



Jesus is Alive!!

Worship Themes

May 4 - Prophetic Vision:

Babylonian Exile Suffering

Lamentations

Pastor Phil preaching

May 11 - Prophetic Vision:

Babylonian Exile Breath of Life

Child Dedications

Ezekiel

Pastor Phil preaching

May 18 - Prophetic Vision:

Babylonian Exile Stories of Faith,

Visions of Hope

Daniel

Pastor Phil preaching

May 25 - Prophetic Vision:

Return from Exile

Covenant Renewed

Ezra, Nehemiah

Pastor Phil preaching

June 1 - Celebration Sunday

Divided Kingdom -

Return from Exile

1 Kings 17 - Malachi 4

from the staff...

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Tabor Church News

May, 2014

Phil's Ponderings

What images or thoughts come to mind when you hear the word "exile"?

In our journey through the scriptures, we will spend the month of May focusing on this topic. When the southern kingdom of Judah was sent into Babylonian exile, they faced a crisis of all crises. No longer were they a people with land, a covenant, or even a god. In the exile, they lost everything. Would they lose their identity as well?

Exile is a time of hardship, loss, and suffering, but it can also be a time of renewal, re-centering, and re-envisioning. As it turned out, it was actually during the Babylonian Exile that God's people were able to remember and write down much of their story. It was during this crisis of all crises that God's people were able to renew their trust in God's faithfulness. Even though they weren't in Jerusalem anymore, they recognized that God remained with them.

How is this your story too? What kinds of exiles have you faced in your own life? During those times of exile, how did you express your hurt and anger? Furthermore, were you able to renew your trust in God through those difficult times?

One of the key things that got God's people through the exile was holding onto the hope that God would one day restore them. My prayer is that when we face exile times in our own lives, we will steadfastly hold onto hope that God will bring us to restoration as well.

It is hope that will carry us through the exile and on to new life.

~Pastor Phil

Rosie's Reflections

Summer is coming, but it seems like winter is holding on for dear life! However, the weather is not dampening the spirits of Tabor's Christian Faith Formation team. We've been brainstorming ideas for summer Faith Formation for several months, and have an exciting vision for children ages 3 – 8th grade. Our team felt the Spirit moving us to do something different this summer that includes our current Year of the Bible focus. Our vision includes a large walking map that will be used to tell the stories of Jesus' birth, baptism, miracles, teachings and much more. Our hope is to include many of you as storytellers, song leaders, readers, and craft or activity leaders. We are encouraging high school age and adults to get involved. We invite you to pray with us as we seek to follow God's leading for an adventurous summer of Faith Formation.

~Grace and peace, Pastor Rosie



Afternoon at the Trail



Join us for an afternoon on the Sand Creek Trail in North Newton on Sunday, May 4, at 3:00 pm. Come experience some time outdoors in God's creation! Walk or run along the trail, participate in a photo scavenger hunt, explore near the creek, or just relax in the shade with friends and family. Trail mix and drinks will be provided by the Quarterly Fellowship Committee. Items to bring:

- lawn chair (picnic tables and benches also available for sitting)
- digital camera if you have one (for photo scavenger hunt, NOT necessary to participate!)
- empty cup or container for trail mix and drink (cups will also be available)

Directions: Turn east off K-15/Main St. at Thresher Stadium in North Newton and continue east past the stadium, Goering Hall, and the tennis courts. After the tennis courts, the drive will bend slightly to the right and continue toward a metal maintenance shed. Parking is limited right at the trail head, but is also available right by the tennis courts.

We hope to see you there! Questions?
Contact Michael Unruh
(unruhmc@gmail.com, 620-382-6560),
Saranahne Unruh, or Katy Schmidt.



Vacation Bible School
at Tabor Church

June 2-6
8:30 - 11:45 a.m.

VBS Program
June 6, 7:00 p.m.

Join in the Fun!!

Digging Deeper with Doug

In our postmodern era, the question of why keeps coming up.... *Why this and Why that?* What would happen if we stop asking *why* and start asking *What If?* Seeking our potential with God creates a world of *What if...* What if I was to seek after God? What if God intended me to be more?

