

# Tabor Church News

January, 2011



Christmas Eve-

## Worship Themes

**Jan. 2 - "Worship: Wise Ones Seek Truth!" Epiphany**  
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,  
Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12  
Karen preaching

**Jan. 9 - "Baptism of the Lord: Feeling God's Spirit!"**  
Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17  
Corey preaching

**Jan. 16 - "Come and See" Evangelism**  
Psalm 40:1-11, Isaiah 49:1-7  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42  
Corey preaching

**Jan. 23 - "Celebrating Woven Threads"**  
(text to be determined)  
Corey preaching

**Jan. 30 - "Blessings"**  
Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15 1  
Corinthians 1:18-31,  
Matthew 5:1-12  
Karen preaching



Third Sunday in Advent

## “The Blank Pages of God’s Time”

*“My times are in your hand.” – Psalm 31:15*

I received an early gift the other day from Bethesda Home, my 2011 Personal Planner! In this brand new date log calendar are listed all the dates that I would ever need to know of in 2011 and then some. My planner tells me when daylight savings time begins, when Easter is, and even reminds me when Lincoln’s birthday is. Because I organize meetings, make personal contacts, set up preaching schedules and try to remember dentist appointments, this daily planner really is a gift that helps me manage the time that God gives me to lead this congregation. Most of us have some kind of calendar or electronic device that tells us where we should be or what we should be doing and most of the time it is chocked full of dates, scribbles and notes.

But in receiving this gift this year, I was struck by something else. When I looked at my brand new planner for 2011, I was rather taken in by the fact that it was all blank. Every single day for 2011 had absolutely nothing planned, scheduled or chronicled. It certainly won’t take me long to start filling up 2011 with dates, meetings and anticipated events, but I found myself appreciating the gift of all those blank pages because I realized again that “my times are in God’s hand.” (Ps. 31:15). The Psalmist had felt the weight of his enemies that were quite troublesome for him, but also trusted in God and knew that God held all his days in His hand. All time is God’s gift to us to use for loving, serving, working, resting, worshipping, listening, and glorifying God.

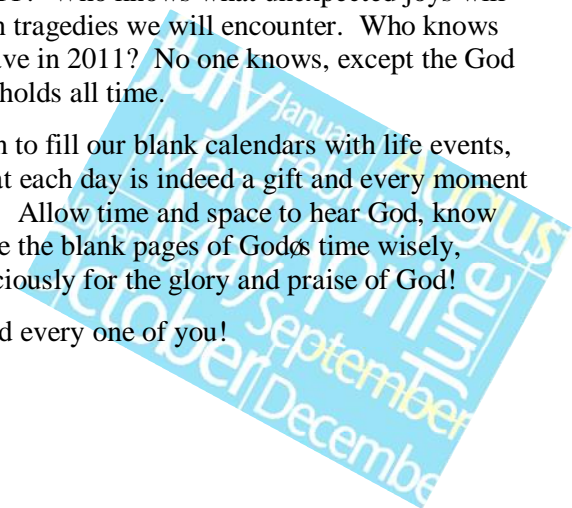
*... I found myself appreciating the gift of all those blank pages because I realized again that “my times are in God’s hand.”*

We all start out this New Year with blank pages. We can plan for things and look forward to them, but until they come, they are only the hope of a tomorrow that may or may not come. Who knows what is in store for me, for you, for us at Tabor in 2011? Who knows what unexpected joys will come our way or what sudden tragedies we will encounter. Who knows what kind of times we will have in 2011? No one knows, except the God who holds our lives and who holds all time.

In this New Year, as we begin to fill our blank calendars with life events, may we always remember that each day is indeed a gift and every moment is a sign of God’s grace to us. Allow time and space to hear God, know God and love God. Let us use the blank pages of God’s time wisely, creatively, playfully, and graciously for the glory and praise of God!

Blessed New Year to each and every one of you!

-Pastor Corey



## WDC News

### Pastors Resourcing Day with Marlene Kropf

January 21, 2011: 2-5 p.m. - Tending the Garden: The Pastor's Role in Congregational Christian Formation. 7-9 p.m. - Worship Planners and Lay leaders join pastors for an evening of receiving inspiration for worship planning. More details forthcoming. Sponsored by WDC Resource Commission and AMBS-Great Plains.

### Choral Festival

January 22, 2011: Choral Festival with Dr. Mark Suderman, conductor at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS. Sponsored by WDC Music and Worship Task Force. Watch Facebook and WDC website for more info!

