



Pastor Corey provided rides at Agri Urban Day on the Farm, August 21

Tabor Church News

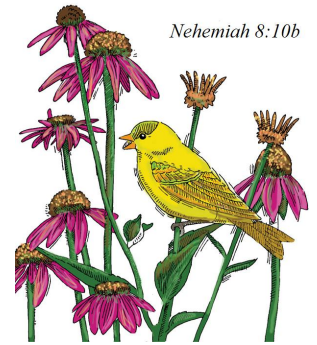
September, 2010

From a Child's Eye

Two weeks ago I found myself at the Center for Spiritual Development in Orange, California for two days of rest and relaxation. This retreat center is set right in the middle of the city beside a children's hospital. The grounds are beautiful with exquisite flowers, shrubs, walking paths and parrots who make themselves known with their shriek calls. Beyond this, one scene will be forever sketched in my mind. As I entered the gift shop, I noticed some CDs with relaxing music and began to listen to a song called *From a child's eye*. I glanced out the window and saw a young boy (about two) running through the green grass while doctors and nurses followed in their white coats and masks over their faces.

*" . . . for the joy
of the LORD
is your strength."*

Nehemiah 8:10b



I noticed a hospital band on his arm and assumed he was a patient who was allowed some freedom from hospital restraints at least for awhile. But it was the young woman who walked alongside that really caught my attention. She carried a heavy bag and I imaged her to be the mother. She walked with her head down not able to engage in the joy of the young boy's short-lived freedom.

What rich symbolism this scene presents as we seek to find joy amidst the pain in our lives. G.K. Chesterton once said "Learn to look at things familiar until they look unfamiliar again." Jesus calls us to assume the posture of a child. How can we regain a sense of wonder and mystery in our lives? Metaphorically speaking, Jesus invites us to be "born again" by going back into the darkness of the womb (before reality) so that we can open our eyes to a new awareness that is so startling that it leads us to ponder and wonder.

When all my days are ending
And I have no song to sing,
I think I shall not be too old
To stare at everything;
As I stared once at a nursery door
Or a tall tree and a swing . . .
(Chesterton, *A Second Childhood*)

Our joy is often short-lived. God's joy is never-ending. May we never grow too old, too sophisticated, to unchildlike, to stare at everything as if we are seeing it for the first time!

Worship Themes

- Sept. 5** - "Passing on the Faith"
Luke 2:41-52
Karen preaching
- Sept. 12** - "Lost Sheep!"
Jeremiah 4:11-12, Psalms 14,
I Timothy:12-17, Luke 15:1-10
Corey preaching
- Sept. 19** - "The Great Banquet"
Luke 14:15-24
Corey preaching
- Sept. 26** - "Carrying the Thread" (Gifts)
Stewarding God's Gifts
I Timothy 4:11-16, Matthew
13:44 Corey preaching

Teacher Orientation for Junior Department Teachers

We would like to issue a strong invitation to teachers for an orientation on September 5 during the Sunday school hour. This time is our opportunity to communicate with you about schedules, procedures, materials, and other issues that may arise. Because Christian Education is functioning in a different way, we need to inform you about how we can better communicate with you throughout the year. We will meet in the balcony south room at 9:30 am. Please talk to Karen if you are unable to meet. Ilona Abrahams will be with the children during that time.

. Pastor Karen





Western District News

2010 Mental Health Spiritual Retreat

Choosing Positive Role Models

September 5-6- Camp Mennoscah. The retreat is planned for those who are related in some way to mental illness, including family members and friends. The purpose of the retreat is to support each other and enjoy fun, fellowship, music, and worship. Your participation is encouraged at all activities.

2010 Women & Girls Retreat

Women Uniquely Created by God

September 10-12- Camp Mennoscah. Featuring Retreat Speaker Florence Schloneger. Saturday evening session: Recovering the unique person God created in you. Sunday morning session: Uncovering the uniqueness of those persons with whom you live and work.

Work and Play Camp

Sunday . Thursday, September 19-23. You're never too old (or too young) for fun! Get your dose of behind-the-scenes Camp Mennoscah at our Work & Play Camp, a service oriented retreat for anyone with a few free days and willing hands. We offer you the chance to enjoy fellowship with others and participate in various service projects around the camp. Tasks for all skills and activity levels will be available. If we run out of work there will be even more time for fun! We will share in devotionals, games, and other fun-time activities, so don't forget your favorite games and stories to share. Bring a friend and join in the good times!

THANK YOU . . .

. . . to Jill Brandt, Ben Schmidt, Carrie Unruh, Doris Unruh, Kristin Unruh, Lewis Unruh, Michael Unruh for the time they volunteered to Camp Mennoscah this summer. Your efforts helped make the summer of *Be a Hero: Living Like Jesus* a success for everyone.

Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

Tabor Church Family,

Greetings from the Sommerfelds! Justin and I were married at Tabor seven years ago, and God brought us back to this community about 4 ½ years ago. We were thrilled when Fred & Jo-Ann Schmidt (Carrie's uncle and aunt) agreed to sell us their place, and we have made our home in the country just a few miles from the church.