What if God is active and the Holy Spirit is active today? What if the Scriptures are true? These are some of the challenges that Pastor Scott Roth, guest speaker at Rocky Mountain Mennonite High School Snow Camp II presented us with during our weekend in the mountains on March 15 and 16. Twelve youth and three adults from the Tabor TMYF were blessed with Scott's dynamic, boisterous (and often LOUD!) explorations of what it means to be chasing after our potential with God.

Here is a sample of some of Scott's most compelling points from session one:

-Where we invest our love, we invest our life. We often tie up our identity that with things that are less than our identity in Jesus (e.g. Mennonite, American, professional).

-In the game Simon Says we do what Simon says. When Jesus says we must do something, many times we don't do it. We memorize it. We study it. We learn how to say it in Greek. But to be fair, compared to Simon, what Jesus asks us to do can be quite challenging.

-(*The following fit right in with our Youth Sunday theme!*) Jesus is not just a "nice guy. He is a Lord and he challenges our idols, which are many. We qualify the demands of the Lord, domesticate him because it is too threatening to follow him like he really calls us. We can trust Jesus, but he's not safe. He will challenge us again and again. To give something up. To leave our comfort zones. To go outside the box.

The youth found Scott to be powerful and profound. The group discussion question after this session was: *What is it that God is trying to chisel out of your life and reshape in your life?* The answers the youth gave to these questions were quite deep and honest (e.g. *my cynicism, my fear, my laziness*). I invite all of us to reflect on the points above and on this question, a question that is really a prayer of transformation. What if...?

~Pastor Doug



In Loving Memory

Charles Unruh	~ March 19, 1928 - May 8, 2013
Gladys Thiesen	~ June 7, 1926 - August 26, 2013
Marna Abrahams	~ January 8, 1922 - September 16, 2013
Milford Brandt	~ December 28, 1920 - October 7, 2013
Alfred Schmidt	~ June 29, 1938 - October 15, 2013
Viola Ratzlaff	~ February 19, 1925 - March 27, 2014

Memorial Services

- ☞ Sunday, May 25, 7:30 p.m. ~ Goessel Mennonite Cemetery
- ☞ Monday, May 26, 10:00 a.m. ~ Tabor Mennonite Cemetery
- ☞ Monday, May 26, 11:00 a.m. ~ Alexanderwohl Mennonite Cemetery

Introducing...

Hello, our names are Keri and Cory Unruh and we just welcomed our son Boyd into the world on March 27th. We live 3 miles north of Goessel on K-15. I (Keri) grew up in Benton and Cory grew up in Goessel. I have worked at South Middle school in Salina the last 9 years teaching math and Cory works at the high school in Newton teaching Auto Tech. I will be joining his staff next year teaching Geometry. I like to garden and Cory likes working on car projects mostly older cars from the 20s and 30s. We also have a spoiled dog named Charlie.



Danielle's Diary

Here is an excerpt from my diary the day that I started my 10 month discipleship school. It also symbolizes every day and my desire to live at His leading, praying that it encourages you as well! Blessings, Danielle

God,
I come to you humbled
I am terrified with an overwhelming peace
What lies ahead I do not know
But in your control
Your will, Your plan, Your life
I want so much
But first I hold
Open these hands God
Let it all flow
From you to me
From me to them
From us to You
God this journey is big
This step all in faith
Let myself not take control
But be the center of my life
Serving to those who need it
Loving those who have never been
Dying to gain what Christ has given
Not taking a moment for slumber
But in every moment giving one hundred
God this I cannot do
But in You and through You
I'll be blessed to hear you say
Well done good and faithful servant.



Here is our monthly marriage moment: a meaningful memento to married couples to make your marriages marvelous!

John Gottman, a psychologist who has done a lot of research on what makes great marriages points out that healthy couples know how to

recognize and diffuse the power of what he calls the "four horsemen" that can erode and eventually kill marriages. The four horsemen are *criticism*, *defensiveness*, *contempt*, and *stonewalling*. Over the next four months, I will briefly describe one of these horsemen. This month's focus: *criticism*.

"Criticism is any statement that implies there is something globally wrong with one's partner that is probably a lasting aspect of the partner's character." Critical statements often begin with "you always" or "you never." "Why" questions are often critical statements: "Why do you do that?!" Furthermore, criticism naturally elicits defensiveness from your partner.

