



TMYF Fall Kickoff

Tabor Church News

October, 2013

“Living the Questions Now”

“My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.
Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

(Job 42:6)

Worship Themes

Oct. 6 - The Exodus

**Worldwide Communion Sunday*

Exodus 1-15;
Exodus 1:1-22; 2:23-24;
3:1-22; 12:1-42

Pastor Phil preaching

Oct. 13— Covenant at Mount Sinai

Exodus 19-24;
Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-21

Pastor Rosie preaching

Oct. 20 - Covenant Worship

Leviticus 1-27;
Leviticus 1:1-6:7; 23:1-44:25:1-54

Pastor Phil preaching

Oct. 27 - Wilderness Wanderings

Exodus 15-18; Numbers 1-36;
Exodus 15:22-17:16
Numbers 11:4-35; 21:1-35

Pastor Phil Preaching



Faith Formation

Adults: Prayer: Pastor Rosie's Office
Bible Study: Rm. 113 and 211
Discussion: Rm. 112
Visual Arts: Library
Peace: Pastor Phil's Office
Drama: Sanctuary, stage area

Junior High: Rm. 210

High School: Rm. 14-15

1st-5th Grade: Rm. 11-12

Preschool & Kindergarten: Rm. 13

Wee Wonder: Rm. 10

One book of the Bible that we won't spend much time reflecting on during our Year of the Bible is the book of Job. Yet Job is an important book. Job is a book full of questions, many of which come from Job himself and are directed toward God. Some people summarize Job's questions into one key question: "Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?" Perhaps this is a question you have considered as well, and you are not alone. When we search the Scriptures, especially the book of Psalms, we hear many people questioning God. "Where are you in the midst of my trouble?"

As we reflect on these kinds of questions throughout Scripture, one thing we can learn is that it is important not to hide from these kinds of questions. Rather, we must ask them directly to God. When we do so, it doesn't mean that we think we are more righteous than God, but rather that we authentically want to know the truth. We want to sense God's presence. We want closer relationship with the living God.


Asking these kinds of questions is a key aspect of our Year of the Bible. As we study different sections of Scripture we want to constantly be asking the following three questions:

- What is the sin problem?
- What is God doing to solve the sin problem?
- How faithfully are God's people cooperating?

Furthermore, if we take a note from Job and many others who have learned to honestly question God, we will directly ask these same questions to God about our situation today:

- God, what is the sin problem in our world today?
- What are you doing all around us to solve the sin problem?
- How faithfully are we cooperating with what you are doing?

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Year of the Bible
READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT

Tabor Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscoah



Join us Wednesday evenings at Tabor Mennonite Church starting October 9



- 5:15-6 p.m. **Adult Bible Study**
- 6-6:45 p.m. **Supper**
- 6:30-6:50p.m. **Sonbeams Choir** (age 3-grade 2)
- 6:30-6:45 p.m. **Music** (grades 3-8)
- 6:40-7:40 p.m. **Faithful Fitness**
- 6:45-8 p.m. **Youth Explorers** (grades 6-8)
- Faith Adventures** (grades 3-5)
- 6:45-7:30 **Adult Bible Study**
- 6:50-7:30 p.m. **Faith Weaver Friends** (age 3-K)
- Faith Weaver Friends** (grades 1-2)
- 7-8 p.m. **TMYF**
- 7:45-8:45 p.m. **Adult Choir**

Children needing a ride to and from Tabor church call the church at 620-367-2318 or Denise Nickel at 620-367-2226.

Wednesday Evening KICKOFF is October 2

Grab your calendar right now to save the date! Highlight it - circle it - or do whatever helps you remember to come to Tabor on Wednesday, October 2. Everyone is invited to share in the **FREE SUPPER AT 6:00 – 6:45 pm**. Come meet the children, families, old friends, and make new friends. Be sure to sign up for the meal. After the meal, the kids and parents will complete some necessary paperwork before our program begins at 7:00 pm. Stay and listen to what the children will be learning and doing on Wednesdays. We will finish by 7:30 pm.

