



Fun at Family Pizza Night

# Tabor Church News

February, 2011

## Follow Me *Not the Map*

*“Our steps are made firm by the Lord . . .” —Psalm 37:23a*

On numerous occasions, my husband and I have driven places that were unfamiliar to us. If my husband is driving, he seems to find it adventurous to take roads that are off the beaten path. The adventure entails seeing if he can find the way regardless of what the map says. Maps have a purpose. They help us get to our destination without too much pain involved. Perhaps joy can be found in a slower pace of reading the signposts along the way. However, there is joy in the journey of the unknown.

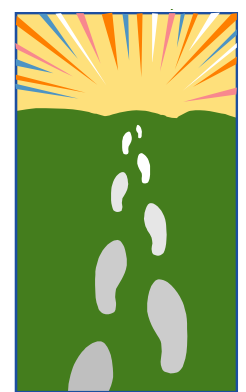
While some of us prefer to be more systematic and avoid pain, perhaps following Jesus requires us to exit the main highway and risk getting lost. How are we formed in our Christian faith? Recently I read about Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle, WA. They welcome people into the church who are pilgrims on a faith journey. For a full year, they offer mentoring and teaching with the goal to form a people of faith. At their own pace, people are being formed into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. With this approach, the church is following the way of Jesus who invited people to follow him and walk with him on a pilgrimage toward God.

The earliest followers of Jesus were known as people of *the Way*. They were recognized by what they did such as providing hospitality and forgiveness. Christianity has often been only about being a member of a *spiritual club* of believers who are joined together by being alike. But what if we followed more of the signposts or practices like prayer, Bible reading, healing, justice and peacemaking? Perhaps others would join us on the walk. Maps have their purpose but signposts form Christians in faith by deepening their trust in God's love and strengthening their love for the world.

In the book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, Diana Butler Bass writes: *“If you act like a Christian by joining in its practices, by following its tracings, you may well become one. Being a Christian is not a one-moment miracle of salvation. It takes practice. It is a process of faith and a continuing conversion. And it can be a long walk.”* Following Jesus may mean exiting the highway, risk getting lost, and following the signposts on the ground. Be adventurous! One step at a time, follow Jesus!


ô Pastor Karen

*. . . what if we followed more of the signposts or practices like prayer, Bible reading, healing, justice and peacemaking? Perhaps others would join us . . .*



## Worship Themes

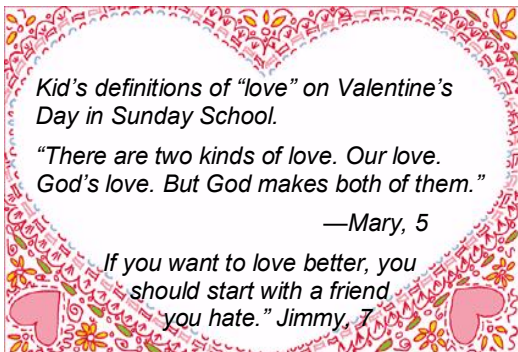
- Feb. 6** - *“Sermon On The Mount: Living in Peace”* -Matthew 5:21-48 -Corey preaching
- Feb. 13** - *“Sermon On The Mount: Money and Prayer”* -Matthew 6:1-21 -Corey preaching
- Feb. 20** - *“Sermon On The Mount: Worries”* -Matthew 6:26-34 -Corey preaching
- Feb. 27** - *“A Sermon from the Song”* -Matthew 5-7 -Doug preaching



**Coming Soon!**  
Tabor's opportunity to serve at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter

February 9-15, 2010

Needed:  
Volunteers to take meals to the shelter  
Volunteers for evening (5-11 pm) and night (11 pm-8 am) shifts  
*(orientation is required for all volunteers staying for evening and night shifts)*  
Please sign up - Details are posted



*Kid's definitions of “love” on Valentine's Day in Sunday School.*

*“There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both of them.”*

—Mary, 5

*If you want to love better, you should start with a friend you hate.” Jimmy, 7*

### Executive Board takes Action opts for Phoenix as 2013 convention location

During the Jan. 7-9 meeting of the Executive Board of MC USA in Tampa, Fla., the board took the following action:

The Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA expresses its gratitude for the prayers and counsel given by members across our church as we have considered the issues relating to the location of the 2013 convention. This decision-making process has brought us to a deeper level of sharing and understanding and to a common expression of our desire to be a church through which the healing and hope of God flow to the world.

