

October 2007

**“The privilege of looking back . . .
and looking ahead”**

“Now therefore revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity . . .”

- Joshua 24:14a

We are almost one year away from our centennial anniversary weekend at Tabor Mennonite Church. 100 years old! 100 years is a major accomplishment for an individual, a business and certainly for a church. Soon, Tabor will be able to join Susan Schmidt as a fellow centurion and we trust that there also will be cake!

Centennials require a lot of work and energy from a lot of people. It is my hope that it will be well worth our time to celebrate the past and embrace the future. Church centennials give congregations the unique opportunity to reflect on what has been, what is and what will be.

At 99 and holding, Tabor enjoys the tremendous privilege in being able to look back at the past. Old photos remind us of the changes. Memories of significant events are forever locked in our hearts. Stories passed down through time have shaped and influenced us to this day. Looking back is not just a trip down nostalgia lane; it is a privilege of seeing how God has been leading us all along. Knowing our history helps us to know who we are.

In the same way, it also is a privilege to look ahead. Being alive allows us to look ahead. Tabor is more than just alive; Tabor is doing very well, thriving in many areas actually. Our ‘aliveness’ helps us to look ahead as we anticipate and dream and plan for a future where Christ already is at. Plans are underway to help us plan into the future so we can continue to faithfully proclaim God’s good news here and around the world.

In the month of October, I will be preaching on Joshua 24, our text for the centennial and I will be inviting us all to reflect on how we can “Celebrate the past and Embrace the future.” With Israel, we at Tabor will be asked to remember how “*God brought us and our ancestors out . . .*” and to choose whether we will serve the Lord in our future.

Being able to participate with God in God’s unfolding vision for Tabor Mennonite in the future is a privilege we don’t take lightly. Let us fully enter into all that God has for us in this important year!

—Pastor Corey

Worship Themes

October 7 - *"Celebrating the Past"*
communion, Joshua 24:1-13
- Corey preaching

October 14 - *"Surveying the Present"*
Joshua 24:14-21
- Corey preaching

October 21 - *"Embracing the Future"* Joshua 24:22-28
- Corey preaching

October 28 - *"Bethel College Sunday"*

Faith Exploration

For a month now, a group of our high schoolers have been meeting to explore their faith formation and perspectives. **Laura Unruh** (John and Elaine), **Hayden Goerzen** (Brian and Wendy), **Kristin Unruh** (Fred and Diane), **Monica Voth** (Brian and Gayle) and **James Goerzen** (Les and Cynthia) are all participants in the class that is exploring who God is, what being a Christian means, and what does baptism signify. Please pray for these students and their families as they all reflect on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Devotional Book for Centennial!

To help celebrate Tabor's Centennial on October 10-12, 2008, we are hoping to create a devotional booklet that will be written by YOU! We are inviting all Tabor attenders to write a short devotional (around 400 words) that might include a personal story, a scripture text and some reflections on that text and your story. If you are feeling inspired, we invite you to submit more than one. When the devotions are all collected, we will edit them and compile them into a booklet, which will be made available to you to read and enjoy. The purpose of this book is to hear from each other how God is moving in our midst. You can submit any devotions to Corey's mailbox at church, or if you have a computer, you can email them to Corey at cmiller@tabormennonite.org. The cutoff date for the devotions will be **February 1**, so blessings to you as you write and we trust that God will be glorified in this and the body built up!

Men's Morning Bible Study

On October 6, the men's Bible Study will begin again at 7:00am in Corey's office. This year the Bible Study group is going to help plan three breakfasts that ALL Tabor men are invited to participate in. I would extend an invitation to all men who are seeking to grow in studying the Bible and following Jesus to join us in Corey's office. Let's outgrow this area this year!

Caring Group Ministry

Caring group ministry is looking forward to the annual Caring Group Celebration to be held October 21 at noon. Anyone currently in a caring group is welcome to come and bring your families. We ask that you bring your plates/silverware/cups to this potluck meal so that we don't have to spend time doing dishes later. Drinks will be provided. We are excited to have special entertainment this year. Rollin Schmidt will be providing music after the meal. Donations will be accepted. Ya'll come!

A chance to say “*I do*”

On October 28, you will find Tabor’s annual commitment sheets in your mailbox. We invite you again to reflect on the gifts that God has given you & where God’s Spirit is nudging you most to use those gifts within the next year. Prayerfully reflect on these gifts and share your ideas with family members, Caring Groups and Sunday school classes. We will receive them during the worship on November 11th, the date of our annual meeting!

Budget Planning Workshop (and Pizza Party)

On October 28, the Tabor Church Council is inviting the congregation to a noon dinner where we will eat pizza and discuss how much money we need to do God’s work here at Tabor and around the world. Please come and join us and be prepared to multitask (eat and look at numbers)! We look forward to seeing you there.

