



Willing Helpers work at MCC Center

Tabor Church News

September, 2011

“The Journey Is Our Home”

This phrase, from a well-known hymn, “Lead on, O cloud of Presence,” reminds us that change is ever with us, that change is the normative factor in our lives as individuals, households, and congregations. We may welcome change or resist change, but change is within and around us, inviting us to growth and new responsibilities.

Journeys come in virtually endless variety. In our world we hear about nations on journeys toward more representative forms of government and of people enduring terribly long journeys to find food and water. In our nation our president takes a journey by bus, while contenders for political office travel to Iowa to be seen and heard.

Closer to home, this is the month of journeys to new schools or returns to new classes. And within ourselves we journey with sickness or health, with celebration or sorrow, with faith and doubt. We speak of faith as a journey because we continue to grow and explore, wondering and wandering, seeking God in new ways and old.

You, as a congregation, have been on a journey of saying good-bye to beloved pastor/family, and now begin a journey of wondering what the future holds. In these first three months I will preach on topics related to congregational identity and mission, which are key to a good transition period. Our basic text for the first three sermons will be the Exodus story; it would be helpful for you to read the book of Exodus as preparation for sermons on September 11, 25 and October 4.

The journey we begin now is a unique one. We journey together, as God leads us.

*Lead on, O cloud of Presence,
the exodus is come...
and we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.*

-Pastor June Thomsen

Worship Themes

September 4 -

Community - Circle of Belonging
Christian Formation Sunday
Installation of Pastor June Thomsen
-John 16:12-15, I Corinthians 1:10-17
-Pastor Karen preaching

September 11 -

People on a Journey - Starting Out
-Exodus 12
-Pastor June preaching

September 18 -

“If we don't, God won't”
Tabor Church Retreat
-Carol Duerksen and Maynard Knepp leading.

September 25 -

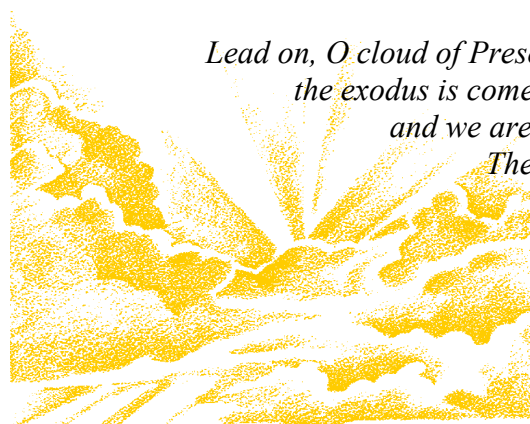
People on a Journey - Led by God
-Exodus 13:17-22
-Pastor June preaching



**TABOR
CHURCH
RETREAT**

**September 17 & 18
Camp Mennoscah**

*Come Relax Fellowship
Have Fun
as we find out why
"God won't, if we don't"!*





Tabor Young Adults in College

Alex Drake - Kansas State University
 James Goerzen - Bethel College
 Hayden Goerzen - Hesston College
 Sheldon Goerzen - Wichita State U.
 Anna Unruh - University of Kansas
 Claire Unruh - Bethel College
 Duane Unruh - Kansas State University
 Grace Unruh - University of Kansas
 Kristin Unruh - Bethel College
 Laura Unruh - Kansas State University
 Leah Unruh - Hesston College
 Michelle Unruh - Bethel College
 Monica Voth - Washburn University

Willing Helpers

Willing Helpers has taken a little break for the summer. We didn't rest completely, though. We attended a workday at the MCC Center and folded blankets so they were ready for shipment as well as checking the supplies for school kits.

We will start up again on September 21, 9:30 a.m. with a Work Day. Bring a salad, come and enjoy fellowship with others and help with work day projects!

TMYF September Schedule

Sept. 7 - Kickoff at Tabor Park, 7pm
 Sept. 14 - No Meeting
 Sept. 21 - Campfire at Austin Unruh's 7pm
 Sept. 28 - Campfire at Austin Unruh's 7pm



Thanks to Pam Winn 01-04-2010
 BRING FRIENDS TO CHURCH DAY IS SUPER EASY FOR ME ... ALL I NEED IS MY LAPTOP
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Tabor Members Serve

Harvey County Homeless Shelter:

We had a great week serving at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter this month. Russ and Barb Abrahams, Duane Duerksen, Gayle Funk, Carol Abrahams, Terry Holtz, Carol Duerksen, Maynard Knepp, James Goerzen, Brent Abrahams, and Kenton Nickel all spent time volunteering there. There were also many others who helped prepare or serve food. One of the most important things we do there as a volunteer is listening. I heard from a father who was hoping to take his daughter back to Arkansas where he could reunite with his wife and son. Another resident was expecting his temp job to become permanent, and was very excited about that. A couple there was very excited that they were going to have a baby in December. Sam met a friend there. He was only three steps in the door when a girl about his age ran up, grabbed his arm, and dragged him to the toy area to play with her.

While we are there to serve others, I always find that the blessings I receive are far greater than what I invest. If spending an evening or night just listening to people and showing them respect sounds like a way you could serve God, please sign up to volunteer November 9-15. If you want to volunteer and need to go to the training, the September trainings are:

Tuesday, September 13, 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 21, 11:00am

Thursday, September 29, 6:30pm.

—Pam Abrahams reporting

Mennonite Central Committee:

Jason Unruh has begun his 2-year service with MCC as a canner operator! You should have received a brochure in your mailbox with different options or ways of offering your support to Jason. You may either mail those directly to the MCC office in Akron, PA (listed at the bottom of the brochure) or place it in Jim and Diana Schmidt's mailbox and we will mail it for you. Checks should be made payable to MCC. Thank you for your support of Jason and the work of MCC!

