



John Goerzen Baptism on May 15

Tabor Church News

June, 2011

“Trust that God is Love”

“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones.” Matt. 18:10a

Since the beginning of time, religion has given us images that have often left people confused about the very nature of God. In my elementary years in Sunday school, one of my teachers asked our class this question: “Do you believe God can do anything?” We, of course, had been taught that God can do anything so we replied with a valiant “Yes.” Then she asked us this question: “Do you believe God can create a rock so big that he can’t lift it?” What? Wait a minute. That sounds like a question with a no-win answer. Either way we answered, God came out on the less-than-competent side!

Other questions in my childhood also brought me grief about who God was. Would a loving God send someone to hell? Really? If someone died in a car wreck who didn’t know God, would God change at that moment from being loving to punishing someone for something they didn’t know? Were we not taught that God’s love doesn’t change in life or death? Today I am thankful for new revelations in the Bible with references to heaven and hell that are truly good news. That’s another newsletter article in itself.

Faith formation in children is so extremely important. One of the basic teachings for children in the church is that God is love. That is foundational for children to know. As adults, I think we have often not grasped that for ourselves. We must ask ourselves what it means that God is love. In the book *Love Wins* by Rob Bell, he states: “We shape our God, and then our God shapes us.” If religious people become violent, it is because they are shaped by their God who is violent. How have you shaped your God? Is your God a slave driver, an angry God, or one whose nature truly is love? Perhaps we should be letting God shape us, not the other way around.

One song I learned as a child included these words: *Oh be careful little ears what you hear.* I would like to challenge us as adults to think through our own thoughts about the nature of God and how we present that to children.

Jesus had strong words for those who lead children astray (Matt. 18). The deep secret is that Christians have a hard time believing God is love because the God that has been presented is not lovable. God’s very essence is love. May we embrace that love in our lives by trusting in the One who loves us in life, death, and the age to come!

-Pastor Karen



Worship Themes

June 5 - “Going up and Coming Down”
-Psalm 47, Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53
-Corey preaching

June 12 - “Taste and See”
- Bible School Children and Staff

June 19 - “God’s Spirit Poured Out”
-Genesis 1:1-4a, Acts 2:1-18,
I Corinthians 12:1-13
-Corey preaching

June 26 - Doug preaching



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 6-10, 8:30-11:45 am
*Come, see that God is good
and discover the many ways that
God provides for our needs.*

Pastor’s Schedules:

Karen - on Sabbatical during June
Doug - June 16-22 Vacation
Corey - June 10-12 to SD for parents’
50th anniversary



Child Dedication
May 8, 2011

Sophia Grace Abrahams



Vatiken Bryce Unruh



Aubrilie Anne Francis



Weston Roy Sommerfeld



Hoxie Wren Hiebert

Pastor Karen to Begin Sabbatical in June

The deacons have approved some sabbatical time for me for the month of June. I will be spending the first part (2-11) of that time at an eight-day silent retreat in Griswold, IA sponsored by Creighton University. There will be 9 other participants and each person will have a spiritual director to guide them in this experience. The purpose of a silent retreat is to clear your mind and listen for God's Spirit. The rest of the month will be spent volunteering at non-profit organizations as I feel led, visiting family and friends, and practicing simple living. Because of the transitions that are taking place in the near future, I will only take a month at this time. The remaining two months may be taken next year if needed. Thank you deacons and Tabor for this time of rest and renewal.

-Pastor Karen

Tabor Women and Girl's Retreat

Celebrate our Friendships with Nancy, Hannah and Rachel

On Saturday, July 9, all women and girls are invited to a retreat at Cross Wind from 9:00-2:00. This will be a time of fun, fellowship, and talking about spiritual friendships as we celebrate the friendships we've had with Nancy, Hannah, and Rachel. Pastor Karen will lead. The cost will be divided between various committees. A light noon meal will be provided. A sign-up will be posted on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan for lunch.