Come back on Wednesday, October 9, when the regular programming begins. There is something for everyone – pre-Kindergarten through adults, including food, Bible studies, fellowship, and choirs for all ages! Let's make Wednesdays at Tabor a time to practice our **Hospitality!**

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

Pastor's Phil and Rosie will be facilitating an interactive, inductive Bible Study on Wednesday nights beginning on October 9. This is open to everyone post High School age! We will study passages that we haven't covered on Sunday mornings but still fit with where we are in our Year of the Bible Reading Plan. You have two time-slots to choose from: 5:15-6pm or 6:45-7:30pm. We will focus on the same passage during each time-slot. Come ready to dive more deeply into God's living Word! Questions? Contact Pastor Phil or Rosie.

Fall Fun!!

The Quarterly Fellowship Committee invites you for some fall family fun on Sunday, October 20. Plan to meet in the Church park at 3 pm and load onto hay racks for our trip to Papa's Pumpkin Patch! Most of the activities at the pumpkin patch are free and beverages are available to purchase.

If you can't make it for the afternoon, plan to join us when we return to the park around 6pm to roast hot dogs. Please bring a side dish or dessert, lawn chairs and roasting sticks if you have them.

The Parables of Jesus

Jesus communicated deep spiritual truths through simple, vivid and engaging stories. Woven from the stuff of everyday life, the parables of Jesus made the kingdom of God understandable and accessible to his listeners. Gain new insights into his parables and their meanings that will help you to appreciate more fully their relevance for your own life.

Join us as we begin on October 2 from 9-10 am. For women of all ages. For more information contact Brenda Buller.

Willing Helpers

Willing Helpers met Monday, September 16 for a "Tool Time" meeting to be led by Rod and Brent Abrahams. Due to the death of Marna Abrahams, Rod's mother and Brent's grandmother and the birth of Simeon Abrahams, Brent's new son, our program changed. The evening included devotions by Brenda Buller from Amos 6, a business meeting, and members sharing how they keep their spiritual life tuned up. Gayle Funk shared information about Willing Helpers 2014 and welcomed input for programs and speakers. All women are invited to attend meetings and join Willing Helpers. The social committee served fall treats for refreshments. The next meeting is Wed., Oct. 16, at 9:30 am for a "work day" planned by the project committee.

-Joyce Ashley

"Living the Questions Now" continued

"Why do bad things happen?" We live in a broken world corrupted by sin. "Where is God?" God is working all around us to heal our broken world, if only we have eyes to see. "How faithfully are God's people cooperating?" Good question...

In the end, after Job has lost everything, after he has argued with his friends who came to "comfort" him, and finally after hearing from the living God, Job repents in dust and ashes. And then a curious thing happens: God is angry, but not at Job. The Lord says to Eliphaz, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has" (Job 42:7b). In the midst of Job's questions, Job spoke the truth about God. And at the very end of the book, God completely restores Job's fortunes, giving him twice as much as he had before.

Rainer Maria Rilke once said, "...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. **Live the questions now.** Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer."

It would have been much easier for Job to "Curse God and die," as his wife suggested (Job 2:9). But Job chose to maintain his integrity and live the tough questions, even though he faced much resistance from his friends. In the end, Job found himself living his way into the answers.

Live the questions now: What is the sin problem? What is God doing to solve the sin problem? How faithfully are we responding? Perhaps then, we also will gradually find ourselves living into the answers. We will find ourselves living more fully into God's kingdom, which is already breaking into our broken world.

~Pastor Phil

Thanks . . .



. . . to the Tabor volunteers who helped at Camp Mennoscah this summer . . .

Jason Unruh

Sara Unruh

Jill Brandt

Kristin Unruh

Joshua Booth

Michael Unruh

"We love our camp volunteers."



Sunday, October 6 at 1:30 p.m. is the first Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk. Be a walker. Be a sponsor.

Either way, by participating in the Walk, we all have an opportunity to help Build a Community in a third world country.

In Akhrasha, Egypt, an MCC-supported effort to provide clean water is helping Naser Hermina's business of creating ornamental plaster decorations, as well as improving health. MCC partnered with BLESS, the service arm of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church to provide clean water to some 100 families in this Cairo Neighborhood.

