



*May Focus: Parables of Dr. Seuss*

# Tabor Church News

June, 2013

## “Centered on Jesus ”

“This, then, is how you should pray:  
‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be  
Your name, your kingdom come, your  
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...’”

(Matthew 6:9-10)



## Worship Themes

**June 2 - Celebrating Pentecost**  
- **Installation and Licensing**  
of Pastor Rosie

- **VBS Dedication**

Luke 11:1-13; Acts 2:1-13

Pastor Phil preaching

**June 9 - VBS - “Breathe It In:  
God Gives Life”**

**June 16 - Centered on Jesus:  
Scripture**

John 5:39; Luke 24:13-35

Pastor Phil preaching

**June 23 - Centered on Jesus:  
Community**

Mark 3:31-35

Pastor Phil preaching

**June 30 - Centered on Jesus:  
Peace**

Musical Sermon

Pastor Doug and

Jude Krehbiel

I am a Christian. I am an Anabaptist. I am a Mennonite.

These three facets of my identity are held together by one core conviction: **my life is centered on Jesus**. Jesus teaches me how to understand God, Scripture, myself, and the world that we live in. Even more, Jesus teaches me how to follow God’s priorities as I go about living my life. Jesus teaches me to be a part in helping God’s kingdom come to the earth.

As Anabaptist, Mennonite Christians, Jesus is the center of all that we are, all that we believe, and all that we do. Jesus is the one who brings unity in the midst of a culture of divisiveness. Jesus is the one who brings peace and forgiveness in a world full of violence and hatred. Jesus is the one who empowers us to live as God’s children, agents of God’s Spirit, and members of God’s kingdom.

*Jesus is the center  
of all that we are,  
all that we believe,  
and all that we do.*

In the face of all of life’s questions, we must turn to Jesus. Jesus will teach us to respond faithfully to each question even if we never all agree on the “right” answer.

This summer (June-July), we at Tabor Mennonite Church are going to focus our Sunday Worship Services on Jesus as we explore a variety of topics that are central to our Church’s Anabaptist heritage. As we look at Jesus, we can more fully understand Scripture, Community, Peace, Immigration, Voluntary Service, God, and the Holy Spirit. Looking at each of these topics through the “Jesus Lens” will inspire us to follow Jesus more faithfully as individuals, as families, and as a church community.

Therefore, as we center our attention on Jesus, may God inspire us all to live Jesus-centered lives. And as we continue living Jesus-centered lives, God’s kingdom will truly come to the earth. May it be so.

~Pastor Phil



## Events in May



***PCPF ~ Post College Pre Family  
gathering at the Tabor Church Park***



***Graduate and Exchange Student  
Recognition***



***Teacher Appreciation***

## Willing Helpers

Willing Helpers met on Monday, May 20 for an evening meeting. Carrie Unruh led devotions - "Seek the Lord and Live" from Amos 5, 14 and 15. She used a magnifying glass, flashlight and a candle to illustrate how we can seek God's will for our life and seek ways to enter into God's presence for guidance and instruction in our daily life. We sat quietly to focus on these challenges. Denise Nickel, board member of Mennonite Women USA, shared her experiences as a board member and explained some of the ministries Mennonite Women USA is involved with. The ministries include Sister Care Seminars, *Timbrel* Magazine, Women in Conversation, International Women's fund and Retreats. Darlene Schroeder provided piano music for the offering. Ruth Peters showed us comfort tops that were donated to Willing Helpers from a community member. All women enjoyed a time of fellowship with refreshments provided by the Social committee. Willing Helpers will not meet in June. Wednesday, July 17 from 9:30 - 3:00 is the next meeting - a work day at the MCC Center in North Newton. All Tabor women are invited to share in all or part of this fun day.