Justin is employed as a Design Engineer at AGCO Corporation in Hesston. He works in the tractor group and provides North America Engineering support for tractors imported from Brazil, India and Finland. He makes sure that the tractors meet the needs of the North American customer. I (Carrie) continue to work for Harvey/McPherson Counties Community Corrections as an Intensive Supervision Officer. I supervise a caseload of primarily adult felony offenders to ensure that they are in compliance with the conditions of probation that the court has imposed on them. I also work to keep offenders out of prison and help them to learn to be successful in the community. Our son Wyatt will be two in November, and he makes every day fun! We enjoy riding three-wheelers in our pasture and playing with our dogs, cats and horse. When weather forces us to stay inside, Wyatt likes reading books and playing with any toy that has wheels!

I was born into the Tabor Church, and when we moved back to this community, we both agreed to call this church home. We value the example of the elders in the church, and are grateful for the friendships we share with all of you. We want to raise our children in a strong and vibrant church and serve God together with this congregation. ô Justin and Carrie

New Gift Discernment Process: Two Down, Two to Go

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. So far, Christian Education Commission has received 55 sheets, and on September 5, we are anticipating receiving many sheets for Worship/Fellowship committee as well as for the deacon ministry.

In this year of transition, the Administration Commission will prepare a hand-out next month for the congregation on October 3 and it will be collected on October 17. The Outreach Commission will have forms at a later date. You may be getting calls in the next days and weeks ahead as all the committees will be striving to place gifted, enthusiastic people into ministries that further God's Kingdom on earth.

The church council will continue to review and evaluate how we call out people's gifts. Keep praying for the process and for faithful responses to these invitations.

Doug is back!

Youth Pastor Doug Krehbiel returns to his responsibilities with our youth in September. Doug will be on sabbatical part time (7 hours a week over the next 4 months), as he will be taking another seminary level class to continue his education.

Fall Sunday School for Everyone

September 5 begins a new Sunday school year. Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m. with worship following at 10:45 a.m. Everyone will meet in their regular classes for the first Sunday, Sept. 5. Christian Education invites all classes to discuss the following options for the fall: 1) Stay in your regular class, 2) attend the Heils elective which will be an inductive Bible study, or 3) attend the Adult Bible Study (Quarterly) class. We will offer one Quarterly class which will have regular teachers. These classes (options) will then begin on September 12.

Children (ages 3 through 6th grade) will gather on September 5 as a whole group to do some activities with Ilona Abrahams while teachers are in orientation. On September 12 the children will resume their regular classes. Please see the schedule in your boxes for a list of teachers and classrooms.

God's Heart for the Poor

Adapted from an article by Gordon Houser

If you removed all the verses in the Bible that mention God's concern for the poor, said Allison DeHart, it would be a pretty limp book. About 70 people gathered at Grace Community Church recently to hear DeHart, who is executive director of Partners of Hope in Troy, Ohio, talk about "How Circles Fit with the Gospel: God's Heart for the Poor." She told the audience that "more than 400 verses in the Bible talk about God's heart for the poor," and she gave many examples including Jesus who saw his own call "to bring good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18).

Most of those gathered to hear DeHart have some connection to the Circles Initiative of Harvey County, which has just changed its name to Circles of Hope. While Circles is a national organization, the mission of the local movement is "working to end poverty in Kansas one family at a time."



DeHart told the audience how she moved from working as an accountant for six years before feeling called by God to help others in a more direct way. Eventually she became a social worker for Partners of Hope, which was started by the Troy Council of Churches. "People in need often come to churches for help," she said, and the churches in Troy decided to coordinate their efforts and hire someone to focus on this service. The churches realized "they were helping people, but they weren't really empowering them to help themselves," DeHart said. They wanted people to "experience the possibilities of transformation."

To learn more about how to do this work, DeHart visited Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C., where she learned the importance of being with the poor. This church emphasized "mutually liberating relationships." In other words, we are to develop relationships with people in poverty that are not top-down but mutual, benefiting both parties.

DeHart said that churches show a lot of generosity but are often reluctant to develop relationships with people in need. She acknowledged that working with the poor can be challenging and present difficulties, but she finds great encouragement in Isaiah 58:10: "If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."

CROP WALK 2010

The Annual Goessel Area CROP Walk is being planned for Sunday, October 3 at 1:30 pm. Walk begins at Tabor 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. (Drop off box at Tabor Church). Try to raise over \$100 this year and be rewarded with a free t-shirt donated by area businesses. Please pick up your CROP Walk envelope soon and designate on the t-shirt order form which is attached to the envelope the size you want and give it to your recruiter at that time. T-shirt orders are due Sept. 12. If you sign up after that date, we cannot assure a t-shirt or the right size. **We still need more business to sponsor these free t-shirts!** Contact Denise Nickel, 367-2226.