Supper

Meals will again be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. and are for everyone to enjoy. Volunteer to help with the cooking and if you can, take a turn at helping with the cleanup. Be sure to sign up for the meal on the sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Children’s Activities

FaithWeaver Friends is again offered for children in grades 2-5. This has been a very popular program with children and we are looking forward to a full hour of activities, learning and fun again this year!

New this year will be Junior FaithWeaver Friends for children ages 3 to 1st grade. Led by Kim Funk, we look forward to following the same themes that the older children will study & activities that younger children especially will enjoy. We are excited about this opportunity to guide children in learning faith stories from the Bible with activities to reinforce the truths we discover.

Youth Groups

Faith Explorers for grades 6-8 is back and will again be lead by Pastor Corey. Joining Corey with the evening studies and activities will be Michael Unruh. This group is both challenged and energized by its leaders, and its leaders by the group—interaction is the key and jr. high kids love it!

TGYF has already been meeting, and when you read their monthly report below, you will know that if you are in high school, TGYF is the place to be on Wednesday evenings.

Adult Bible Study

The theme for Adult Bible Study will be “Jesus’ Healing Ministry.” We will explore the healing stories of Jesus in the Bible and their application for today. Nearly one-fifth of the entire gospels are devoted to narratives and discussions of healing. Various resources will be used but we will begin with *Journey Toward Wholeness, Reclaiming the Healing Ministry of Jesus*. This video series is recommended by MCC and speaks to biblical concepts of healing and wholeness. Adults of all ages are welcome. Please join us.

Music for Everyone

Tabor is so blessed to have three choirs to enhance our worship times as well as the worship teams that regularly lead singing. All three of our choirs and the worship teams will meet on Wednesdays for practices. Bless and be blessed by joining a Tabor choir. You are also welcome to join the adult worship team. A bass guitar player, bass and tenor vocals are especially encouraged. Come join us!

TGYF

The TGYF officially kicked off the year on the 19th of September with a meeting in the park. We started off by electing the new officers for the year, who are as follows:

President: Anna Unruh, Vice President: Kristin Unruh, Treasurer: Michelle Unruh, Reporter: Laura Unruh, Photographer: Leah Unruh, Sophomore Rep: Monica Voth, and Guy Rep: Nathan Ensz.

After elections, we had our annual kickoff water fight, which is always fun. All of us ended up soaked! We followed with an Exec meeting to plan and discuss TGYF topics, events, and themes. We ask for your prayers and support as we begin another year! Laura Unruh-Reporter

Mennonite Church USA

Project director named for health access for church workers

Mennonite Church 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 percent, a resolution calling on the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board to establish a collaborative process among all parts of Mennonite Church 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 Mennonite Church 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."

Bethesda's Nineteenth Annual Pillars Banquet

November 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Cross Wind Conference Center near Hesston
Punch bowl/informal social time-6pm.

Featuring: "Five Times Harder"

An event for all ages!

Contributions of \$125 per person or \$150 per person may be given to Bethesda Board Members or the Bethesda Home Business office.

(Contributions of \$100 per person are also acceptable.) All proceeds from the benefit meal/program go toward the "**Building Community & Changing Lives**" campaign.

Your support is appreciated.

VALET PARKING will be provided!

(Just drive up to the front door. Your car will be parked for you, and will be brought back to the front door for you after the banquet.)

Pillars Banquet contributions may be given to Angie Duerksen, John Goerzen, or Bonnie Janzen – or call Bethesda to make your reservations.

AGAPE Senior Center

The Agape Senior Center in Goessel will be serving a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice and coffee on Sat., October 13, from 7:30 to 9am. This is a fundraiser for the painting of the ceiling at the Senior Center. All are welcome.

October 18, 7pm The Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice will be giving a program at the Agape Senior Center.

They have a strong commitment to providing education on dying, death, related loss and medical issues. Programs are free of charge, donations are graciously accepted. The speaker will also have some music to share. You are invited to the 6pm potluck meal preceding the program.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS at Tabor Mennonite Church *Beginning October 3, 2007*

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Supper for Everyone - *sign up for meal*

6:45 - 7:00 p.m.

Supper Cleanup

6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Children of Light Choir Practice *gr. 3-8*

6:45 - 7:15 p.m.

Sonbeams Choir Practice *ages 4-gr. 2*

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Adult Bible Study

Tabor Goessel Youth Fellowship *HS*

7:15 - 8:00 p.m.

Worship Team Practice

7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Junior Faith Weaver Friends *ages 3-gr. 1*

Faith Weaver Friends *gr. 2-5*

Youth Explorers *gr. 6-8*

8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Adult Choir

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!