—Joyce Ashley

## Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship

This May we closed out our sessions with a lesson about Leaving our Blindness Behind and Taking our Gifts Forward. After a blind trust exercise we looked at the story of blind Bartimaeus from Mark 10. Pastor Phil then shared his personal journey to become a pastor. We had a ceremony of burning slips of paper that symbolized our "blindness" that we want to leave behind and picking a rock that symbolized our gifts that we want to take forward as we seek to follow Jesus. The next Wednesday we had our end of the season party complete with wieners, s'mores, and volleyball in Tabor Park. It was a perfect evening. We had no seniors in TMYF this year but had to say farewell to four exchange students- Amelie, Bjorn, Giuli and Jenny. There was a Sunday morning blessing and sending time where we gave these students bibles or hymnbooks with their names imprinted on them. The students shared what they appreciated about Tabor and where they are going next. We ended the ceremony with a song of blessing. It was great to have these folks in our group and we wish them well.

## Camp WaShunGa!

What do you get when you mix 24 Junior High Students, 7 adult leaders, a school bus, a swimming pool, lots of food, singing, input, campfires, and a lack of sleep?

Fun? Chaos? Friendships? Lots of energy? Spiritual depth?

Yes...to all of those.

This past weekend, I had the honor of attending Camp WaShunGa. While my role was to provide spiritual input for the weekend, I also enjoyed every opportunity I had to join in group activities, to chat one-on-one with Jr. Highers, to sing along to fun camp songs, and to pray with kids late into Sunday night. The whole experience was a blast!

Sometimes people say, "what happens at camp stays at camp." This does not need to be true for Camp WaShuga; if you'd like to know more about the weekend, feel free to ask Josh Schmidt, Karina Brandt, Olivia Duerksen, or myself. We'd love to share our fun experiences and stories with you!

-Pastor Phil



## Coming Events

- July 1-6 - Mennonite Church USA Assembly, Phoenix, AZ
- Aug 1-2 - WDC ~ Year of the Bible Launch, Bethel College
- Aug 2-3 - WDC Annual Assembly 2013, "Shaped by God's Story" Bethel College, North Newton



## Everence

*Getting ready to retire?* Everence Financial will present an informational seminar, "Retiring soon? An introduction to Medicare and Social Security" the first Tuesday of June, July and August. (4 and 7 p.m.) Everence Financial Advisor Robert Wall will speak on Medicare and Social Security, provide instructions on how to enroll, explain how continuing to work affects your benefits and answer related questions. The seminar will be held at Trinity Mennonite Church, 211 S. Elm St., Hillsboro. To reserve your spot, contact Darlene Buller at 877-467-7294 or [darlene.bullet@everence.com](mailto:darlene.bullet@everence.com).

## Youth Venture ~ Help Raise Funds for Service Trip

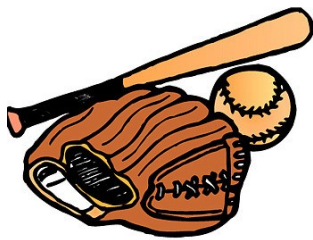
¡Perros Calientes en el Parque!

On July 10, I will be traveling to Barranquilla, Colombia with 3 other young adults and two leaders, Graham and Rachel Unruh. This mission trip is sponsored by Youth Venture, a voluntary service program of Mennonite Mission Network. I would appreciate your prayers and support as I prepare for this exciting trip to South America. To help raise funds for this mission trip I will be serving a meal in the park on June 23rd. I invite you and your family to come out and enjoy our attempt at some authentic Colombian street food, perros calientes (hot dogs)! We will have a variety of toppings that make these much more than your typical American hot dog. We will be grilling hot dogs from 6:00 to 7:30 pm so feel free to come and go as you please. Bring your lawn chairs and your appetite for a relaxing and fun filled evening. Table service will be provided. Hope to see you there!

