



*Mennograss 2014*



## Worship Themes

**Sept. 7 - Shine:** *Living in God's Light*  
Matthew 5:14-16; Isaiah 9:2;  
Romans 12:2  
Pastor Phil preaching

**Sept. 14 - Year of the Bible:**  
**Celebration Sunday**  
*Living into God's Story*  
(In the Church Park)  
Genesis - Revelation

**Sept. 21 - Heilsgeschichte**  
*Solving the Sin Problem*  
Colossians 3:1-17  
Pastor Phil preaching

**Sept. 28 - Chosen for a Mission**  
*Blessing all People*  
Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 28:16-20  
Pastor Phil preaching

# Tabor Church News

September, 2014

## Phil's Ponderings

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1)

*"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'"*  
(Revelation 21:5a)

The Bible begins with God creating the heavens and the earth.

The Bible ends with God making everything new, recreating the heavens and the earth.

In between creation and re-creation is the story of God and God's people. God stuck with God's people throughout many trials, always calling them back to being God's shalom, missional community on earth, blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:3). When things were at their worst, God sent Jesus, not as a violent dictator, but rather as a servant called to usher in the Kingdom of God. Still, Jesus was a conquering king. As we learn in the book of Revelation, Jesus conquered not through weapons of mass destruction, but rather through sacrifice (Revelation 5:5-6).

In this story between creation and re-creation, we can catch a glimpse of God's calling into our own lives. We are people who follow Jesus, the conquering lamb. We are people guided by Jesus' priorities of love, service, and sacrifice. By living in these ways, we join Jesus in ushering in God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. By living in these ways, we begin to live out God's new creation here and now.

As we wrap up our Year of the Bible, I wonder what new things God has in store for us? How will we embrace new creation living today? What do you think? *(If you have thoughts or responses to these questions, please let me know).*

Yes, one day God will make all things new. But until that day, let us continue to follow Jesus, the lamb, and join in God's work of bringing God's kingdom to earth.  
~Pastor Phil



Yes, one day God will  
make all things new . . .

## WDC Assembly 2014

As one of the delegates to Western District Conference, I again found the worship services to be very meaningful. There are quite a number of young pastors in our conference churches and we benefit from their new ideas and energy. Friday evening we heard from a variety of pastors as it was a tag-team preaching approach. One pastor would begin and then after a segment of singing or scripture, another pastor would continue until we heard from quite a number of pastors.

Brad Roth, pastor of West Zion Mennonite of Moundridge, arranged an amazing presentation of scripture to summarize the entire year of the Bible. It was like reading through the Bible in 30 minutes! Another interesting worship experience was Sunday morning when our bus of 90 some conference attendees were hosted by the Iglesia Luz del Evangelio church in Dallas. With contractors and skilled laborers within their congregation, they built a very nice new sanctuary, Sunday School rooms, and office space in the Spanish style of architecture. Their front doors are custom made out of iron with beautiful scroll work and the MC USA dove logo. It is a beautiful symbol of their membership to the Mennonite Church. We enjoyed a lively worship with wonderful music and, of course, they fed us their ethnic food before we departed back to Kansas.

--Gayle Funk, reporting



## Rosie's Reflections

As I reflect on what it means to be "one in Christ," I think about the church representatives that gathered for Assembly in Texas this past July. I was one of three delegates that represented Tabor at the Western District Assembly in Waxahatchie, TX on the July 4-6 weekend. A highlight for me was the opening worship service, which would set the tone for the rest of the weekend. Besides the usual fantastic 4-part harmony singing and great tag-team preaching, we shared the Bread and Cup together. This is usually the way we close the conference, but when asked why we began with communion, Clarence Rempel, WDC Pastor stated, "I like starting out with communion as a declaration of our primary allegiance and our essential identity. We are an **"in Christ"** people." He went on to explain that "in Christ" is stated over 90 times in the New Testament as a way to designate the New People of God – the church. In retrospect I saw the rest of our work together giving witness to us being one "in Christ." Though diverse in views and opinions, it was apparent that we were one as we discerned how best to work with the resolution brought by Rainbow Mennonite. During the delegate sessions we engaged in circles of conversation to listen and share suggestions for ways to include everyone in a church-wide discussion. After hearing from every circle group, the leadership extended the survey deadline to August 31, rather than the original July 31 date. So what does this mean for Tabor? We have been given the opportunity to share our personal opinions through the on-line survey or submit a hard copy to the church office. This is not a "top down" discussion, but an Anabaptist way of sharing our personal voice which then becomes part of the one voice "in Christ."

Can we use this model of discernment as we address issues at Tabor? What would happen if we broke bread and passed the cup before discerning difficult issues, whether they be about building an addition, discerning future deacons, ministering to the homeless, or discerning other difficult issues? What does it look like for Tabor to be an "in Christ" people?

~Pastor Rosie Jantz

## WDC Assembly 2014

In attending the WDC at Waxahatchie, Texas in early July, there were a number of times during the Assembly that I felt the spirit leading. I want to highlight one of the bright moments.

At the Assembly we celebrated Pastor Gilberto Flores', Allison Schmidt Flores' father-in-law, call to Ministry. Gilberto has been a "missionary" since a young boy. He was asked to come to the US. prior to 1993 to serve in church positions but said "no". In 1993 he felt led to come and accepted a position at San Antonio Mennonite Church. He was afraid of his English so he had Violeta Ajquejay translate for him but he was wondering if she was saying what he wanted her to say, so he decided to start doing his own translating! He had some anger with some church leaders in the past but he said "The Mennonites in Kansas helped cure his anger in his past life". He served 23 years in Kansas and in ministry for 50 years. Praise God for Gilberto, his family and his years of service to our Conference!