After spending time in discernment and consideration of the counsel of many, and knowing that the prayers of the church are with us, we reaffirm the prior Jan. 2009 decision of the Executive Board to hold the 2013 convention in Phoenix, Ariz. We are committed to work on creative ways to include those delegates who, because of conscience or concerns for safety, will be unable to gather with the church in Phoenix and at a minimum to find a satellite location at which delegates can participate in the delegate work of the assembly.

As we make this decision, we reaffirm our commitment to the 11 action items described in the Recommendations Regarding the Churchwide Convention in 2013, dated Dec. 21, 2010. As an Executive Board, we are deeply grateful for the prayers and support of the entire church as we have struggled with the many issues involved in this decision. We pray that we would continue to find ways to let God's healing and hope flow throughout our church and to the world.

Mennonite Church USA Executive Board

### Inherit the Mirth By Cuyler Black



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
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## Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

After graduating from K-State in 2008 with an Animal Science degree, I (Darla Funk) remained in the Manhattan area to pursue a job in Wamego. I live in a small lake community between Manhattan and Wamego with my dog, Macie, a Welsh Corgi.



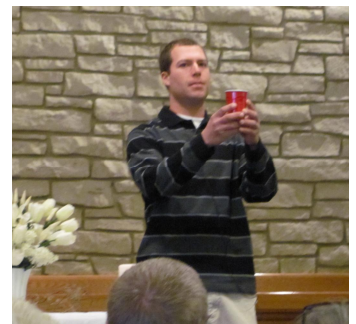
At my job at MyVetsMeds our company does prescription home delivery to clients on behalf of veterinary clinics across the United States. I help manage the order process and the employees related to those tasks. Macie, my dog, even has a place at the office. She helps to make a great work atmosphere every day for everyone!

When not at work I enjoy sewing (my Mom, Grandma and I have been working on a quilt for the MCC Sale), cooking, running, reading, taking care of my dog and spending time outside.

Although I am not able to attend Tabor on a regular basis, I make an effort to attend when I am here on weekends. I have always felt welcomed by the congregation and enjoy the feeling of the worship service. Even when attending at another church, there is never the same 'at home' sense that Tabor provides for me. My up-bringing at Tabor leads me to believe I am able to set a good example to those around me and face journeys ahead. Thank you for the continued support and interest as a church family in my pursuits in life.

## February is 'Sermon on the Mount' month!

In the month of February, we will hear the best sermon ever! During our Sunday morning worship times, we will be listening to and reflecting on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. We will kick off this series with the Beatitudes on January 30 and then cover with broad strokes the Sermon in three weeks. We will conclude the series with an amazing musical sermon by youth pastor Doug Krehbiel on February 27th that brings the whole sermon together. This whole month will be even more inspiring, more engaging and more transforming, if you all will commit to reading the entire sermon on the mount in this month. Let's see how God's Word will stir in us new ideas for faithful living! Awaken yourselves for the best sermon ever!



Stories of the Tabor's varied ministries from 2010 were shared in creative ways during worship on January 23.

## Tony Brown Concert

### “Stories and Songs of Peace and Hope”

Internationally Acclaimed Baritone and Hesston College Faculty Member Anthony Brown will be giving a special concert on Sunday evening, February 20th at Tabor Mennonite Church. Tony is an international promoter of peace and uses music and the spoken word to bring people together across the divides of race, culture, and religion. His travels have taken him to such countries as Bosnia, Moldova, Northern Ireland, Uganda, Ethiopia the Philippines, China, Japan, South Korea and Colombia.

Accompanied by Hesston College Music faculty member Ken Rodgers, Tony will weave song and story, and talk about his experiences as a peacemaker. He will also sing songs of peace and involve the audience in singing so that they too can experience the power of music to transform and heal. This engaging evening of story and song is meant to inspire, educate and challenge all of us in our daily quest to live peace centered lives. Tony is the founder of Peacing It Together Foundation. The organization uses music and story to assist in areas where there is strife and conflict.