-Leah Unruh

## Afternoon at the ball park!

The quarterly fellowship committee will be hosting an afternoon of Wichita Wingnuts baseball at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>! The game begins at 3:16 p.m., so bring your family, your friends, and your baseball gloves for a time of fun and fellowship as the Wingnuts take on the Saints of St. Paul. General Admission tickets are just \$6.00, and the quarterly fellowship committee will be covering half the ticket price! Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. You may also contact Phil Unruh at 316-284-1907 or [philip.unruh@usd460.org](mailto:philip.unruh@usd460.org) to sign up or if you have any questions. See you at the stadium!



*"Did all the animals enter Noah's Ark in pairs?  
No, the worms went in apples."*



## Vacation Bible School

at

## Tabor Church

June 3 ~ 7

## VBS Program and Picnic

June 9

## Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Charles David Unruh was born on March 19, 1928, in Newton Kansas. He was the middle of three children born to Bernhard (Ben) and Margaret (Klassen) Unruh. He was baptized upon confession of faith and received into membership at Tabor Mennonite Church on June 9, 1946, by Rev. H. B. Schmidt and was a lifelong member of Tabor. He faithfully attended church nearly every Sunday throughout his life and was an active participant in the activities of the church.

Dora Ruth Goertzen joined Charles for a life of marriage on January 24, 1953, at Tabor Mennonite Church, and they raised three sons on the farm. After he was married, Charles lived his whole life a mile from where he grew up except for serving in I-W service from 1955-1957. Rev. H.B. Schmidt encouraged the church membership to live their beliefs. Though he wasn't drafted, he moved his wife and infant son to Denver, CO, for service. He served as a maintenance worker in Colorado General Hospital.



When he started his education at Walton school, where he attended grades 1-12, Charles had to learn English because he only knew Low German from home. By his junior and senior year, he was driving the school bus part-time. After he returned from I-W service, he resumed driving bus for Walton, and later the Newton School District for many years.

He was a lifetime farmer, stockman, and soil conservation contractor, but he was also very involved in community projects. Where the family lived allowed Charles to stay involved in several communities, with the boys going to school in Peabody, church in the Goessel community, and the co-op in Walton. He helped organize the Doyle Creek Watershed for flood control along the length of Doyle Creek, and he served on the watershed board for many years. Charles served on the board of the Farmers Grain Coop for 21 years. One of the perks of serving on this board was the bonus trips with Dora to places such as the Bahamas and Mexico. They left the capable boys at home to run the farm, even the winter it was 20 degrees below zero plus wind chill at home while they were in Hawaii. Another way to stay involved in the Walton community was with the Walton Lions Club, where he participated for many years and held various offices.

Charles was often trying to push the boundaries of farming and saw the value of taking good care of the land by building terraces, grass waterways and many ponds. He built his first terraces with small equipment, like a one-way, a blade and a plow, but it eventually led to his purchase of a large scraper. His passion turned into a business building waterways, ponds, and probably over 400 miles of terraces in the area. While driving in the area, he would often point out fields that he had built terraces on to Dora as they drove by, and comment on how they still seemed to be working fine. He owned the second large round baler in Kansas and did custom baling within a 25 mile radius. He grew cotton for many years and enjoyed telling people about the unique crop. He thought the conservation aspects of no-till farming made it a good option for his farm.

Charles spent the last four months of his life in Bethesda home, where he and Dora celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. He leaves behind his wife Dora, three sons and their wives: Lewis and Carrie, Harlin and Doris, James and Karen, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

### *My Father*

*I took for granted all his kindly ways;  
I only knew I like him best of all,  
and that the days with him were golden days,  
but he was big, and I so very small.  
I never guessed why he should care to be  
the chum of mine he was -so long ago;  
the future dreams he dreamed I could not know.*

*But he is gone, and I am older grown,  
as old as he was then; and, oh, I know  
just what he dreamed of when we were alone,  
and why he seemed always to love me so.  
Today, ah, could I only call him there,  
I feign would tell him that I tried to be  
the man he dreamed of when his boy stood there -  
am I, I wonder, what he longed to see?*

*-Edgar A. Guest*

*Thanks  
Dad!*

