

## November 2007

### “A Moment *To Die For*”

*“Leave her alone. She has done a good thing.” John 12:7*

Hopefully, sometime in your life, you will experience a moment that is more precious than any other – a moment *to die for* as they say. If Jesus were here to share which moment was his most precious, I wonder which one he’d pick. Maybe he would refer to the miracles of healing or feeding the five thousand. Or maybe it would be something with less drama such as his anointing by Mary before his death. After buying an expensive perfume, Mary pours it on Jesus’ feet and cries while wiping his feet with her hair. People in the room became uncomfortable with her gracious gift and rebuked her. Perhaps Jesus experienced a moment in which the giving and receiving of love was extraordinary. Mary didn’t save her best compliments for his burial as was custom in that day. How ironic that she was being rebuked for anointing a “live” person rather than a dead one!

Perhaps we’re no different today. We often save our best compliments for the funeral. By Mary anointing Jesus before his death, she may have been a witness to what the church is all about. Jesus came to build a church that anoints one another with Christ’s love in the present. We commit to a covenant with God and a group of flawed people who agree to journey with one another in the deaths we experience. The church is a starting place where we discern God’s presence. By listening to divine words and celebrating in worship together, we help people understand how God shows up not only within the four walls of our church building, but in our neighbors, friends and strangers we meet during the week. We leave church with what we have learned and go into the world where there is a crying need to find God.

I imagine how pleased Jesus must have been to know that at least one person understood why he came into the world. Ironically, Jesus was willing to die for all of us whether or not we express our thanks. But when we do, it’s a moment that is more precious than any other – a moment *to die for!* May we be a church that anoints one another with Christ’s love.

—Pastor Karen

*Come and Give  
Thanks*

Tabor Mennonite Church  
Thanksgiving Service  
Wednesday, November 21  
Meal: 6:00 p.m.  
Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.

### Worship Themes

#### **November 4** - “Peace Sunday”

Isaiah 1:10-18,

II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12,

Luke 19:1-10 - Corey preaching

#### **November 11** - “Commitment Sunday”

Psalm 103, II Corinthians 2:12-18,

- Karen preaching

Exodus 34:29-35

**November 18** - *"Never Tire of Doing Good"* - II Thessalonians 3:13  
- Doug preaching

**November 25** - *"Forgiveness"*  
Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 103,  
Colossians 3:12-15, Luke 23:33-43  
-Corey preaching

## *Congregational Meeting*

Sunday, November 11

Noon Fundraiser Meal served by Tabor's Youth Fellowship

Meeting Follows

*Your presence and your voice  
are important to the ministries of  
Tabor Mennonite Church.*

*Be part of the inspiration that keeps Tabor vibrant as we look forward to a second  
century of listening to God's call.*

## Tabor Centennial Devotional Book Update

I am excited to report that we have 3 devotionals in for our centennial devotional book, but we need more in order to see this become a reality. Imagine how inspiring it will be to read of how God has worked in the lives of your fellow believers, both in big and small ways. Imagine how it will build our community as we reflect and pray together of God's movement in our midst. Imagine how we will be fed as we share together of God's amazing grace. If you can imagine these things, we will trust that it will happen, but we need your devotionals! Spend some time reflecting or writing them in your Caring Groups. Do one as a family. It doesn't need to be long (around 400 words) but we need them in order to produce a book. Submit your devotionals to Corey's mailbox at church, or if you have a computer, you can email them to Corey at [cmiller@tabormennonite.org](mailto:cmiller@tabormennonite.org). The cutoff date for the devotions will be **February 1**, (that's only 3 months), so I look forward to hearing from you!

## Commitment Sunday

On November 11th, you will have opportunity to share your gifts with the Tabor Congregation for the next year. It is exciting to discern spiritual gifts and then use them for God's glory. We invite you again to reflect on the gifts that God has given you and where God's Spirit is nudging you most to use those gifts within the next year. We will receive them during the worship service.

## Caring Group Ministry

The third annual Caring Group Celebration was held on October 21 with a potluck and entertainment by the "Andrew Sisters" (better known as the Funk sisters). Lots of good food and fellowship was shared by all. To date, there are approximately 140 people involved in this ministry for which we praise God.

## Support groups

Short-term support groups are designed to meet 4-8 weeks at a time. This is for anyone wanting to meet to talk about a certain topic or to share and pray together. If you are interested in starting a group or feel you need such a group, let Pastor Karen or the CG deacons (Phyllis Goertzen & Denise Nickel) know.