Willing Helpers

Willing Helpers had a very enjoyable evening at our May 23rd meeting. We are also a lot smarter now from the mentoring of sessions on Photo Computer (led by Monica Voth), Pie Making (led by Kristin Schmidt), Scrapbooking (led by Janna Duerksen) and Quilting (led by Wilma Schmidt and Alice Funk). There are many talents in our church, some hidden and some seen, and it's always a joy to learn from gifts that others are willing to share.

We will not be meeting in June. We have two service meetings come up this summer. On July 20, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. we will have a service day at the MCC Center, helping with such projects as comforters, quilts, school supplies or newborn kits. On August 19 at 7:15 p.m. we will be giving a program at Bethesda Home. You might also circle these dates on your calendar, and attend if you can: Mennonite Women USA Meeting during the July 4-9 Mennonite Church USA Convention at Pittsburg, PA; and the Women's Meeting during the WDC at Bethel College, N. Newton from July 29-30. Consider attending these summer events, or join us for our meetings in the fall!

Church Park Improvements

You will notice some changes taking place in the church park this summer. The landscape committee, along with the trustees, are working on some improvements that will be funded with memorial monies donated to the church. Some of the plans include a stone fire pit with a concrete apron around the perimeter, new electrical poles and lights, and provisions for a volleyball net in the open area of the park, similar to the past. Benches, picnic tables and other landscaping may be added as funds are available or designated to this project. These changes should help make the park enjoyable for all ages as we gather together for different church events and functions.

Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

Just as always the youth group has been busy! We started off with continuing our study on immigration and dug in depth on the issues. The following Sunday night, the youth group held a Junior High event at John and Elaine Unruh's farm based on principles from first semester Sunday School taught by Carol Duerksen. The event consisted of a meal with hot dogs and side dishes, learning the prayer of Jabez, and trying to build a fire and see how long it could be fueled, with limited supplies. Then the main event came, the big scavenger hunt activity. The Junior Highers were broken up into teams and had to complete different tasks set up all around the farm. At the end the teams had to perform a skit, telling what they had learned during the night in front of their peers and a tough panel of TMYF judges. We capped the evening off with S'Mores. The following Friday the TMYF had their annual Lock In hosted at Bill and Sherry Unruh's. We started off the night by taking some ridiculous couch pictures in both Goessel and Newton. After the guys were tired of carrying the couch all around, we headed off for the Twisted Cow for some frozen yogurt. Once we got our energy back, the group headed back to Leah's for some midnight ultimate Frisbee with a lighted disc and glow-in-the-dark necklaces and armbands. Movies and board games followed along with showing off how crazy we all can get. After a lot of rest, the youth group was ready to serve a meal at the Harvey Co. Homeless Shelter the following Wednesday. The meal consisted of sloppy joes (the youth groups' secret recipe), potato salad, chips, and a desert. TMYF will cap off our year, (not counting the summer service trip), with the senior send off. This will be May 22 at Nate and Brandy's house for a BBQ and some fun time. It's been a great year seniors, we will miss you dearly. —Reece Hiebert, reporter



Western District Conference

Make No Excuses – Simply Come to the Banquet is the theme of this year's Western District Conference Annual Assembly, held on July 29-30 on the campuses of Bethel College and Bethel College Mennonite Church in N. Newton. This theme resonates with our chosen scripture focus – Jesus' words in Luke 14:15–24. Please register by July 15 – fees increase substantially after the deadline.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve as a delegate for Tabor. Brochures are on the table in the foyer.

Remember:

- Everyone is welcome to register and attend!
- Non-delegates are welcome to attend our Assembly and participate in Learning communities, fellowship and worship.
- Going Green: Report books may be viewed on-line. We will NOT be mailing them out unless a paper copy is requested. Bring your own water bottle and coffee cup.
- Children and Junior High youth are invited! Childcare will be provided for children age 0 to pre- Kindergarten. Activities are planned for those who have completed Kindergarten through grade 8.
- Learning Tracks are amazing opportunities to experience in-depth knowledge, great fellowship, shared stories and a hands-on experience on the topic.
- Anyone can attend a Learning Track for ONLY \$20. Get resourced – cheap!
- Bring a birthday gift for the Resource Library's 75th anniversary party on Fri. aft.

