

Christian Education

School Kits for Advent

This year Christian Education will again ask for your help during the Advent season with school kits for MCC. Each Sunday you will be asked to bring an item to be included in the kit which will be gathered during the offering. Items for the first week are:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (about 8.5in x 10.5 in and 70-80 sheets)
- Watch for a shopping list in your mailboxes and reminders in the bulletin.



Wednesday Evening Schedule:

November 2, 9, 16 - regular activities

November 23

- Thanksgiving supper and worship
- no regular activities
- adult choir will practice following worship

November 30 - regular activities

In December, the regular schedule will change as we will allow the various choirs time to practice for the upcoming Christmas programs. There will be no meals in December. A complete schedule will be posted in the December newsletter.

WDC FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are now eight months into the WDC fiscal year. Contributions are very similar to last year, however spending is down by 7%, so that at the end of September the deficit was about \$9,000 less than last year at this time. To date the Vision 2012 campaign has raised \$1,389,012 for the three critical priorities of the conference -- camping ministry, ministerial and congregational leadership and congregational resourcing services. Contributions for the Camp Mennoscah swimming pool project, which is part of the Vision 2012 campaign, totals \$334,000 which is \$53,981 short of the cost of the pool.

WDC 2012 BUDGET

The Western District 2012 budget was passed by the annual assembly delegates in July. The total 2012 budget is \$600,250. The portion of the WDC budget needed from member congregations is \$498,250.

The WDC 2012 budget includes a big increase for Church Planting – new work. This comes as a result of a commitment by Western District Conference to make church planting a priority. In order to sustain these new churches, supporting groups will need to be found for every new church planted. Also beginning next year the Western District Conference budget does not include a Retreat Commission. Work continues by the Retreat Commission to make Camp Mennoscah a separate organization with the goal of launching the new organization in 2012. Western District Conference will continue to support Camp Mennoscah with a subsidy that is part of the Executive Board expenses and with WDC staff time to help the camp run efficiently.

Contributions from member congregations make the services and programs of Western District Conference possible. If our congregations would contribute \$50 per member or \$100 per attendee, our delegate-adopted budget would be fully funded. We understand that this is not possible for some congregations; however, we have many congregations that can and do give more as mutual aid for their sister congregations. This mutual aid guarantees that we can provide services to all our congregations and we all benefit from these connections.

--Phyllis Regier, WDC Business Manager



TMYP at the Corn Maze

Worship Themes

November 6 - "Hope"

- Romans 15:13
- Pastor June preaching

November 13 - "Healing"

- Luke 10:46-52; Acts 10
- Pastor June preaching

November 20 - "How much stuff does it take to follow Christ"

- Luke 12:13-21; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
- Hosea 11:1-11; Colossians 3:1-11
- Pastor Karen preaching

November 27 - Advent 1

- "Learning to Pay Attention"
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Isaiah 64:1-9;
- Mark 13:24-37; I Corinthians 1:3-9
- Pastor June preaching



"I will praise the name
of God with a song;
I will magnify him
with thanksgiving."

Psalm 69:30, NRSV

Tabor Church News

November, 2011

"A Congregation in Mission"

It has been my privilege to be in the congregation with you in these past two months. While the learning curve is still high, I have learned some things that have warmed my heart.

First of all, this is a congregation in mission. Here are some of the things I have noticed:

- There are children of this congregation now grown up and involved with both the Navigators and with Campus Crusade for Christ, two para-church organizations that help to bring the Good News to others.
- You have young adults currently serving in mission: Jason Unruh with the meat canner, and Brittany Voth in Voluntary Service in St. Louis, Mo.
- You have an international mission partner in South Africa: the Joe and Anna Liechty Sawatsky family.
- There are not one, but two, sister churches teamed with this congregation: Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero and Neuva Jerrusalem, both of Pasadena, Texas.
- There is a growing interest in mission in your own backyard through the Harvey County Homeless Shelter and Newton's Peace Connections.
- You walked and ran for the CROP effort to feed hungry people and address the causes of hunger.
- You are heartily supportive of Mennonite Central Committee. Yay, MCC!
- You invite, include and feed community children on Wednesday evenings.
- The youth group will be in mission at the Junior High Snow Camp this winter.
- You house the Tabor Food Pantry and meet clients with friendliness and courtesy.
- You have an excellent web site that invites people to come to Tabor.

While I haven't observed response to a natural disaster (Thank God!) I fully expect that, given the opportunity, the chain saw brigade would form and head out to help – perhaps with others along to cook or clean up.

These are all good things, markers of a congregation in mission. The question before us this month as you fill out those pesky forms and listen to sermons is: What is God's call to us in these days? Are there new opportunities before us? I look forward to hearing your conversation around those questions.

-Pastor June



Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

I, Kurtis Duerksen have been a part of Tabor Mennonite Church all my life. I grew up on a dairy farm just two miles north of Goessel. I haven't been too involved with milking the cows, but I help out on the farm with maintenance and field work. When I was a senior in high school, I was asked by one of the owners of PrairieLand Partners John Deere in McPherson, if they could sponsor me and send me to John Deere Tech School.



I accepted their offer and went to Southeast Community College in Milford, Nebraska for two years. I graduated in June of 2010 from the John Deere Tech program at Southeast Community College. I have also taken some on-line classes through John Deere University to be classified now as an advanced service technician. Since graduation, I have been working full time in the tractor shop at McPherson PrairieLand.