## TGYF

October has been another full month for the Tabor youth group kids. We started off the month by meeting in Laura Unruh's pasture around a campfire. We sang songs out there and also had a lesson, followed my s'mores of course! The next Wednesday evening we visited Don Horst's farm to watch a movie on the side of his barn. The youth group also does a service project once a month, and this month we went to Joyful Noise. The youth did various things, from cleaning up toys to making playdough. For our fun night of the month, we went to the Gaeddert Corn Maze last week. November is looking to be another full month, so keep us in your thoughts and prayers!  
—Laura Unruh reporting

## A Letter from James Waltner

Dear family and friends,

It is high time for an update. Since I wrote last, I have experienced some setbacks which temporarily suspended the chemo treatments. During the past month I have spent 16 days in the hospital at three different times. The major problem has been an elevated potassium level, and the doctors are still trying to determine the cause. They are monitoring my blood chemistry every 2-3 days. After my first stint in the hospital, when I had lost my strength to walk, I was released to Greencroft Healthcare for physical therapy. The therapy is going well, and I am regaining strength, including walking with a walker. The schedule calls for resumption of chemo treatments next week.

We enjoyed a visit from JoAn and Maura last weekend. Rachel, Duane, and Elsa arrived yesterday afternoon for the weekend. Tim makes his daily phone calls to us, and is planning the Thanksgiving dinner at our house with Lenore; Sandy; JoAn, Rob, and Maura; Emil, Louise, and Rachel Kreider. I am hoping to be home by Thanksgiving.

Over the past months, we have received hundreds of cards, notes, and emails, sharing the concern and love of family and friends locally and across the country. Particularly meaningful to me have been many expressions of appreciation for the Psalms commentary, and people rejoicing with me that that project was completed before I became ill. In quiet times of day and night, many Psalm verses come to mind. Some verses have a "down side," as Psalm 31:10, in which the psalmist laments what anyone with myeloma might say: "My strength fails because of my misery, as my bones waste away." Fortunately, many Psalm verses have an "up side," as those which open Psalm 103:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits--  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy . . . ."

So we choose to live in hope in the God of steadfast love and faithfulness. Your loving concern is an important part of this hope. Thank you for your ongoing love and encouragement.

—James (email sent by Rachel)

## **Mennonite Church USA**

### **Project director named for health access for church workers**

MC USA Executive Leadership announces that Keith Harder will be the project director for the health access for church workers initiative. Delegates adopted, by a vote of 93%, a resolution calling on the MC USA Executive Board to establish a collaborative process among all parts of MC USA that would result in a plan. Harder's appointment is the first step in following this directive.

The plan would provide health insurance access for all eligible congregational church workers. Current estimates of uninsured pastors range from 65 to 100 of the 1,300 pastors of MC USA. The current focus seeks to establish practices that support congregational leadership and offer an example of mutual aid. In this role, Harder will focus his efforts at being a project developer and leader, as well as a spokesperson for the larger meaning of this initiative. Harder already has established a 12-person reference group that will meet in early October.

"This challenging project provides an opportunity to address the healthcare access needs of pastors and church workers and, in the process, shape what kind of a church we will be in the future," Harder said. "Pray for those of us who will be giving ourselves to this project that we might carefully listen to the church and to God's leading."

*"For three things I thank God every day of my life: thanks that He has granted me knowledge of His works; deep thanks that He has set in my darkness the lamp of faith; deep, deepest thanks that I have another life to look forward to - a life joyous with light and flowers and heavenly song."*

—Helen Keller

## **WDC NEWS**

### **Moving to Ordination: Alberto & Aurora Parchmont!**

Upon the recommendation of Marco Guete, associate conference minister for Texas, the following five church planters' credentials were moved from "commissioning for specialized ministry as church planter" to "licensed toward ordination"--a two-year period of testing and further education before ordination. Those people were: Jorge Quintanilla, Mi Redentor, Dallas; Natavidad Hernandez, Casa de Dios, Dallas; Alberto Parchmont, Casa del Alfarero, Houston; Aurora Parchmont, Neuva Jerusalem, Houston; Feliz Marquez, Rey de Gloria, Dallas. Let us give thanks to God for this tremendous outpouring of leadership and new church development!

### **Conference Library**

Come, celebrate and explore the newly remodeled and expanded WDC Resource Library, Sun., December 2, 4 - 6 pm. A brief program at 4 pm. will be followed by refreshments and story telling, including a reprise of the now famous... Possum Come A Knockin'!

### **Upside Down King musical**

Coming in January 2008! The "Upside Down King" - an upbeat, fun, and powerful re-telling of the life and ministry of Jesus. This original musical, with script by Carol Duerksen and music by Doug & Jude Krehbiel (Road Less Travelled), features a five-member young adult cast, and a live classic rock and roots band. Six presentations will be done throughout Western District Conference in January. Offerings will be taken for WDC youth ministry.