There will be a freewill offering to help support the Peacing It Together Foundation. The concert begins at 7:00pm and a reception will follow.

## Mission Partners: Joe and Anna Sawatzky

Last week, we received this Facebook message from a young woman who had recently begun coming to church and participated in discipleship class:

*‘On my way from work last week i passed by a widowed woman with a one month old baby, the little girl was crying, i just looked and went, when i was a few meters away i couldn’t carry on going i could hear the baby crying in my ears i went back to the lady (a street vender) I asked to hold the baby, she gave me and then told me that the baby had [colic] and that’s why she was crying and said she was just waiting for the people to buy so she could get her a medicine. She told me it was R20, i looked around and she had a few packets of chips and some biscuits, i had a R20 that i thought i was gonna buy [my one-year old daughter] some food just in case we run out of food before the end of the month. I gave her the R20, in the process i remembered one of the scriptures we did in the discipleship class where Jesus was telling a story about a widowed woman and the Judge [Luke 18:1-8] and in this case it was a Widowed woman and a child crying for justice. This reminded me of the time my mother was a widow with 5 children and without a job, that time she was also a street vender for a few months. That time i was still a little girl with no clue of how to pray. I would hear my mother praying and shouting and singing but eventually her prayers were answered. This also reminds me of how much i have learnt at church. I am not good at the Bible but i remember very well the scriptures that we have studied.’*

She says that she is 'not good at the Bible. It's true: in spite of a lifetime of attending church she has not been given much scripture. Yet she took what she knew and made it real. . . . Knowing the Bible well means nothing if we do not act on the words. Shaping our lives around the words that we do know, doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God, that is what the Lord requires of us (Micah 6:8).

Christ, Anna and Joe



## Role of Sunday School Affirmed

What will Sunday school look like in the future for Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada congregations? That was the question addressed at a consultation organized by Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN) during a recent three-day event. Participants agreed that Sunday school still has a future- but some changes need to be made.

Over the course of our time together, it became clear that we need to consider new approaches to the way we do Sunday school, +says MPN Managing Editor for Curriculum Mary Ann Weber, who organized the event.

The reality is that our cultures and congregations are changing, and we need to pay careful attention to what’s happening. + Changes identified by participants include the fact that Sunday morning is no longer a sacred time- there’s competition from sports, work and other activities; declining attendance and irregular attendance patterns; urbanization; changes in family structure; waning biblical literacy; and declining denominational loyalty.

The traditional curriculum format, where one session builds on the other over a whole quarter, has worked for generations, but doesn’t work as well when Sunday school attendance is irregular for an increasing number of children, +says Weber. There is also a growing expectation on the part of many churches that curriculum will have multimedia components- many people want more than just print. Participants also spoke in favor of more teacher training options for teachers.

Although there are many changes affecting the way faith is passed on to children and youth, participants agreed that Sunday school is still important.

Sunday school is an excellent way to teach the biblical story and Anabaptist distinctives, and to help children and youth develop a relationship with God, build relationships with caring adults, develop a moral framework, develop spiritual habits and practices and allow God to shape every aspect of their lives, +she says.

Sunday school in the Mennonite Church still has a future, +she adds, but what it will look like remains to be seen. +



## Remembering our Loved Ones who die

I (Corey) have noticed over past decade or so that fewer people attend the funeral and memorial services of Tabor church members. Often times, our older members who die, have spent several months and even years in a nursing home and are not able to get out to Tabor for worship any longer. Many times, younger church members don't really know who these members are when they die and if they don't attend the funeral, they don't get to hear or read the stories about these wonderful people.

In an attempt to honor our church members who have died and to celebrate the faithful life they lived, we are going to write up a portion of their life story along with a picture, so the Tabor body may remember the gift of their life. We decided to start with Susan Schmidt, who was our oldest member at 103 years of age and died near the end of last year. We hope these stories will inspire all of us to continue following Jesus in this world.