### Know Jesus

Know Jesus+, a bi-annual 24 hour Junior High gathering, is coming to the Hesston College campus on January 29-30, 2011. Know Jesus carries a strong Anabaptist theme with an inspirational speaker, a rocking worship band and an extravagant version of the Anabaptist Game. The Anabaptist Game, organized by Michele Hersberger and approximately 100 volunteers, includes participatory dramatization of early martyrs, safe houses, risky adult baptisms, narrow escapes, capture, trial, imprisonment and the work of the Holy Spirit. Know Jesus is designed to bring our Anabaptist history to life and make powerful connections to our calling to follow and know Jesus today. Tabor's Youth Explorers are planning to attend this event!

### Carol Duerksen on the Lent 2012 Planning Team

Persons from Western District and South Central Conferences have been invited to form the team that prepares the Lent 2012 worship and study materials that will be available to all churches in Mennonite Church USA and Canada. Carol Duerksen was one of the contributors to the Lent worship services.

## Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

Since Nathan and I (Krista) got married in 2007, we have been regular attenders at Tabor, the congregation I grew up in. We live just two miles south of the church in a house we built in the middle of what used to be a wheat field. We definitely are ready for our little trees to grow up so that we have some shelter from the Kansas wind!



Nathan works at Newton Fire/EMS as a firefighter/paramedic. He is currently stationed out of Station 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and he enjoys the challenges and variety of his job. On his days off, Nathan spends time working with the cows and horses and playing with Elaina, who is nine months old.

I work part-time for Bethel College as Web editor mostly from home and take care of Elaina. She is busy crawling around, growling, and pulling herself up on anything she can. We have enjoyed watching her grow and discover God's world around her.

We appreciate the church community that we have found in Tabor and the group of young people in our Sunday school class. We look forward to continuing to build relationships and watch our daughter grow up in a church family.  
-Krista and Nathan Graber

## Family Pizza Night Party!

If you have children, you are in for a treat! but only if you choose to come to Tabor Mennonite Church on the first Wednesday of this new year! For unto us on January 5, is given, many mouth watering pizzas, great salads, wonderful cookies, and a plethora of beverages. On this night, we will have fun and games for the entire family, so make plans to come on out and celebrate the new year with a great meal and some wonderful activities. The supper starts at 6:30pm and will be done by 8:00pm. This event is hosted by the leadership teams of TMYF, Youth Explorers and Faith Friends.

## Grocery Shower

The grocery shower for Jake and Stephanie Unruh will be January 16. We invite everyone to bring items for a potluck meal and following the meal, we will hear stories from the young couple about their life and happenings. All are invited to bring a few grocery items as a way to bless Jake and Stephanie.



*Flute Quartet - December 26 Worship*

## Annual Meeting

The annual celebration of what God has accomplished in our midst last year will be held on January 23rd at 9:30am. At this worship celebration, we will see a very special video that Nick Unruh has been working on. The video is the culmination of what the prayer/envisioning team has been working on. Following the worship service, we will have Sunday school as normal and then we invite everyone to stay for the Youth Fundraising Meal in the fellowship hall.

## New Studies Begin in January

**Sunday Morning Adult Elective:** Education Co. will be offering an elective for January and February adult classes. Corey will be leading a class on the book The Naked Anabaptist in the fellowship hall for anyone who wants to attend. The young adult class will be taught by Bill Unruh (Jan.) and Pastor Karen (Feb.). The inductive class will resume in the spring quarter beginning in March.

**Wednesday Night Adult Faith Formation:** We have invited guest Dr. Deb Bergen to speak on issues surrounding "Out of the darkness: faith and depression." After spending some childhood years in India and Saskatchewan small towns, Deb went to a Bible college to study music and planned on never taking another science class. However, fascination with the diversity of human behavior led her to med school to work in psychiatry. She is passionate about celebrating the "Light of the God that shines through human relations." As a co-founder of InDevelopment, Deb works with professionals whose goal is to find new models to build healthy minds, bodies, and relationships". These sessions will be Jan. 12, 19, and 26 from 6:30-7:15. Everyone is invited to attend. Sponsored by Health Ministries and Education Committee.

## News from our Youth Pastor and TMYF

This fall has been a meaningful time of study and growth for me and I again want to express my appreciation for words of support and encouragement.

In September through November, I did a directed study, along with Pastor Cleo Koop, First Mennonite Church of Halstead, on *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*. We both found many helpful ideas and perspectives from this study.

In December I wrapped up a master class called *Principles of the Kingdom*, which is a study of the Sermon on the Mount. I started this class in September. As my class project I chose to write a musical presentation (big surprise!) so the Tabor family will likely hear that in the form of my next sermon.