Walkers: on Oct. 6, be at Tabor Church by 1:15 p.m. to sign in and receive your "pep talk". Everyone needs to have their permission form signed before walking. You are invited to bring an item for the Food Pantry.

Sponsors: you will find your walkers in the lobby looking for donations. Make your check to Harvest Giving Walk or MCC and donations will go to MCC and the Tabor Church Food Pantry.

Walkers from Tabor are: Mark Schmidt, Josh Schmidt, Michael Unruh, Kevin Nickel, Gayle Funk, Carson Voth, Brent Abrahams, Phil & Mary Schmidt, Kenton & Eunice Nickel, Duane & Janna Duerksen.



Budget Workshop
October 22, 7pm
Everyone welcome

Coming in November

Nov. 7 - Mennonite Men Chicken BBQ

Nov. 10 - Noon fundraiser meal

Congregational meeting

Mission Partners Joe and Anna Sawatzky

Dear friends,

We are writing to share some news with you--the summary of which is that we will be leaving South Africa next year. We have worked these 7 years to reach this point where Bethany Bible School has sufficient local leadership to not need a full-time missionary presence. We feel good now about the group that is pursuing further studies and their commitment and gifts as well as the leadership of the executive committee. We told them of our discernment on this issue in a committee meeting earlier this month. We were very encouraged by their response. They immediately began thinking through future scenarios with wisdom and foresight. The two things that we heard stressed several times were the need for unity and for humility. They also are working with the Anabaptist Network in South Africa to provide some wider connections and support. Mennonite Mission Network will continue to be involved through funding and administrative visits. And so it makes sense for us to move on. It is with deep sadness that we leave this place where we will have spent 8 great years, where two of our children were born, and where we have many great friends and meaningful work. We are also excited to try something new although we don't yet know what that will be. It will include visits to (hopefully) all of you, so we look forward to that.

As we finish our work with Mission Network toward the end of 2014, we hope that you will be in touch with Mission Network about ways in which to continue to be involved in God's mission in the world. Thank you for your support during these years--your prayers have sustained us through many highs and lows.

With gratitude and love, Joe and Anna



Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, Marna Sara Voth Abrahams was born January 8, 1922. The eldest daughter of Elizabeth and Henry Voth, she grew up on a farm south of Goessel. Her siblings included older brother Alfred and two younger sisters, Norma and Lila, and a younger brother, Ernie.

Marna completed her primary education at the Emmenthal Rural Grade School, walking to and from school most days. She went on to attend Goessel Rural High School and graduated in 1940. The next year she married her high school sweetheart, Bill Abrahams.

Initially they made their home in the house in which her mother was born and raised, a half mile east of her parents' home. Bill farmed and tried his hand at a variety of other occupations during the early years of their marriage, eventually establishing his own business as an auto mechanic. About 8 years later they moved from that location to another farmstead owned by her parents and a few years after that they purchased a home on K-15 which was more accommodating for Bill's growing business.

Marna and Bill had five children, Marnette, Carol, Russ, Rod, and Ryan. It was a lively family with many years of camping, boating, and fishing. They spent time at local lakes along with trips to Missouri, Oklahoma, and Padre Island, Texas.

No matter at home or on the road in the RV, Marna's cooking was appreciated by anyone fortunate enough to be family or guest. In addition to being a wonderful cook, her creativity extended to sewing, needlework, gardening, and crocheting. She sewed her own clothing, as well as that of her children for many years.

In later years, after the children had left home, she pieced and sewed denim comforters for her children and grandchildren. Each one was designed with the special interests of the individual for whom it was created, along with family memorabilia. Many of her great grandchildren received a crocheted blanket that often became a favorite and necessary comfort at bedtime. The Linus Project benefited from her blanket making talent, and she was recognized by the organization for donating more than 125 blankets.

Marna was baptized by Rev. P.H. Richert on May 12, 1940 and remained a lifelong member of the Tabor Mennonite Church. Her love of reading the Bible had her reading a variety of versions in their entirety numerous times.

Marna leaves not only her children and their spouses to cherish many happy memories, but eight grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren; the youngest being born on the morning of her death.

