

<b>1</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Fellowship Time No SS	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6p.m. Family Pizza Night 6:30pm Pastor Search Co.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Communion</i> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Wednesday Evening Activities	<b>12</b> 7pm Church Council	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>16</b> 7pm Worship Fellowship Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Wednesday Evening Activities 6:30pm Pastor Search Co.	<b>19</b> 7pm Education Committee	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>Annual Meeting</i> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School Noon: TMYF Meal	<b>23</b> <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Wednesday Evening Activities	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

### BIRTHDAYS

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

### ANNIVERSARIES

Marc & Joyce Watts	January 7	34 yrs.
Eldon & Eva Pankratz	January 7	6 yrs.
Clifford & Pamela Bartel	January 19	21 yrs.
Charles & Dora Unruh	January 24	59 yrs.



Bulletin Announcements due 8 a.m. Thursday mornings.



Christmas Eve

### Worship Themes

**January 1 - Epiphany Sunday**  
**"Embracing a Wide Body"**  
 - Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Isaiah 60:1-6;  
 Matthew 2:1-12; Ephesians 3:1-12  
 - College Students leading

**January 8 - Communion**  
**"Held Together in Christ"**  
 - Colossians 1  
 - Elbiata choir special guests  
 - Pastor June preaching  
**Adult Sunday School** –  
*What are our goals with regard to our congregational community?*

**January 15 -**  
**"Breaking down the Barriers"**  
 - Ephesians 2:11-22  
 - Pastor June preaching  
**Adult Sunday School** –  
*What are our goals with regard to peace and justice?*

**January 22 - Annual Reporting**  
**"Into all the World"**  
 - Matthew 28:18, Acts 1:8  
 - Pastor June preaching  
**Adult Sunday School** –  
*What are our goals with regard to outreach in our wider community?*

**January 29 - "Facilities"**  
 - Exodus 40:34-38, Hebrews 9:11-14,  
 Ephesians 2:21-22  
 - Pastor Karen preaching  
**Adult Sunday School** –  
*What are our goals with regard to our buildings and grounds?*



# Tabor Church News

January, 2012

## "The Greatest Service of All"

*"Just as you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to me."*  
 -Matthew 25:40

When was the last time someone "served" you? Perhaps you were at a restaurant where you were waited on or maybe at the grocery store where someone carted your groceries out to the car. Recently I read a story that speaks to the important lesson of paying attention to those who serve:

*In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents" she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream", he said.*

*The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.*

Jesus had a lot to say about service and spent his life serving others. I would venture to say that we are served every day by someone, maybe even by our family members. My husband did me a great service one day by allowing me to drag him all over Newton and Wichita looking for window treatments and wall paper (not something every guy enjoys doing). The greatest service to me that day was that he never complained or seemed impatient at my endless indecisions about color schemes or whether blinds or shades would be the best option.

One of my goals in the new year is to notice those who work behind the scenes. But serving involves more than noticing. Service grows out of a heart of gratitude for the way in which I have been served. Without gratitude, I can only think about my own needs. When I am free to be grateful, my actions reflect compassion for those who serve. Then serving others comes from the heart. The little boy in the story put aside his own need for a sundae in order to bless the one who served him.

How have we served the Christ-child whose presence we celebrated last month? He came unnoticed except by those in society who were also unnoticed. We ask, "When did we notice you, Lord?" And perhaps God answers, "When you did it to the least among you." That's the greatest service of all.

-Pastor Karen



Night in the Barn

### Willing Helpers

The Willing Helpers will meet for their first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m. for a work day. Please bring a can of non-cream soup for lunch. We will have installation of officers. Devotions "Rest for your Souls" by Elma Goertz and roll call will be a favorite Bible verse.

### Annual Meeting and Fundraiser Meal

January 22 is the date set for the second half of our annual meeting. Reporting will take place during the worship service. Report books will be compiled and distributed for you to review. If there are corrections or additions, please contact the church office so that they can be noted. Following our worship service and Sunday school hour, the TMYF will serve a fundraiser meal to support their service trip this summer. Please plan to attend and make a generous donation.

### Mystery Question

I have learned so many interesting things about the congregation through our conversations together! The staff thought it would be fun to give everyone a challenge by asking a mystery question in our newsletters. The first one is: **Whose grandfather made communion wine for the congregation before Prohibition?** The first person to give me the right answer will get a bottle of... no, will get a prize. ☺

-Pastor June

## An Important Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend special congregational conversations on the last four Sundays of January, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. These conversations are suggested as both a follow-up to last year's Prayer and Envisioning Committee work and a response to the work of our transitional pastor. They will be facilitated by Deacons, with help from members of the Prayer and Envisioning Committee.



At the December meeting of the Deacon Board it was determined that the focus of these four Sundays would be as follows:

January 8 – Community (Internal). Community within the congregation is one of our central values. What goals do we have for building community with one another? Are Care Groups the best way to help us know one another at a deeper level? How do we include new people? Are there new opportunities for mentoring? Are the spiritual gifts of the congregation sufficiently discerned and used?