Coming Events:

June 12-August 5 – Summer Youth Camps, Camp Mennoscah

June 18 – Circle of Grace training, First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS

July 4-9 – MC USA Convention, Pittsburgh, PA



Children of Light musical "Amazing Grace" was presented on May 8.

Spotlight on Young Adults

Hello Tabor Family!

My name is Jenny Goertzen. I graduated from Tabor College in 2004 and I live in Hesston, work in Wichita, and spend a lot of my time on the road between those two places!

For the past five years I've worked in Wichita at Journal Broadcast Group. We own and operate 6 of the top radio stations in the Wichita market. Our stations include KFDI FM 101.3, 104.5 The Fox, T-95, Classic Country 92.3, Radio Lobo 106.5, and our newest station, True Oldies 1070AM. I spend my days working in the sales department assisting 15 sales people and 2 managers with selling commercial advertising, developing revenue generating projects, and coordinating bigger events such as concerts and station events. I also assist the KFDI News Department with many of their projects. I've always wanted to work in radio, specifically for KFDI so naturally I absolutely love my job! The perks of the job (concert tickets, meeting artists and occasionally being on the radio) aren't bad either!

When I'm not working, I love to spend time reading, listening to music, scrapbooking, spending time at my parent's farm, antique hunting, going to concerts with my sister Kindra, and spending time with friends.

Having grown up at Tabor Church I feel a very close connection with all of you. For the past couple of years I've attended church at Newton Christian Church on Sundays that I'm not at Tabor. I feel very blessed to have two church families that care about me and support me. Involving myself in a different congregation has developed in me a deeper appreciation for the traditions and beliefs that define Tabor. Being a part of Newton Christian is teaching me a lot about church dynamics, growth, and finding a fit for my gifts and abilities within a new group of people. I feel like this is a step that has helped me develop and define my personal relationship with Christ in a new and good way.

Thank you for your warm greetings each Sunday and thanks to those of you who take notice and inquire about my life when you see me. It means a great deal to me to know that my Tabor family is always here for me.

-Jenny Goertzen

In 2002 we were newly married and living in Indianapolis when we started to think about where we wanted to live permanently. After listing our desirable qualities of communities, we intentionally choose to live in South Central Kansas. We now raise our boys in John's grandparents' house and try to be intentional about making connections with the land that surrounds us.

John is the IT Manager at Excel Industries in Hesston and has written several computer programming books. He also enjoys serving as the Bethesda Home Board Chair, singing with the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus, and amateur radio. John is always searching for fun new challenges; he is currently learning Morse Code.

Terah is currently a full-time "on the go" Mom. She enjoys singing and baking, and looks forward to having time to scrapbook again. Terah continues to deal with challenges with asthma and thyroid hormone levels. Along with the boys, she has a small "tasting" vegetable garden. Terah and Oliver are volunteers at Bethesda, visiting any resident that might enjoy interacting with a baby. This has been a great way to meet Tabor members who live at Bethesda!

Jacob is 4.5 and attends preschool in Goessel. He enjoys anything relating to trains, self-taught reading, and playing piano. Oliver will be 2 in July. He enjoys being very active (despite his asthma) and doing anything that his Big Brother does! Both boys are also glad to have four of their six grandparents nearby. They make sure to spend lots of quality time with John's parents, Les and Cynthia Goerzen, and Terah's dad and stepmother, Warren Yoder and Marla Kauffman.

As a family, we enjoy traveling via Amtrak. We often take trips back to Indiana, where Terah's mom and stepfather live. Longer train trips to Portland, OR, and New York City have been recent highlights.

We appreciate the connections our family has made at Tabor, and look forward to strengthening those relationships.



Jenny with Taylor Swift



-John and Terah Goerzen