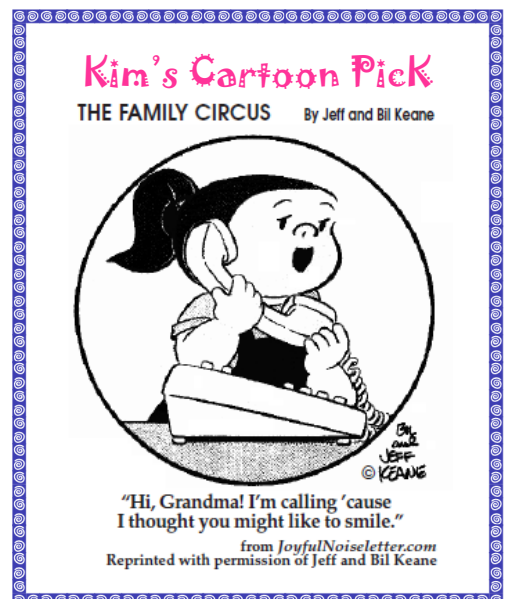
Marriage challenge: Recognize *criticism* in your marriage relationship. Instead of speaking critically, transform critical statement into constructive statements. Use "I" language and speak specifically about what you wish would change and how it would make you feel if your wish came true.

With a little work, you too can make your marriage marvelous ☺.

~Pastor Phil



Easter
Egg
Hunt
Fun!!





Goessel Middle School

May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Destiny Johnson

Goessel High School

May 10, 7:00 p.m.

Reece Hiebert

Mark Schmidt

Newton High School

May 17, 7:00 p.m.

Brooke Haxton

Carson Voth

Goshen College

April 27, 3:00 p.m.

Hayden Goerzen

Hesston College

May 11, 9:00 a.m.

Josh Booth

Hutchinson Community College

May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Austin Unruh

Washburn University

May 17, 12:30 p.m.

Monica Voth

Coming Next Month: Graduate Updates

Faith Formation for Adults

Praying the Scriptures: Rm. 17

Discussion: Rm. 112 and 211

Bible Study: Rm. 113

Church Membership Class:

Pastor Phil's Office



Pastor Doug will be

on Sabbatical

June 9 - August 9

*More information coming in
the June Newsletter.*

Willing Helpers

The Willing Helpers have enjoyed two wonderful meetings in March and April. Last month Norma Graber and Diane Unruh were our speakers for the evening of March 24th. They took us back to the summer of 1979 when Diane, as a teenager, was diagnosed with Leukemia. For some their story was new. For others, it brought back a lot of memories of walking beside them as a church family during those years.

Thanks to both of you for opening yourselves up to sharing your touching story with us. Denise Nickel followed with some Sister Care ideas that are helpful to remember.

On April 21st we again hosted the high school exchange students who are staying with host families in the area. Carol Duerksen had each student introduce themselves, say where they were from, and who their host families are. They answered questions such as what was their first impression of Kansas, what big differences they see between here and their home country, what is their favorite American food, what school is like here compared to their school at home, and how their church and youth group experience here compared to church at home. Once again it was an insightful, interesting, and entertaining evening. One student, Andi Briechele from Germany, shared his gift of music by playing his accordion for us.

Watch for upcoming information about our Mystery Field Trip which is being planned for Monday, May 19th. More details (but not too many!!) to come! -Diana Schmidt



Grace's Goodies

Strawberries and Cream French Toast

Served at April Staff meeting

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/4th cup +1 Tbs sugar,
- pinch cinnamon
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 5 cups cubed day old French bread
- 1 1/2 cup sliced strawberries divided

Lightly grease a 9 inch round or square baking dish.

In a large bowl whisk together the eggs, milk, cream, 1/4th cup sugar, cinnamon and vanilla extract until well blended. Fold in the bread and 1 cup of the sliced strawberries. Pour into greased baking dish, cover and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight.

Remove from refrigerator and preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place remaining 1/2 cup strawberries evenly over top of casserole. Bake until set and top begins to turn golden brown, 35 to 40 min. or longer.

During the last 10 min. sprinkle the top with the remaining 1 Tbs. sugar.

Let set 10 min. before slicing and serving.