January 15 – Peace and Justice. Peace has been named as one of the five "threads" or values of the congregation. With the demise of the Peace Committee, how are we incorporating this value in various aspects of our congregational life? What are our goals for this next year? For the next five years?

January 22 – Community (External). This is another name for Outreach. Outreach was not named initially as a central value, but was illustrated in the centennial book as one of the important aspects of congregational life. And something new is happening! The children who attend on Wednesday nights are a missional opportunity. How can we partner with God in serving this group of children (and their families)? What are our specific goals for Outreach in the coming year or so? Are there other Outreach opportunities for which we could develop some specific goals?

January 29 – Facilities. There has been one hundred years of consistently improving the building and grounds as needed to keep up-to-date with congregational and community needs. This is one of the values discerned and reported a year ago as one of the "five threads." How are we doing now? Are there specific needs in this area? Can we agree on some goals for the next year? For the next five years?

On each of these Sundays the worship focus will be on the same theme as the Sunday School hour. At this point we hope that youth and young adults will want to participate in the discernment and that as many children's Sunday School teachers can attend as possible.

God has given us this year to prepare for our next installed pastor. One of the ways we prepare is to discern together how God may be leading us in various areas of congregational life. You will want to lend your perspective to these important discussions. To be Anabaptist is to discern together!

*A man living in a rural Kansas area reported: "We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the 'DEER CROSSING' sign on our road. "His reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing.'"*

-Joyful Noiseletter, Jan./Feb. 2012

## Spotlight on Tabor's Young Adults

Hello everyone! My name is Michael Unruh, and I have been attending Tabor Mennonite my whole life. I grew up on the farm and from a very young age loved spending time outside playing and enjoying the outdoors. I like to go fishing and hunting when I have time, but more often I just find myself walking or running and taking in the natural beauty. Throughout my years growing up, Camp Mennoscah was an important place for my faith development. I have spent numerous summers as a camper, counselor, naturalist, and the camp's first Mennonite Voluntary service worker. It brings me joy to help kids grow in their faith as I did. I attended Bethel College where I played on the football team and was also heavily involved in a worship band with four of my close friends. Again, helping others grow closer to God was just as important to me as the enjoyment I got from playing the drum set.



I spent last year in Fresno, California where I worked at a group home for teen boys. Seeing some of them transform their lives (often due to developing a relationship with God) made the challenging experiences worth going through. Because Fresno is so close to the mountains, I spent several weekends hiking and took one memorable hike to Cloud's Rest in Yosemite National Park (see picture).

I currently live in North Newton with two of my friends, and I am employed as an admissions counselor at Bethel College. During my fall travels, I have been able to travel to Texas, Indiana, and Missouri and catch up with friends in each of those states. I'm looking forward to a January trip to California where I'll be able to spend time with friends I made during my year of MVS. In my spare time, I like to play sports, listen to and play music, and spend time with friends. Tabor continues to be a meaningful part of my spiritual life, and I've really enjoyed becoming involved again!

### Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

The youth have been keeping busy as usual this past month. On November 23, two of our youth were involved in the Thanksgiving celebration service. Josh Booth was worship leader and Reece Hiebert provided the offertory music. The theme of the service was 'Count Your Blessings'. The following Wednesday the youth met in the parsonage with a lesson on Imaginative Prayer. The youth then held a short meeting to start planning for Youth Sunday coming up in February. On December 7th the youth began to get into the Christmas spirit with some Christmas caroling in the Goessel area. The youth then gathered at Nate and Brandy's house for refreshments and a quick meeting about the upcoming Night in the Barn. On Dec 14 we met for a session on the true meaning of Christmas and a Night in the Barn rehearsal. December 17th and 18th the youth held this annual living nativity event at

Continued next column



TMYF

the home and farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. Josh Booth did an excellent job in the role of this year's main character Joseph. We hope you all enjoyed Night in the Barn and we thank you all for your generous donations which will help support our summer service trip. The youth finished the month with a Christmas party at the home of Jasmine Brandt. There were some very interesting gifts given at the white elephant exchange, but it was all in the fun and joy of the Christmas season.

-Reece Hiebert, reporter



### Pastor Search Committee Update

The search committee has been working on filling out the *Congregational Information Form*. A second form entitled, *Twenty Pastoral Tasks* is to be filled out by members of the congregation. This worksheet is intended to be used by both the congregation and prospective pastors. It is designed to identify both the perceived needs and expectations of the congregation and the priorities and vision of the pastoral candidate.

Members will receive this form either by e-mail or in their mailboxes by January 1. The committee would like to encourage everyone to fill out the form and return it to the box in the foyer by January 15.

Pray with us as we work together to discern a new lead pastor for Tabor Church.

Search committee members:  
Ilona Abrahams, Bill Froese, Carrie Friesen, Rosie Jantz, Carrie Schmidt, Michael Unruh, Bill Voth.