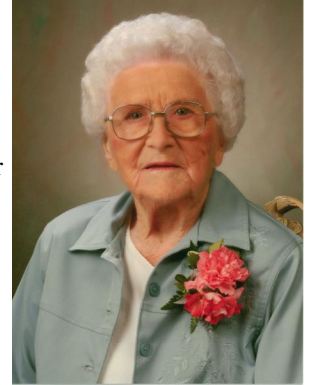
**Susan Schmidt:** Susan (Unruh) Schmidt was born on July 19, 1907 to John A. and Elizabeth (Schmidt) Unruh in Goessel. Susan was one of eight children in the Unruh Family. She was baptized upon her confession of faith on May 28, 1923 at the Goessel Mennonite Church by Rev. P.P. Buller. She married Nickolai Schmidt on October 26, 1926 at Goessel Mennonite Church in Goessel, KS. She became a member of the Tabor Mennonite Church on May 21, 1927 and remained a faithful member until her passing.

Susan and Nick were blessed with five children, Julia, Susan, Otto Nick, DeLome and Rita. Susan was preceded in death by her husband Nick in 1963 and son Otto Nick in 2000.

Susan attended Green Valley Grade School and Goessel Prep. School. She worked at Ratzlaff Draperies in Goessel, Bob's Restaurant in Hesston as a cook and The New Process Laundry in Newton, all after Nick's passing.

Susan was a homemaker and gardener her whole life. She loved being outdoors in the garden and helping Popø (Nick) in the fields in her younger days. Susan never learned how to play the piano but she could play by ear. Her favorite song was "What a friend we have in Jesus" which she loved to sing and play. If you heard whistling coming from outside, it was most likely Susan hanging up her laundry on the wash line. One tradition Susan had was to have the family recite the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm before dinner at every family gathering. She was good at being a mom and grandma to all the children. There was nothing better than the kisses and loves from Susan to her grandchildren. Susan would often remind us of Jesus' love.

Susan went peacefully to Heaven on Christmas Morning (December 25, 2010) at the age of 103 with her daughter Rita and granddaughter Ann holding her in their arms. She is survived by Julia and Willard Regier, Susan and Walden Duerksen, Nancy Schmidt, DeLome and Jerol Schmidt and Rita Sperry. Susan was blessed with 16 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren, and 16 great-great grandchildren.



**Dorothy Schmidt:** Dorothy "Dottie" Schmidt was born November 10, 1914 in Goessel, Kansas, the seventh child of Peter and Agnetha (Reimer) Frey. Dorothy attended Greenfield Elementary School and graduated from Goessel Rural High School. She was baptized on May 15, 1932 by the Rev. P. H. Richert and remained a faithful member of Tabor Mennonite Church in rural Newton, Kansas, her entire life.

Dorothy met her husband, Arnold H. Schmidt at Tabor Church. They were married on November 7, 1935 and immediately settled into their farm in Harvey County. Life on the farm was difficult through the depression years, but proved more prosperous when they added a grade A dairy. Dorothy loved gardening, and always had both large vegetable and flower gardens.

She loved to cook and spent many hours preparing food for her husband and six children, Donavon, Karen, Eileen, Geneva, Vera and Rollin, who remember coming home from school to the aroma of freshly baked goods—breads, rolls, pies, cookies, schnetke, long johns or a table filled with glazed donuts. As the children grew up she decided to work outside the home and was thrilled to get a job as a clerk at JC Penney in Newton. She loved meeting people and helping them with their purchases. She enjoyed her working relationships, and continued to socialize with fellow employees even after her retirement at age 67. Dorothy had a passion for reading. Dorothy loved poetry and enjoyed writing her own poems as well. Her children also remember her love of birds—especially the red cardinal.

Religion and her deep faith were an important part of her life, and she always encouraged her children to follow her example. The staff at Kidron Bethel commented on her willingness to tackle the hard questions of life.

Dorothy died January 9, 2011, at Kidron Bethel in Newton at age 96. She was preceded in death by husband Arnold and daughter Eileen. To cherish her memory, Dorothy leaves Donavon and Deloris Schmidt, Karen and Bob Unrau, Geneva Reimer, Vera and Jim Wuertz and Rollin and Brenda Schmidt; twelve grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

