October 6!

Wednesday Evening Opportunities

Cooks are needed: Small Groups or Individuals

Clean-up: Sign up to be a member of a once a month clean up crew.

Captains are in place and need your help. Come prepared to help Wednesday evenings run smoothly by signing up to help.

Meal Cost: \$2.50. Please sign up for meal and bring your own table service. Remember if you are bringing community children, offer to pay for them.

Adult Bible Study

All adults are welcome to Wednesday Night Adult Bible study which will begin on October 6 from 6:30-7:15. We will be studying *Practice Resurrection* by Eugene Peterson. This is basically a study on the book of Ephesians but stresses our need to grow up in Christ. The resurrection is not what we do but what God has done in Jesus. Church is the context where that happens. However, many have become disillusioned with church and dismiss it as irrelevant. The perfect church does not exist. Ephesians gives us a window into what God is doing in the church. Pastor Karen will be leading. Each participant will have access to a study guide. Hope to see you there!

Discerning your Gifts, Talents and Abilities for Commission on Administration

Believing that every member and attender of Tabor Mennonite has special gifts, talents and abilities to offer God and build up the Body of Christ, the church council continues to implement a new process of discerning and calling out of these gifts in each of us.

Last summer, the Christian Education Commission invited you to reflect on how you might support their mission and last month the Worship/Fellowship committee did the same.

This month, the Trustees are inviting you to share your time, talents and abilities to help them care for our facilities at Tabor Mennonite. These sheets are to be returned to the box in the foyer by October 17th. May God give you joy as you serve Christ's church and help build up the body at Tabor.

Caring Groups

Caring groups are still meeting and we want to celebrate this ministry. We will be having a noon potluck on October 24 at Tabor. We want to invite anyone who has ever been part of a group to attend. Some groups have disbanded because of health issues. Please come and feel free to bring your families or a friend. We will invite you to share some of your happenings from the past year. Hope to see you there.

TMYF News

We had our kickoff meeting Wednesday, September 8, complete with ultimate Frisbee, a water fight, and elections of our Executive Team for the upcoming year. We also reviewed a bit of what we'll be doing on upcoming Wednesday nights. We'll start off, weather permitting, with a couple of campfire services at Austin Unruh's. We'll do our annual inspirational movie in the barn at Don Horst's (PG rated of course!). We'll plan on going to the corn maze in Buhler again for fun. We'll head to the parsonage basement with the curriculum "To Save a Life" which speaks to our biblically based mandate to reach out to those who are hurting around us and invite them into our circle of friends and the church. The entire youth group has interest at this point in being a part of the youth worship team. We have a great bunch of youth again this year and we are excited about our TMYF!

We would welcome your prayers as we meet and get to know each other.

ô Pastor Doug

Update from Pastor Doug

At the beginning of September I wrapped up a master's level course, *Theology of Youth Ministry*, that I took as the first part of my sabbatical. It was rigorous, intense, helpful, inspiring and applicable to my role as youth minister at Tabor. Part of the class was preparing a sermon regarding our own theology and how we do youth ministry at Tabor. I will be sharing this sermon with you in November. Thanks to all who have offered words of encouragement and support during this time of study!

College Age Young Adult Updates

Students:

Freshmen:

Monica Voth at Washburn University

Sophomores:

James Goerzen at Pratt Co. College

Grace Unruh at Bethel College

Kristin Unruh at Bethel College

Laura Unruh at Hesston College

Juniors:

Anna Unruh at University of Kansas

Duane Unruh at Kansas State U.

Clair Unruh at Bethel College

Seniors:

Travis Buller at Friends University

Brittany Dirksen at Bethel College

Alex Drake at Baker University

Jason Unruh at Kansas State U.

Janessa Wedel at Kansas State U.

Employed:

Kurtis Duerksen as John Deere Ag. Tech.

Hannah Perry at Tabor College Cafeteria

Thanks to all who have responded to the Young Adult/College Age Census form. If you have not responded there is still opportunity to do so.

Bethesda's Pillars Banquet

The 22nd annual pillars banquet for Bethesda Home will take place on November 5, 6:30 p.m. at the Cross Wind Conference Center near Hesston. Punch bowl & informal social time begins at 6:00 p.m.

Featuring Greg Claassen, Ventriloquist *Greg is a nationally known entertainer who is gifted with an unusual aptitude for spontaneous humor as he brings his audience together by taking them away from their cares for a little while. Invite your friends to enjoy this fun filled celebration with you!*

An event for all ages!

Contributions of \$150 per person may be given to Bethesda Board Members or the Bethesda Home Business office. (\$25 for High School age and younger.) All proceeds from the benefit meal/program go toward the ministry of Bethesda Home. Your support is Greatly appreciated.

Pillars Banquet contributions may be given to John Goerzen or Barb Abrahams . or call Bethesda Home to make your reservations.



2010 Budget for Ministries of Tabor Mennonite Church

Mennonite Church USA	5,000
Mennonite Mission Network	5,000
Mennonite Seminaries (AMBS)	2,000
Mennonite Colleges (Bethel)	2,000
Mennonite Colleges (Hesston)	1,000
Western District Conference	22,000
Deacon Fund	2,000
Conference Delegates	700
Goessel Ministerial Alliance	350
<i>The Mennonite</i>	450
Worship-Fellowship Committee	4,650
Education Committee	4,200
T.M.Y.F.	2,000
Mennonite College TASK Force	10,500
Relief Committee	2,000
MVS Travel Fund	500
Healthcare Ministry	500
Bethesda Home	3,000
Joyful Noise Comm. Child Care	2,000
Stewardship Committee	300
Corinthian Plan	3,338
Scholarship Fund	600
MCC Peace Section	1,000
Peace Connections	500
Harvey Co. Habitat	500
Deacon Treasury TOTAL	76,088
Trustee Treasury TOTAL	192,039
TOTAL	\$268,127

Ministries of Tabor Mennonite Church

The newly formed Budget Taskforce would like to draw your attention to the list of Christian missions to which Tabor has been contributing. We need Tabor's people to think and pray about these missions as the Deacons begin the process of setting the 2011 budget. As you know, we have not met our projected giving for the past 2 years and the Taskforce is forecasting a short-fall for 2010, as well. In light of the projected budget deficit the Taskforce has concluded that the Deacons should consider reducing our budgeted spending. The Deacons are very interested in the congregation's priorities for the use of the money they give to God through our church.

On October 10 the Budget Taskforce will pass out brief survey cards which will give you an opportunity to indicate your priorities for both the Benevolent and Trustee budgets of Tabor church. These will be difficult choices. *A third choice will also be presented for your response- a commitment to additional giving for the continuation of the activities and missions that we have been supporting.* There will also be opportunity for comments on the stewardship issues that you think are important for the congregation to consider at this time in our Faith journey. Please be in prayer about our stewardship of the money that God has made available for us.

The survey cards will be filled out during the worship time and we will collect them at the end of the service. If you cannot attend that Sunday, members of the Taskforce will handout cards on October 3, for early returns.

