



Saying good-bye to Pastor Karen

Tabor Church News

February, 2013

“Journeying toward Jerusalem”

"Listen to me carefully. **We're on our way up to Jerusalem.** When we get there, the Son of Man will be betrayed to the religious leaders and scholars. They will sentence him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Romans, who will mock and spit on him, give him the third degree, and kill him" (Mark 10:33-34a, Message).

Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent, lands on February 13 this year. The season of Lent includes the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays), and it is a season of repentance and preparation before we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. In other words, Lent is a 40-day journey with Jesus to the cross.

We as a community have been going through the Gospel of Mark. Thus far, we have been speeding through the first half of Mark's Gospel, experiencing Jesus as the one who calls disciples, teaches in parables, heals those who are sick, and performs miracles. Then in chapter 8, verse 29, Peter rightly declares Jesus to be the Messiah, and at this point, Jesus sets out with his disciples on a journey toward Jerusalem. Along the way, Jesus teaches them what it really means to follow God's Messiah. During the season of Lent, we will enter into this same journey. We will slow down the pace and reflect more deeply on what it means for us to faithfully follow God's Messiah today.

During Lent, many people are in the practice of giving something up, such as chocolate or TV. Giving up things like these can help us simplify our lives. However, Lent is not simply an excuse to start a new diet. Rather, the practice of giving something up is for a specific purpose: leaving room in our lives to be filled with more of God.

Therefore, as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and learn again what it means to be faithful disciples, let us take the opportunity to let go of something that is holding us back from fully embracing God's kingdom. Some of us might still let go of chocolate or TV. Others of us might let go of Facebook. Take some time to consider what is holding you back and therefore what you can let go of during Lent.

After we have chosen what to let go of, let us then be open to embracing more of God. Without so much TV to watch, we will be able to spend a night serving at the homeless shelter. Without so much Facebook to grab our attention, we will be able to reflect on more Scripture. Without (fill in the blank) we will have fresh opportunity for God to fill our lives.

The journey of Lent is not without hope. Jesus' journey did not end at the cross. As we journey together, may we remember that God longs for us to fully become the people that God has created us to be. God longs to fill us with new life.

The journey ahead reminds me of the song, *"Come, walk with us:"*

"Come, walk with us, the journey is long.
Share our burden, and join in the song.
Come, uplift us and bring us new life.
Give us peace when the journey is done."

Yes, the journey is long and there are many burdens that we will carry. Yet the journey is one that leads us to new life and to God's kingdom of peace. After all, don't forget the end of the Scripture quoted above: **"After three days he will rise alive"** (Mark 10:34b).

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 13

On Ash Wednesday, we will gather as a community for worship. Supper will be served at 6pm. After supper, we will gather in the sanctuary for a worship service to commemorate the beginning of our Lenten journey. This will be an intergenerational service for all ages, however activities for children under 2nd grade will continue as normal.

- ♦ Supper served at 6pm
- ♦ Service in Sanctuary from 6:35-7:20pm
 - +Children in grades 2 on up will participate in the service
 - +Doug & High Schoolers will provide music
- ♦ Students in grades 2-8 will reflect on the Ash Wednesday service from 7:20-7:40pm and then have choir rehearsal until 8 or 8:10pm
- ♦ Adult Choir will practice from 7:30-8:30pm





Worship Themes

Feb. 3 - Healings

Mark 5:21-43

Pastor Phil preaching

Feb. 10 - Miracles

Mark 6:30-52

Pastor Phil preaching

Feb. 13 - Ash Wednesday Journey to Jerusalem

Mark 8:27-9:1

Feb. 17 - Lent 1: Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-13

Pastor Phil preaching

Feb. 24 - Lent 2: Who is the Greatest?

Mark 9:30-37

Pastor Doug preaching

March 3 - Lent 3: Receiving the Kingdom

Mark 10:13-16

Pastor Phil preaching

March 10 - Lent 4: Jesus' Glory

Mark 10:32-45

Pastor Phil preaching

March 17 - Lent 5: True Discipleship

Mark 10:46-52

Pastor Phil preaching

March 24 - Lent 6: Palm Sunday

Hosanna!