I will be taking the month of January as time away to complete this sabbatical season of study. My masters class will be *The Bible Speaks to Contemporary Issues*. As with all my classes during these past few months, I think this one will also have great application in my youth ministry role at Tabor.

While I am away, Wednesday night activities in January will include dynamic special guest speaker Dustin Galyon from Hesston College, a sponsor led session and a local service night at MCC, N Newton.

In this past month the TMYF has been doing a biblically based study on Courage. We also went Christmas caroling and organized our Night in the Barn event. I must make special mention of the Unruh cousins, Leah and Austin, who worked with me to clean out Mayno and Carol's barn in record time! Some of the best help ever! And Carol put together a new, inspiring script this year for our live nativity presentation at Night in the Barn.

## Anna and Joe Sawatzky Story: South Africa

A few months ago, Anna posted this description of The Upside-down Kingdom on the Sawatzky blog, siyahamba: "In the middle of the service, Pastor Ntapo stopped in mid-speech, looked out the door, and announced, 'The man of God has arrived.'"

"I could not see the door and waited to see who would enter. I expected the headman or another very important pastor. In came a young man from the community, a mentally-challenged man who mumbles to himself throughout the service. He entered and was given a seat of honor at the front of the church.

"The service was a special farewell for Erica Yoder [an intern from Clinton Frame Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind.], who has been living and worshipping with us for two months. After the service, we were to share cake and Coke to mark the occasion. The steadfast rule of this sort of an event is that the men are to be seated at the head table, the married women in chairs around the room, and the young women are to serve all the men and the older women. Only themselves eating when everyone else has been served. But this time, Pastor Ntapo seated the young women at the head table. He then seated the young men and the married women to the side. He took no seat for himself. As the people were being seated, we sang 'nakube njalo. let it be so. On earth as it is in heaven.'"



Clean up for Night in the Barn

# JANUARY

## TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>2</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Trustee Mtg Deacon's Mtg. Worship/ Fellowship Mtg.	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Family Pizza Night	<b>6</b> 12 pm Newton Lunch Bunch	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12 pm Hesston Lunch Bunch  7pm Church Council	<b>12</b> Wednesday Evening Activities	<b>13</b> 7:00 p.m. MCC Sale meeting @ Tabor	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School Noon: Potluck Meal and Shower Museum Annual Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9am-3pm Willing Helpers Work Day  Wednesday Evening Activities	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Annual Mtg. 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School Noon: Fundraiser Meal	<b>24</b> <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	<b>25</b> 12 pm Goessel/ Peabody/Walton Lunch Bunch	<b>26</b> Wednesday Evening Activities	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>31</b> <i>New Years Eve</i>					

### BIRTHDAYS

- |                     |                         |                        |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Colton Guhr     | 15 - Janice Worthington | 24 - James Harris      |
| 2 - Lucius Duerksen | Drew Goerzen            | Lois (Tim O'Leary)     |
| Angela Duerksen     | 16 - Sharleen Francis   | Voth                   |
| Joy Goertzen        | LaVerle Franzen,        | 25 - Dannie Schmidt    |
| Kathryn Ingram      | Shannon Friesen         | 27 - Reed Friesen      |
| 3 - Dave Kalinoff   | Lila Harris             | 28 - LaVerta Schmidt   |
| 4 - Pamela Abrahams | Steve Janzen            | 29 - Eleanora Goertzen |
| 5 - Irene Jantz     | Charlene Stoetzl        | James Unruh            |
| Quinli Unruh        | Nada Voth               | Carrie Unruh           |
| 6 - Carolyn Voth    | Jackson Hiebert         | Jan Goerzen            |
| Nathan Hall         | 17 - Margo Regier       | Derek Goerzen          |
| 8 - Marna Abrahams  | 19 - Doyle Franzen      | 30 - Jim Wills         |
| Shane Buller        | Virginia Voth           | Viola Schmidt          |
| Madelyn Lytle       | Charissa Guhr           |                        |
| Lee Ratzlaff        | 21 - Walden Duerksen    |                        |
| 11 - Ryan Bartel    | 22 - Hannah Miller      |                        |
| 12 - John Schmidt   | Sarahanne Unruh         |                        |
| 13 - Gayle Funk     | 23 - Donavon Schmidt,   |                        |
| Kristen Seibel      | Darwin Funk             |                        |

### ANNIVERSARIES

- |                          |             |         |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Marc & Joyce Watts       | January 7,  | 33 yrs. |
| Eldon & Eva Pankratz     | January 7,  | 5 yrs.  |
| Clifford & Pamela Bartel | January 19, | 20 yrs. |
| Charles & Dora Unruh     | January 24, | 58 yrs. |

