



Danielle Reeves completes Pastoral Ministry internship.

Worship Themes

August 3 - Paul's Pastoral Ministry

I & II Corinthians

Eric Litwiller preaching

August 10 - Paul's Pastoral Ministry

Romans

Pastor Phil preaching

August 17 - God Speaks

Hebrews

Pastor Phil preaching

August 24 - Revelation of Jesus

Revelation

Pastor Phil preaching

August 31 - Reflecting and Envisioning

note: Year of the Bible Celebration will be September 13-14

from the staff...

Phil's Ponderings -----	p. 1
Rosie's Reflections -----	p. 2
Kim's Cartoon PicK -----	p. 2
Grace's Goodies -----	p. 3
Digging Deeper with Doug -----	p. 4

Tabor Church News

August, 2014

Phil's Ponderings

In our Year of the Bible, we have shifted our focus from the life of Jesus to the lives of his followers, the Spirit-led body of believers. At the beginning of the book of Acts, we read some amazing things about the early church:

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need" (Acts 2:44-45).

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had" (Acts 4:32).

The early Christians shared an amazing unity, holding possessions in common and giving generously to others so that "there were no needy persons among them" (Acts 4:34a). I wonder, what has the power to draw people this close together into a caring and compassionate community?

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). Furthermore, "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 4:33a).

It was **Jesus** that held the early church together: Jesus' teachings that he passed on to his disciples and the Good News of Jesus' resurrection! With such Good News, God's Grace was powerfully present with those early Christians, freeing them from selfishness so that they could give everything for the benefit of each other and ultimately for the benefit of God's kingdom on earth. With this Good News, they could devote themselves wholeheartedly to being the body of Christ on earth.

When we think of our own church community as compared to the early church, instead of noticing similarities, it might be easier to notice our many differences. Culture, historical context, and technology are three factors that shape our church to be very different from theirs. With so many differences, we might even think that it's impossible for us today to live up to their (idealistic?) standard of holding all things in common.

But I wonder: what is it that holds us together today?

It's Jesus. The Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection is what continues to keep us unified today. It is this Good News that we gather to celebrate each week! With this being said, maybe we aren't so different from the early church. After all, we still devote ourselves to Jesus' teaching, to fellowship, and to prayer.

But if it isn't realistic for us to hold all our possessions in common, what are the things that we can hold in common today? Furthermore, in what ways can we devote our whole selves to Jesus so that we also might be freed from selfishness to more fully become God's compassionate community here on earth?

If you have thoughts or responses to my ponderings, I invite you to let me know. I would love to dream with several of you about how we can become an even more authentic representation of Jesus here and now!

~Pastor Phil



Willing Helpers

The Willing Helpers met for an all day work day at the MCC Center in North Newton on July 16th. While there we folded comforters so they could be bailed and shipped. We also packaged baby layettes and school kits. Maynard Knepp told us where all the current needs are in the different countries. He also explained that the mission of MCC now is not only to meet the immediate needs after a trauma, but to include development in the area and bring a peace component. Gayle Funk gave the devotions on 2 Kings 22:6-29, telling the story of Huldah, a respected leader. When Huldah spoke, the people listened. We discussed women in the MCUSA and other women leaders in our country that we respect.