During my spare time, I have enjoyed restoring old tractors and trucks. At the age of 21 I have done 18 restoration projects for myself and for others. These projects include a variety of John Deere tractors and five John Deere D tractors. I have also done a Farmall B and I did work on an Oliver 44. Besides tractors, I have restored some pickups and a 1951 GMC truck. I have appreciated this congregation for the interest that has been shown in me and in what I am doing.

Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

The TMYF has been busy this past month with fun, fellowship, learning and service. The youth started out the month with a campfire at Austin Unruh's house. We enjoyed s'mores, input and fellowship with each other under the stars. The next week we headed out for movie in the barn night at Don and Rachel Horst's. We watched the movie, *The Blindside* on the big screen and in comfy chairs and saw how compassion can change a life.

Then, the next week we went to the North Newton MCC center to assist in checking and completing school kits. The youth completed and packaged close to 300 school kits! A few other youth worked with tying shoelaces together. The last night of the month the youth ventured to the Buhler corn maze. Although the maze was fairly easy it was still fun to run around in the cool night air. After completing the maze the majority of the youth spent some time jumping on a giant buried air dome. The youth will begin the next month with sessions in the parsonage basement.



-Reece Hiebert, reporter

New Model in Communication

Beginning this month we will be trying out a new communication model for our church publications. To save on paper and printing costs, (let's go green!) we will email the monthly newsletter, church council minutes and other publications and place printed copies in mailboxes of those without email. Additional copies will be available in the foyer. *If you have email but find you do not receive the emailed publications, please contact the church office to update your listing.*

Also beginning in November the bulletin will be devoted largely to Tabor happenings and events. Conference and community related announcements will be published apart from the bulletin and emailed to those who are in our email address book. Those individuals without email will receive a copy of the announcements in their mailboxes on Sunday mornings.

This new model has been discussed at staff meeting and your feedback is welcome.



"I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving. Son, I just know they didn't go to Grandma's."

Homeless Shelter News

Our week at the shelter is coming up November 9-15. We will have fewer slots to fill this time since we are sharing the week with three other churches. Tabor has had a few new volunteers each round, so we are positive that we will be able to fill our schedule. Sign up early to get the best time! Please talk to Brent or Pam Abrahams if you have questions.

Tabor Annual Meeting set for November 13

Begin the afternoon of November 13 with a meal hosted by the Mennonite College Task Force at noon. This fundraiser meal goes toward scholarships for those Tabor students attending Mennonite Colleges and it is an important source of income for the task force.

Following the meal, plan to stay for the congregational meeting at 12:45 p.m. at which time the budget for Tabor's ministries in 2012 will be discussed and approved. Changes to the Tabor Church Constitution will also be presented for discussion and approval. Primarily the changes update the constitution to concur with the current Gift Discernment process. Other changes include additional adjustments in wording to update various changes for commission and/or committee positions and terms.

Plan to come out on November 13 and be a part of shaping Tabor's ministries for 2012.



Service at Tabor

On Wednesday, November 23, we will be having a soup supper provided by the reception committee at 6:00 p.m. and then a short Thanksgiving service following at 7:00. There will be no regular activities except adult choir, which will meet immediately following the service. Come and enjoy a good meal and good fellowship. The offering for the evening will go to support our Mission Partners, Joe and Anna Sawatzky, serving in South Africa.

Mennonite Men's Chicken BBQ

The Tabor Mennonite Men's annual chicken BBQ will be held on Thursday, November 3rd. This year's fundraiser proceeds will go towards the Goessel Ministerial Alliance and Mennonite Central Committee Meat Canner. The Goessel Ministerial Alliance provides school supplies and other aids for children in the Goessel community. The MCC Meat Canner ships over one million pounds of meat all over the world to help the hungry. Tabor church member Jason Unruh is currently serving on the meat canning crew touring to different locations in the US. Please plan to attend this year's BBQ and support these great causes.



Willing Helpers

For the October meeting the Willing Helpers spent a wonderful evening getting a glimpse into books that Glenna Schrag highlighted from Faith and Life Bookstore. Can we all stay home and read now?



A Sister Care Seminar, Equipping Women for a Caring Ministry, will be held November 11 and 12. October 31 is the last day for registering for \$35.00 with Willing Helpers picking up the other \$10.00 of your registration. You can register after October 31 but it goes up \$5.00.

Our November 21 meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Krista Abrahams will be sharing about *Central America, the Global Family*. All women (and men) are invited to attend and hear of Krista's experiences. The roll call will be "what impact has a woman from another culture had on your life?". Plan to attend!

Bethesda Home Pillars Banquet

Bethesda Home Pillars Banquet will be Sunday, November 6 at the new Meridian Conference Center in Newton, KS. The evening will start with a informal social time and punch bowl at 6:00 p.m., and dinner to follow at 6:30. Entertainment will be provided by the singing group Hearts 4 Him. This is Bethesda Home's single largest fundraising event of the year, and we would love for you to help support our ministry by attending the banquet this year. Tickets are \$150 – and \$25 for High School age and younger. Call the Bethesda Home office at 620-367-2291, or talk to one of Tabor's Bethesda Board Members, Eileen Schmidt or John Goerzen, to reserve your seat. Deadline for registering is October 31.