Mark 11:1-11

Pastor Phil preaching

March 28 - Holy Thursday: Faithfulness vs. Unfaithfulness

Mark 13:32-37; 14:17-25,32-42,
53-72;15:1-5

Communion

March 29 - Good Friday

Goessel Mennonite Church

March 31 - Easter Sunday:

Jesus Has Risen!

Mark 16:1-8 Pastor

Pastor Phil preaching

Coming in March ~ Sister Care & Men's Study

A Sister Care Sunday School elective and another elective for men will be offered in the spring quarter, beginning in March.

The S.S. elective offered for Women will focus on self-care. When we do this we can learn to care for others as well. The material that will be used has been written by Rhoda Shenk Keener, Carolyn Holderread Heggen and Ruth Lapp Guengerich, sponsored by Mennonite Women USA.

Sister Care, Equipping Women for a Caring Ministry, will give you tools to care for yourself and others. There is a sign up sheet posted. The class will be taught by a team that has attended a Sister Care seminar. If you have questions, direct to Denise Nickel.

The elective for men will be a study based on the book "Under Construction: Reforming Men's Spirituality" by Gareth Brandt. Details of this study will be coming soon.

Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

After Christmas break, the TMYF started off January with a parents' and youth meeting to hear information, sign forms and make preparations for this summer's national convention in Phoenix. The TMYF has done several fund raisers and is planning more to help cover the expenses of this exciting and inspirational gathering that we attend once every four years. Ten youth and three adults from the TMYF are planning to go. Many thanks to our youth sponsors, and our supporting congregation who's hard work and contributions all help make convention a reality. We started our second semester of Wednesday night meetings with pizza and game night in the fellowship hall. Most of the youth played a spirited game of *Apples to Apples*. Our Wednesday night sessions have covered seeing peace in the image of Christ and putting God at the top of our "bucket list". The youth worship band is learning new music and rehearsing regularly to gear up for song leading on Ash Wednesday and Youth Sunday. The band warmed up by backing Sarah Booth's special music during a recent Sunday worship. The TMYF would also like to sincerely thank the trustees and others who helped install the splatter-painted panels in the youth room. We have heard several compliments.

—TMYF Reporter



College Student Care Packages

Remember our College Students in February. Bring a package for a specific student in a 1-gallon size zip-lock bag labeled with their name OR just bring items & place on table north of kitchen. The committee will make care packages. Bring your contribution before noon on February 10.

Willing Helpers

Willing Helpers met on Wednesday, January 16 for a project work day. Members worked together tying blankets, embroidering tea towels and cleaning and organizing the storage closet. The business meeting included installation of the 2013 officers and Joyce Watts led a study on Amos 1-2.

Saturday, January 19 Willing Helpers sponsored a "Craft Day for MCC." Ladies of the church gathered to make "Button Shirt Pillows", "Coffee Bean Tea Lights", and "Tea Cup Pincushions". The items made will be donated to the MCC Sale in April. Flavored coffee, tea and refreshments were served.



Please help with our special projects. Remember to save "Box Tops for Education," for Goessel Elementary School, cancelled stamps sent to Christian and Mission Alliance in Latin America and "Labels for Education" sent to the Hopi Indian School in Arizona. See the poster on the bulletin board for more information about the special projects



Pastor Karen along with Marcene Entz, Krista Graber and Eunice Nickel share a Skit: "The Perfect Church" on Pastor Karen's last Sunday at Tabor.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

"Relief, Peace and Development in the name of Christ"

"For we are what he had made us, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2:10

Coming: April 12 & 13, 2013

Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson

Sponsored by Kansas Mennonite, Mennonite Brethren and Amish Churches to benefit Mennonite Central Committee



Special Giving Opportunity: Did you know that the new tax law approved by Congress on January 1, 2013 allows each IRA owner to give up to \$100,000 during 2013 from your IRA accounts to a qualified charity, such as our church? This is a tax free gift and is not included in your adjusted gross income. It can also count as your Required Minimum Distribution for the year. You must be at least 70½ years of age, and make a written request for a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA provider. Contact Lewis Unruh, Tabor's Everence advocate, or our Everence advisors at any of our four locations in Kansas [877.467.7294](tel:877.467.7294) for more information.



