



Fun at the Baby Shower for Mary

Tabor Church News

June, 2014

Phil's Ponderings

We've spent the last nine months journeying through the Old Testament in our Year of the Bible. We began by reflecting on the Creation and the subsequent Fall Stories. Then, we journeyed with God's people through the time of Patriarchs and Matriarchs, through the Exodus, Wilderness Wanderings, and Tribal Confederacy, through the United Monarchy, Divided Kingdom, and times of Exile, and finally through the people's Return from Exile. It's been quite a journey thus far!

I wonder, what have we as a community learned along the way?

- Have we learned to embrace God's call to be a blessing to others?

(Genesis 12:1-3)

- Have we learned to love God with all our hearts, souls, and strength?

(Deuteronomy 6:5)

- Have we learned to throw away our idols and worship God alone?

(2 Kings 23)

- Have we learned to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God?

(Micah 6:8)

As you reflect back on our journey, what have you learned? What new insights have you gleaned? What do you still wonder about? How do you sense God speaking to you?

In these next three months, we will focus our attention on the New Testament and the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection! In these next months, we will discover more about what it meant that Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets *(Matthew 5:17)*.

As we continue our journey, I hope that we will come to see how interconnected the New and Old Testaments are. We cannot truly understand the story of Jesus without a solid understanding of the story of the people of Israel. Jesus' story builds on Israel's story. For this reason, our memory passage for these next three months is Hebrews 1:1-3a.

"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

~Pastor Phil

Worship Themes

June 1 - Celebration Sunday

*Divided Kingdom -
Return from Exile*

1 Kings 17 - Malachi 4

June 8 - Pentecost Sunday:

Baptism and New Members

Acts 2

Pastor Doug preaching

June 15 - Christ-Pentecost:

Incarnation and Proclamation

Selections from the Gospels

Pastor Phil preaching

June 22 - Christ-Pentecost:

Life and Teaching

Selections from the Gospels

Pastor Phil preaching

June 29 - Christ-Pentecost:

Discipleship and Mission

Selections from the Gospels

Pastor Phil preaching

from the staff...

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



Willing Helpers

The evening of May 19th found 29 adventurous Tabor ladies embarking on a Willing Helpers sponsored Mystery Field Trip. We met at the church at 5:30 to carpool, and began winding our way through the highways of central Kansas toward a destination known only to Diana Schmidt and Carrie Unruh. As we drove toward our destination, each carload held discussions about where we might be heading to. Eventually we found ourselves in Florence, Kansas at the Harvey House Museum. Time was spent there going through the home and learning more about the historic Harvey Houses as well as the town of Florence and some of the people who lived there in years past. Although they do currently serve meals out of the Harvey House (with reservations) the ladies were surprised to find that this was not the destination for our dinner out. After driving a short distance to Main Street in downtown Florence, we stopped at the Doyle Creek Mercantile where we enjoyed a nice meal together. Judy Mills, owner, gave us a short history of the building and how their business began. We ended the evening by shopping in the Mercantile.

-Diana Schmidt



Vacation Bible School at Tabor Church
June 2-6, 8:30 - 11:45 a.m.
VBS Program, June 6, 7:00 p.m.

Rosie's Reflections

I've been thinking a lot about children these days. It could be because I'm immersed in helping form the summer Faith Formation curriculum for children. Maybe I still have our recent child dedication service in mind. My four-year old grandson might also have something to do with it, since he just spent an overnight with us. And of course, we are anticipating our summer Bible School beginning June 2, when most of Tabor's space will be full of active children and teachers. What an exciting time for us at Tabor, to be blessed with many opportunities to help nurture the faith of our children!

As I reflect further on the recent dedication of Eve Buller, Simeon Abrahams, Bosten Unruh, Athena, Nivea and Levi Funk, and Boyd Unruh, I see each of these children as beloved children of God, who are deeply loved by their parents, families, and by their Tabor church family. As a congregation we promised to "share in your child's nurture and well-being." We all take that charge seriously. Helping form their faith is something we all do whether we think about it or not. From the time we hold them in the nursery to being their youth sponsor we are nurturing their faith and building trust.

As our children grow we enjoy seeing them become active participants during worship. The younger we let them participate, the sooner they begin to build their identity with the church. We see a lot of involvement from our children, especially from those musically inclined. But there are many other ways to include children as active participants. What if we had regular usher apprentices? Maybe they could help carry the "sharing microphone." What if a child welcomed us into worship? These small things may be an inconvenience at first, but these are ways to help connect and instill confidence and trust. Rose Stutzman, project director for the new children's *SHINE* curriculum writes, "We need to see children as full participants in the worshiping community . . . not on the B team or waiting on the sidelines; all of us are players."