**Study the Minor Prophets** with Dr. Patricia Shelly in North Newton, Jan., 2008. This AMBS-Great Plains class will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings, January 8-24 and Saturdays, Jan. 12 and 19. Details available at 316-283-7098 or [lbarrett@ambs.edu](mailto:lbarrett@ambs.edu).

### **WDC Ski Retreat**

February 1-5, 2008 - Copper Mountain Ski Resort in Colorado. For information, contact Ken Regier, 316-283-5155, ext. 275.

## **Mennonite Heritage Museum**

### **Museum Director Retires**

The Mennonite Heritage Museum Board of Directors announces the retirement of Museum Director, Darlene Schroeder. Darlene shared her talents with the Museum for 10 years. Her passion to preserve our heritage was always obvious and her dedication to the Museum was endless.

the Museum Board welcomes your comments and suggestions as they search for a new Curator. Applicants should be knowledgeable in all aspects of museum management. This is a part-time position. Please send resume to "Curator", P.O. Box 263, Goessel, KS. 67053

### **Crèches of Christmas**

100+ Nativity Scenes November 23, 24, and 25. The Mennonite Heritage Museum will be introducing the holiday season with an elegant display of Christmas Nativities in the Immigrant House. Large, small, old and new, and nativities from around the world will be placed amidst Christmas garland and lights. Enjoy this spectacular event anytime Friday thru Sunday from 1:00 - 7:30 p.m. Admission by donation.

Special activities on Sun., Nov. 25 at the Prep School:  
3:00 p.m. -- Reception honoring Darlene Schroeder's retirement. 3:30 p.m. -- Christmas Vespers around the pump organ. Offering will benefit the museum.

### **Museum Receives Award**

The Mennonite Heritage Museum in Goessel has been chosen to receive the 2007 Kansas Museums Association Award of Excellence for the temporary exhibit, "Immigrant Ships: the S.S. Cimbria & S.S. Teutonia" at the KMA Annual Meeting in Emporia on Nov. 9. If you haven't seen the exhibit there's still time to see it. The museum will be open Tues. to Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. through Nov. 30. Closed on Mondays and Thanksgiving Day.

## **Greetings from Daniel Unruh**

This past September, I traveled along with my research group from Notre Dame to Russia to present at a conference on the Structural Chemistry of Actinide and Lanthanide Inorganic Compounds in Tsarskoe Selo, outside of St. Petersburg. For the conference we stayed and presented in a palace known as Kochubey's House. The conference center was across the street from the park and summer palace of the Tsars, built primarily during the reign of Catherine the Great. While we were in Russia we also did a little sight seeing in St. Petersburg and Moscow. We toured the Kremlin, Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, St. Isaac's Cathedral, The Hermitage, and Church of the Savior on Blood. In the picture from left to right, graduate students Ginger Sigmon, Amanda Klingensmith, and myself are standing in Red Square with St. Basil's Cathedral in the background. One interesting mosaic I came across in St. Isaac's Cathedral depicts Jesus at the last supper blessing what appears to be a zwieback. (*see bulletin board for picture*) Overall, I had a great time in Russia interacting with locals and learning about a different culture. I'll hopefully be home for Christmas break and can expand on this brief overview.

Take Care, Daniel Unruh

## ***The Mennonite - TMail***

*The Mennonite* is excited to announce the creation of *TMail*, an e-zine supplement to *The Mennonite*. A subscription to *The Mennonite* is not necessary in order to receive *TMail*. By signing up for *TMail* online, weekly updates containing articles from recent issues of *the Mennonite*, pieces that expand on those articles and blogs from young adult readers, will be emailed directly to you. *TMail* also makes reading complete issues of *The Mennonite* a simple task with links to the Web site at your fingertips.

Flyers with more information on *TMail* are on the table in the church foyer. Pick on up and go with *TMail*!

# Offender / Victim Ministries

OVM which sponsors the Prison Arts Project at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility invites your presence at these two events:

**The Rock Castle Male Chorus** under the direction of Marles Preheim will present a varied program of sacred and secular selections on Sunday evening, November 11 at 7:30 pm in the Central Unit auditorium. The chorus is comprised of HCF inmates and volunteer singers from the surrounding area. Guest instrumentalists will also be featured on the program.

**The Rock Castle Drama Troupe**, directed by John McCabe Juhnke, will perform on Sunday evening, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. On the program is *Poor Fellas*, that consists of six short tragicomedies. The other is *The Meeting*, which depicts the fictionalized meeting between Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King.

For more information and to get your name on the guest list, call Offender/Victim Ministries: 316-283-2038 before Wednesday of each performance.

## **TABOR Mennonite Men Chicken Barbecue**

**THURSDAY, NOV. 11,  
5 TO 8 P.M.**