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Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Bertha (Ewert) Nickel, daughter of John and Bertha (Wiebe) Ewert, was born on November 24, 1923 at home on the family farm in the Hillsboro-Lehigh area. She was the youngest sibling, following Daniel and Ruth. She remembered playing in a sand pile under a shady mulberry tree, with purple hands and feet, and learning to bake bread - no measuring - adding flour until her hands were clean. Outdoor chores were preferred, including weeding the garden and flower beds; she liked the farm horses and cows, but not so much the chickens.



By the time she started at the French Creek country school, she was fluent in German and English and became an avid reader. Bertha competed in county spelling bee contests and often brought home a ribbon. In high school she began violin lessons and became the small orchestra concertmeister. College life began at Tabor College and then transferred to Bethel College where she worked in the business office and sang in the college choir. Here she met her future husband, Arnold Nickel.

After graduating with a degree in English literature (minor in business), she taught for two years at the Freeman Junior Academy. Bertha married Arnold on June 10, 1947 (sister Ruth sewed the wedding dress). Both attended the Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Chicago and then accepted a call to the Donnellson Mennonite Church in Iowa. Following their time in Donnellson they accepted a call to Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, NE. Bertha maintained an active role in the church community in addition to the arrival and care of four children - Leo, Harriet, Elton and Donovan. The family spent a year with the Bethany Mennonite Church in Freeman and then moved to a pastorate at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, in the fall of 1957. Bertha again was active in many aspects of the church from Sunday School to hosting visiting pastors and missionaries.

In 1966 Bertha began her 22 year teaching career at Hesston High School in the English and business department. She spent many a late night grading essays and tests and preparing lesson plans to challenge her students, and she was always available to critique her children's homework. During this time she also received her Masters at K-State.

After Arnold died unexpectedly in 1971, Bertha now had sole responsibility for the household. Life was full with her children in school, teaching responsibilities, and church commitments. She had always enjoyed traveling - typically camping trips when the children were young. She would tell stories of holding cloth diapers out the car window to dry. The trips expanded to visiting Elton and Denise in Lesotho during their MCC assignment, group tours of England and Switzerland, and a bus trip with her Mother to Texas to visit Ruth and Ernst Harder.

Grandchildren (and more recently great-grandchildren) were always the delight of Bertha's life. In late 1989 she moved to Greeley, CO, and enjoyed spending time with Andrea, Bethany and Breanna, whether it was a hike in the mountains or teaching piano lessons. She treasured heading to S. Dakota to care for Pam, Kevin and Kenton while their parents led camping trips, enjoying swimming to playing ball to baking cookies. In recent years, Sam and Sophia, Corynn and Stephan would bring smiles and laughter into her life with toys hidden in the closet.

When tending the flowers and dandelions in Greeley became a challenge, Bertha moved to Meadowlane Street (Bethesda duplex) in Goessel. The box garden was perfect for tomato plants, and there was a spot for the iris bulbs she had transplanted from KS to CO and back to KS. She loved the open fields nearby and the birds that stopped to feed. But mostly she enjoyed visits from family and friends and getting acquainted with her new church home at Tabor Mennonite Church.

Abiding faith, prayer and active church roles were always an essential part of Bertha's life. When challenges seemed overwhelming, she would find solace and guidance through prayer. She would comment that her Mother had memorized scripture passages and hymns to bring her comfort; Bertha did likewise. She felt passionate about giving thanks for the many blessings in her life and about supporting her church family as well as the MCC mission.

After spending the day with family, Bertha left her earthly home the evening of December 26, 2012. We know she would want to say thank you to everyone who has enriched her 89 years.