It seems to me that Tabor does a pretty good job with nurturing the faith of our children, but can we do it with more intentionality? How can we take them off the sidelines, and place them smack dab in the center of our congregation? How would they be blessed by that approach? How would the church be blessed? Let's keep thinking about how we can fully live into our commitment to share in the nurture and well-being of our children.

~Grace and peace, Pastor Rosie

Digging Deeper with Doug



"Sabbatical, study and service leaves are good for the pastor, good for the congregation and good for the church." So reads the Mennonite Church USA guidelines on sabbaticals for pastors. *Spiritual refreshment, new vision, strengthened skills, and wider perspectives* are among the list of benefits sabbaticals can bring. It is with much gratitude to Tabor that as per my memo of understanding I will be taking 2/3 of my sabbatical this summer from June 9 - August 9.

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For the first part of my sabbatical, I will be doing service as Camp Pastor at Camp Friedenswald near Cassopolis, MI for High School and Junior High camps. As Camp Pastor, I will be creating 15 inputs that will hopefully also be useful with the TMYF when I return. Then later in the summer I will be doing spiritual retreats at Shiloh Ranch near Florissant, CO and then at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. I have a study of the Psalms planned with a spiritual discipline of writing some music based on different perspectives found in the Psalms. The idea would then be to turn this music into sermon material back at Tabor. Jude will be accompanying me on both of these treks.

The remaining 1/3 of my sabbatical will be taken in December and January and involve continuing education with the focus probably on an aspect of worship.

I will remember Tabor in prayer during my absence this summer. I also ask for your prayers for refreshment and inspiration.

I am especially looking forward to this sabbatical experience because it will give me opportunity to reflect, gain new perspectives and prayerfully listen for God's guidance in my ministry. I look forward to returning to Tabor in August and sharing with you what God has been speaking to me.

Blessings!

~Pastor Doug



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*. This month's focus: *defensiveness*.

"Defensiveness is any attempt to defend oneself from a perceived attack." It can look like whining, it includes denying responsibility for the problem, and it can easily lead to *contempt*. Especially when we feel *criticized*, it can be easy to try and *defend* ourselves.

Marriage challenge: Recognize *defensiveness* in your marriage relationship. When you feel defensive, consider why you feel that way. Then, use an "I statement" to share your feelings with your partner ("I feel defensive because ..."). This small step can disarm defensiveness and reinvigorate your relationship.

Furthermore, instead of passionately defending yourself, seek to first listen and understand where your partner is coming from. Also consider how you have contributed to the problem or disagreement. If things get heated, take a timeout and come back to the issue when you are both able to work toward a solution that will be beneficial to both of you.

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

~Pastor Phil

John M. Gottman, The Marriage Clinic (1999), 44.

Welcome to a new summer of Christian Faith Formation!

As we focus on the New Testament in our Year of the Bible, we are looking forward to encountering Jesus in new ways. Come join us!

Our new schedule for the summer quarter begins Sunday, June 15.

For children age 3 – 8th grade:

Walking the Story

- 10:45 am –
biblical snacks in the fellowship hall
- 11:00 am –
Gather in South Rooms (10-12)
Opening and introduction to the day
On the Map with stories and drama
Activity/Craft centers
- 11:45 am – dismissal

For High School Youth and Adults:

Reliving the Story

- 10:45 am –
fellowship and biblical snacks
- 11:00 am –
Gather in the fellowship hall
Opening and introduction to the theme
Ted & Co DVD and round table
discussion
- 11:45 am – dismissal

Kim's Cartoon Pick



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Happy Father's Day!

Parent & Child Dedication



Simeon Abrahams



Eve Buller



Levi Funk



Bosten Unruh



Boyd Unruh

*A visit from Daniel in our Year
of the Bible study.*



Grace's Goodies

Apricot-Almond Coffee Cake
Served at May Staff meeting.

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1tsp almond extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 jar (10 oz) apricot preserves

In large bowl cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs.
Fold in sour cream and almond extract.
In another bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt.
Fold into butter mixture.
Place 1/3 of the mixture in a greased and flour bundt pan.
Sprinkle with 1/2 of the almonds and dot with 1/2 of the preserves.
Next, spread the remaining batter, then spread the remaining
preserves over the top, finishing with the remainder of almonds.
Bake @ 350 degrees for 1 hour or until done. Cool on a rack.
Drizzle with glaze if desired.