Each year Mennonite Central Committee or Church World Service 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, with \$2,175 donated in 2009! The total amount received from our Goessel Area Walk last year was \$8,808, donated by the sponsors of the 63 walkers who participated last year. You can also raise funds online for your CROP WALK (www.cropwalk.org). **If you want your CROP Walk donation to go to MCC please write the check to MCC.**

Mao Tun, 8 and Wan Kin, 13 are overjoyed by the new installed well and pump in Svay village in Cambodia. They no longer have to carry buckets of water from the river. Help CWS or MCC build more wells. 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 match last year's amount, or better yet, increase the number of walkers and donations this year! Help those in need, *One Step at a Time!*

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

CROP WALK
"We walk because they walk."

Mennonite Church USA

Delegation meets with Phoenix leaders, local churches, BorderLinks

Twenty-one members of a Mennonite Church USA delegation met with municipal leaders and church members in Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 12-13 as well as with BorderLinks, an organization that brings people together to build bridges of solidarity across North and Latin American borders and to promote inter-cultural understanding and respect.

While the issue that brought the delegation members to Phoenix was how to respond to an Arizona law (SB1070) that some believe will lead to racial profiling, it became clear to Ed Diller, moderator of Mennonite Church USA, that the deepest longing of the delegation members was to make sure our beloved church fully incorporates all its members.+

Phoenix city government leaders, who have expressed their opposition to the new legislation, extended the invitation to the delegation to come and covered expenses for the trip. Phoenix leaders made their case for Mennonite Church USA to keep to its earlier decision to hold its 2013 convention in Phoenix. 25 percent of businesses in the convention center are Hispanic and are suffering from boycotts of events there due to the new law.

The purpose of the delegation's visit was not to make a decision about the 2013 convention but to listen. While the delegation initially planned to focus on SB1070 and its effects, members found the focus shifting to the larger issue of being one church and to the question, *How do we as one church walk together in solidarity and unity?*+

At the upcoming Sept 23-24 Leaders Forum in Pittsburgh, participants will have the opportunity to assist in the discernment process regarding the 2013 convention location. The final decision will be made by the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA.

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace, and your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of it.

Stewarding God's Gifts

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Sunday morning September 26th at Tabor Church we will be worshipping, listening, conversing and eating as we discern "Stewarding God's Gifts" under the leadership of Mennonite Mutual Aid counselors and Western District Conference personnel.

High school youth and adults will choose to attend two of the following four classes:

Living Well Within Your Means (Sanctuary)

To live well means living below our means. This is not a popular message but given that over 40% of Americans spend more than they earn it's a subject that needs to be discussed. Whether we need help ourselves or desire to help others, there are practical steps to help us help ourselves and others. This session provides hands on resources to get us started whether we are currently living above, within or below our means.

7 Things You need to know about money (Basement)

We will examine the power and impact that money has on our lives. We'll talk about:

- ◆ Money talks. God is listening. What is money to you and what does God hear?
- ◆ Are you consuming culture? A look at how advertising influences our lives.
- ◆ How to find contentment. When are you the most happy? Define needs and wants. Our lives are diminished spiritually anytime we put our faith in things other than God.
- ◆ Spend less than you earn. Avoiding the trap of debt. Understanding your paycheck.
- ◆ Develop a share, save, spend strategy.
- ◆ Save now. Buy later. Understanding the power of compound interest in savings.
- ◆ Know debt. You need to understand debt so that you can manage it. We'll take a close look at things such as credit card debt, student loans, etc.

Stewardship of Time (Fellowship Hall)

Everyone is busy, but busy doing what? Moreover, busy becoming what? In a culture that pulls us to chase more and more, we quickly find ourselves further and further from God. We will explore what the Scriptures teach us about the stewardship of time and receive practical tools for doing less here on earth so that we may have more in our relationship with God.

Planning a Purposeful Retirement (South Rooms)

The choices you make today will significantly impact your retirement options tomorrow. Whether your plans include mission trips or month-long visits from your grandchildren, you need to manage your God-given resources well to make your retirement as meaningful as you've imagined it. We can help you make sure your future goals and your faith are reflected in your retirement planning. You'll learn:

- ◆ What questions you should ask and answer in planning your retirement.
- ◆ The definition of holistic Christian stewardship and how it relates to your retirement.
- ◆ How to establish your retirement priorities: church and community service, family, travel, hobbies, and other interests.
- ◆ The retirement planning issues you need to consider, from medical expenses to inflation to monthly budgets.

Youth in grades 6-8 will meet in the home of Phyllis and Lee Goertzen with a dynamic leader chosen just for you. Themes will be "Living the Good Life" and "Wellness in Body, Mind and Soul" and "Three Key Questions."

Children Kindergarten-5th grade will meet at the parsonage. Explore "What can I give to God?" Sine God is so very generous to us, and gives us the best, how can we give God our best? Activities will include storytelling, crafts, exercising, snacking and praising God. Marlene Bogard will be leading.

Childcare for *infants - pre-Kindergarten* will be provided in the basement south rooms.

The Schedule

9:30-11:45 infant through pre-K childcare

9:30-9:55 Gathering Worship

10:00-11:45 Grades K-5th at the parsonage; Grades 6th-8th at Goertzen home

10:00-10:45 high school youth & adults choose 1 of 4 classes

11:00-11:45 high school youth & adults choose 1 of 4 classes

12:00-1:00 potluck meal with closing worship

Watch for posters with more details.