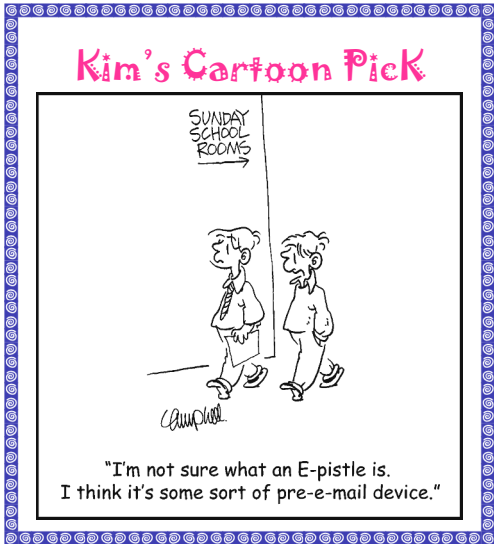
-Diana Schmidt

Rosie's Reflections

In our Year of the Bible journey, we've heard stories of faithful and unfaithful living. It seems like Israel often forgot about their story of God's love and grace. Forgetting means they didn't pass it along and soon their families were turning to other gods. This left an open door for sin to enter and soon things were going downhill fast. But in the New Testament, we see God's patience and persistence come to fulfillment through his Son, Jesus Christ. The solution to the sin problem is finally accomplished through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. His ultimate gift of the Holy Spirit came to empower all believers to boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to everyone. We are all **one** through the power of the Holy Spirit! Yet we know sin still abounds, and it threatens to divide us. The stories we carry with us are powerful shapers for us individually and for Tabor. How has Tabor's story faith shaped us as a community of faith? How can we make sure our faith stories are passed on?

In my Ethics class last fall, I read, "Peace, Progress, Promise: A 75th Anniversary History of TABOR MENNONITE CHURCH," as a source for my final paper. One of the things I focused on was unity in the midst of difficult decisions. One of my questions in the paper was, *"Can we (Tabor) stay unified with a good process of discernment rather than draw up sides?"* As I read through our history, one statement caught my attention; *"Tabor had the knack for maintaining stability and continuity, along with the added ingredient of a flexibility that allows for positive change"* (Peace, Progress, Promise, p.10). What a wonderful witness this is to Tabor's commitment for maintaining unity. This does not mean we all think alike, but through the power of the Holy Spirit we have the ability to listen with open minds and hearts as we tell and hear stories that have shaped us individually and as a community of faith. The more we listen to each other, the more we open ourselves to understand; and the more we understand each other, the more we will build our unity in Christ. May it be so.

~Pastor Rosie Jantz



TMYF leaving for service trip to Swan Lake Christian Camp

Introducing...

Hello, Tabor Mennonite Church! We are the Church family and are excited to be a part of the community here at Tabor. Kelcey and I (Amanda) met in 2002 and married in 2008.



Our daughter, Natalie, was subsequently born in February 2009. Kelcey grew up in Newton while I grew up in Moundridge. Kelcey works at AGCO in Hesston and has been employed there since 1994. He is a welder in Plant 3 and also runs a robot. I work at Bethesda Home in Goessel as the Director of Nursing. I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bethel College in 2008. Our daughter, Natalie, is 5 years old and will be attending Goessel Elementary School this next fall. We are quiet people who enjoy spending time together on our small farm north of Goessel. Kelcey enjoys working out in his shop tinkering around with different projects and welding. He enjoys doing anything outside. I enjoy cooking and spending time outside when the weather is nice. We both enjoy playing with Natalie and watching her grow and develop into a spunky little girl. And let us tell you, she is one spunky little thing!

Thank you for welcoming us with open hearts and minds. We look forward to continuing our growth here at Tabor. -Kelcey, Amanda, & Natalie

Grace's Goodies

Pear Custard Bars
Served at July staff meeting.

FILLING /TOPPING

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 1 8oz pkg. cream cheese, |
| 1/3 cup sugar | softened |
| 3/4 cup flour | 1/2 cup sugar |
| 1/4 vanilla extract | 1 egg |
| 2/3 cup sliced almonds, | 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract |
| very coarsely chopped | 1 can (15 1/4 oz) pear halves, |
| | drained |
| | 1/2 tsp cinnamon |
| | 1/2 tsp sugar |

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla.

Gradually add flour to creamed mixture. Stir in nuts. Press into a greased 8" square baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 min. or until lightly browned. Cool on wire rack.

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in the sugar, egg and vanilla. Pour over crust.

Cut pears into 1/8-in. slices; arrange in a single layer over the filling. Combine sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over pears.

Bake at 375 degrees for 28-30 min. (center will be soft-set and will become firmer upon cooling). Cool on a wire rack for 45 min.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before cutting.