Jason's address is: Jason Unruh, 5 S. 11th Street, Akron, PA 17501; email unruhjt@gmail.com

Mennonite Mission Network Voluntary Service:

Brittany Voth has answered God's call to Voluntary Service in St. Louis. MMN encourages Tabor to partner with her in financial support of \$3,000.00. This investment into VS helps reduce the financial burden on the placement agencies, covers local budget, Brittany's health insurance, living expenses and stipend money, and the staff of the national offices. Place your donations in the wooden box in the foyer or in Barb Banman's mailbox. Checks may be made to Tabor Mennonite Church and earmarked for Brittany Voth. Questions may be directed to Barb Banman, Brittany's VS advocate.



"Stop Hunger, One Step at a Time"

Annual Goessel Area CROP Walk

Sunday, September 25, 1:30 p.m.

Starting at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church.

Join others in raising money to stop hunger.

Sign up Today!

See Kevin Nickel for registration information.

Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

I am busy! In the mornings I milk cows and feed the calves for Myron Voth. I especially enjoy the calves because they are so lively and each has their own quirks. Then, I head to Newton to work for Neufeld Yard Service where I garden for several people. This entails pulling weeds, cutting out unwanted trees, and occasional watering. You can learn a lot about a person by what type of garden they keep. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons after lunch I drive over to the Caring Hands Humane Society to be a matchmaker for the cats. This means I try and match people and cats. Not only finding the cat a home, but one which is positive and nurturing for both the cat and their human. During the afternoon I also do minor cleaning of the cat rooms. Most of my time is spent giving the kitties love and attention; sometimes I feel like I need 10 arms because they all want attention at the same time. In addition, as I have been doing for the past 9 years, I volunteer at the Sedgwick County Zoo every few weeks.



Along the Natchaug River in Connecticut from a train trip to visit family.

When I am not working I enjoy reading, watching movies, gardening, knitting, and hanging out with our cats Basil and Buster and friends from my years as a Bethel College student. Recently, I enrolled in a month long American Sign Language course at the Newton Rec Center which refreshed my ASL communication proficiency. Conversations with Alberto and Aurora and more frequently with Violeta enable me to practice my Spanish. I would really enjoy working as a zookeeper or marine mammal trainer, but animal husbandry is a competitive field. This vocation has been confirmed during my internships at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago and the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City.

While I am searching for my dream job, I enjoy being part of the Tabor Church community. One of my favorite aspects of church is that many of the activities I am involved in are intergenerational. From choir to the Wednesday night Faithful Fitness exercise class to Sunday School to serving meals at the homeless shelter I am able to interact with so many different people of all ages. Interacting with other church members outside of normal Sunday worship is so invigorating and fun! I would invite you to join me.

—Katy Schmidt

Camp Mennoscah News

We're incorporating! Camp Mennoscah is working to become a non-profit organization. At the Western District Conference Assembly, the next step in this process was taken. Western District Conference bylaws were amended to allow for Camp Mennoscah to be a separate entity.

Essentially, this is a change on paper. The biggest change will be that Camp Mennoscah will be its own non-profit organization instead of being owned by Western District Conference. Camp Mennoscah will continue to faithfully serve our Mennonite churches and constituents and constituents who are not Mennonite/Anabaptist.

It is undeniable that Camp Mennoscah will have to discover new ways to fund programming, staff salaries, and maintenance of the camp grounds



Western District Conference

Upcoming at Camp Mennoscah:

- September 4-5—
Mental Health Spiritual Retreat
- September 9-11—
Women & Girls Retreat
- September 18-22—
Work & Play Camp

Mennonite Church USA

You are invited to an Open House of the Mennonite Church USA offices located at 718 N. Main St, Newton, on Thursday, September 15, 4-6pm. Meet churchwide staff and Executive Board members of Mennonite church USA and tour the newly renovated offices.

Mark Your Calendars



- Sept. 25 - Budget narratives are due
- Oct. 11 - Budget meeting
- Nov. 13 - 1st Half Congregational Meeting

Mennoscah

Churches and individuals will need to include Camp Mennoscah in their charitable giving. The direction of Camp Mennoscah will be shaped by those who support us.

The Retreat Commission and Western District Conference are doing everything possible and feasible to ensure that Camp Mennoscah continues and thrives for another 60 years and more. Give us a call if you have questions (620-297-3290) and spread the word about this new and exciting opportunity!

Continued next column

--Olivia Bartel,



Christian Education

A New Sunday School Year Begins

Fall is around the bend and that means a new Sunday school year is upon us. September is very busy with retreats and a holiday weekend. Still, we look forward to beginning Sunday school on September 4. Be sure to check the "Education at Tabor" sheet that lists all the classes and teachers. There are still a few classes waiting to find teachers. Perhaps God has nudged your heart to use your gifts in this way. If your class does not have a teacher or you need more time to organize, feel free to attend the elective taught by Pastor Karen. It is called "Topics not discussed in the lectionary." There is a reason why some passages are not included in the lectionary. We will be studying some of those passages and hopefully gaining some new perspectives on biblical material not always discussed.

In the next month, Christian Education will meet to plan our Wednesday night activities. Look for information coming later. We are thankful for the many commitment sheets that were returned and for all those who offered to serve. One addition to our Sunday school and Wednesday night schedule is that June Thomsen, transitional pastor, will be gathering together groups of about eight people to talk about identity and mission. This is an opportunity for her to hear your thoughts about the future needs of Tabor.

We pray that the coming year will be one of good learning, joy, and a renewed sense of God's love in our lives. Here are some dates to remember:

- August 28 - Teacher orientation and Safe Sanctuaries training
- September 4 - Christian Formation Sunday and beginning of Sunday school classes
- October 5 - Wednesday night activities begin (TMYF begins in September)