Store in refrigerator. Yield; 16 bars.



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: *stonewalling*.

"*Stonewalling* occurs when the listener withdraws from the interaction." "In other words, *stonewalling* is when one person shuts down and closes himself/herself off from the other. It is a lack of responsiveness to your partner and the interaction between the two of you." Signs of *stonewalling* in a marriage relationship: one spouse leaves, lack of engagement, answering merely with "mm hmm" or grunts, acting busy, or making other evasive maneuvers. Left unchecked, *stonewalling* can become a habit in one's relationship and even small issues may never be resolved.

Marriage Challenge: Recognize *stonewalling* in your marriage relationship. When you find yourself or your partner begin to withdraw from a heated conversation, suggest that you both take a timeout. Before taking a timeout, set a time to come back together and return to the discussion. While on timeout, do something that helps sooth and distract you from the issue in question (listen to music, exercise, etc...). When you come back together to the conversation, you will find that you are both more able to make progress toward resolution!

Stonewalling can become a negative habit that can erode any relationship, but it doesn't have to! If you would like more resources on disarming *stonewalling* and re-engaging with your spouse in your marriage relationship, please let me know.

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

~Pastor Phil

John M. Gottman, The Marriage Clinic (1999), 46.

Michael Fulwiller, <http://www.gottmanblog.com/2013/04/the-four-horsemen-recognizing-criticism.html>.

Digging Deeper with Doug

Sabbatical Service by the Numbers

285 Age of the giant red oak trees in the Camp Friedenswald old growth preserve. This is the second largest preserve of its kind in the state of Michigan. Many campers compare the grove to a “living cathedral where one can keenly sense God’s presence”.

82 Campers attending High School Camp.

65 Campers attending Junior High Camp.

20 Inputs at sessions (sermons actually) which I presented for Quest (morning worship) and Campfire (evening worship). The theme was similar to Wheel of Fortune’s “before and after”. It was “*Being with **God** with Us*”. Daily topics were: *Where do we find God? What is Worship? What is Prayer? Finding God in the Everyday. And Where is God in Struggle?*
Object Lesson Sample from a Session: Where can we see God’s miracles today? We can find one in mud puddle water put into a gallon jug. The water is about the same volume and has nearly identical ingredients to those found in the human brain. It’s only God that can do this. Praise God for the wonders of creation that give witness to miracles all around us!



10 Morning Watches . These were outside morning devotional for the entire camp before breakfast presented by Jude.

One Example: Jude told the story of being lost at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington D.C. when she was 9 years old. She thought her family had left her behind, but they were seeking her as much as she was seeking them. This was compared to how God seeks us when we are lost.

8 Music campers that I worked with during Junior High Music Camp to hone guitar skills for leading and accompanying music on guitar. Junior High Music Camp ran consecutively with Junior High Camp. I was also asked to write a recorder descant on one of the songs for the Saturday performance in the chapel for family and friends.

6 Staff from Kansas: Michelle Unruh, Neil Brubacher, Michael Oyer, Courtney Unruh, Jude and Doug Krehbiel. As Michelle put it, “camp is a place that brings out the REAL you,” meaning the person that God intended you to be. Praise God for personal and spiritual growth that often happens in the Christian camp setting!

1 Junior high camper who told me after campfire on the beach that he was an atheist until this week at camp. Because of the camp community, seeing God in others and in creation, the inputs, and “everything” about camp, he is now a believer and a Christian. I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving and encouragement with him. I asked him if he had a church community to connect with and he said yes and now that he’s a Christian, he would feel comfortable going there. I asked him if he had a bible and he said not since his dog ate it! I drove to town and bought him a new teen bible and gave it to him. I feel incredibly blessed to share in the joy of this young man’s journey toward the Light!

∞ Immeasurable value to this experience of creating new inputs; connecting with past camp-staff, campers, and their children on staff; working with Michelle Unruh and seeing the amazing job she is doing; and being inspired by the same things that brought that junior high camper to Christ...**everything about camp!**