--Submitted by Denise Nickel



## Summer Service

I had the pleasure of accompanying (and driving) the TMYF to Swan Lake Christian Camp in South Dakota in early July. I was excited to see this energetic group in action, and after we saw a man reel in a paddlefish during our first hour in the state, I knew things were going to be epic. At the camp, I was so impressed with the work ethic of our youth and their dedication to the tasks set before us, which included mostly painting cedar siding (a tedious task!) and helping build a deck for the resident cook. Our most powerful connections came at the campfires the summer staff prepared each evening, and we as a group had the chance to share our testimonies together. I have not seen our group so open with one another about their lives and faith. Overall the trip was transforming for me as well! —Michael Unruh

This summer, I spent July 6-11 in South Dakota with the youth group as a sponsor on their service trip. We spent 3 days working at Swan Lake Christian Camp. We painted a very large, 3-story, wooden house, as well as built a new deck on the cook's house. Much of my time was spent high in the air on the lift. I also spent July 20-26 counseling at Camp Mennoscah. Highlights of that week included: lots of singing, laughter with campers, and meaningful campfires. —Kirstin Unruh

This summer, I spent ten weeks working at Camp Friedenswald again as part of the leadership staff. I was on the worship team, playing guitar and leading music for campfires and our morning worship times. I also helped write a skit and planned devotions that each cabin used daily. Our theme this summer was "Being with God with Us", and we focused on the circular relationship that is shared between God and us. Our theme verse was Psalm 100, and we had a theme song to match the text. It was great to have Doug and Jude there for two weeks to help with music and to bring new insight to the theme. When I was not helping with music, I enjoyed leading activities, going on hikes, helping in the kitchen, doing dishes, helping at the waterfront, painting around camp, and spending time with the campers. I am so grateful for the campers and dedicated staffers I met and the memories that will stay with me forever. Thank you so much for your prayers and support for the past three summers. —Michelle Unruh



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

The "Goodlywed Game" is coming to Tabor! Remember the Newlywed Game that used to be on television? Think of that and then imagine married couples of all ages participating and laughing together! Through dessert, fellowship, and laughter, we will find opportunities to enrich our marriage relationships.

**Marriage Challenge:** Save the Date and plan to attend the Goodlywed Game!

**When:** Sunday, September 28, 6:30pm

**Where:** Tabor Fellowship Hall

**Who is invited:** All Married Couples

**What to bring:** Openness to learn and laugh

**Why:** Because Marriages are worth enriching

**Other Details:**

*-Pastor Doug will be our game show host for the evening!*

***-Childcare will be provided***

***-More Details to Come!***

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

~Pastor Phil

### Grace's Goodies

#### Stuffed Breakfast Bars

*Served at August staff meeting.*

2 cans crescent rolls

2 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese, softened

3/4 cup sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

1/4 cup melted butter

2 T sugar

1 T cinnamon

--Unroll and spread 1 can crescent rolls on bottom of un-greased 9X13" pan; pat to cover bottom

--Combine softened cream cheese, sugar & vanilla.

--Spread mixture over crescent rolls.

--Unroll and space out pieces of remaining rolls over mixture.

--Brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.

--Bake at 350 degrees for 20-30 min.

## Digging Deeper with Doug

One of the magnificent back roads Jude and I explored while on sabbatical retreat at Shiloh Ranch in Florissant, Colorado was Phantom Trail Road. We found ourselves constantly pulling over to get out and have a closer look and “ooh and ahh” at the sheer cliffs, the stunning vistas and spectacular wildflower displays. It had been raining a lot and colors were vibrant! It is both humbling and inspiring for me when I see the wondrous work of the Creator in the mountains. This master Inventor and Artist not only can make majestic peaks and towering trees, but also paints the very grass with beauty so that we will know of God and God’s care for us. It was so fitting that after this daytrip my evening study was on Psalm 8. Following is my rendition of this chapter in verse. (The full song will be presented in an upcoming sermon.)

-Pastor Doug

### Psalm 8

When I think of the heavens  
Your hands have made  
The moon and the stars  
You hung in their place  
Then I look at myself  
Fragile and small  
And wonder why do you care  
For humans at all?

O brilliant Creator  
Every voice shouts your fame!  
O Lord our God  
The earth echoes your name!

You’ve crowned us with glory  
Since Eden’s dawn-light  
Gave us charge of your world  
Creatures both tame and wild  
The birds of the air  
The tall ancient trees  
Mountains and lakes  
Singing whales in the seas

O brilliant Creator  
Every voice shouts your fame!  
O Lord our God  
The earth echoes your name!



## Adult Faith Formation Electives

Beginning September 7 – November 23, 2014

Elective	Facilitator/leader	Meeting Room	Notes
Life Stories Workshop	Laurie Oswald Robinson	TBD	Begins Sept. 21 – Nov. 30
Ordinary Miracles	Phil Schmidt Krista Abrahams	Sanctuary Overflow	Parents of children 5 yrs. & under
Bible Study: Adult Quarterly	Bonnie Janzen	Rm. 113	60 years and older
Bible Study: Adult Quarterly	John Schmidt Dale Alderfer	Rm. 211	BASIC (Brothers and sisters in Christ)
Worship Response/ discussion	Les Goerzen	Rm. 112	Intergenerational
Book study/discussion	Jason and Anna Unruh	Room 17 (East end of Fellowship Hall)	Young adult & college age
Various Resources: Sr. High Youth	Carol Duerksen	Rm. 14-15	TMYF

**November 30 – December 21: Advent Conspiracy – Christmas Can [Still] Change the World.**

Adults are encouraged to engage with the Advent themes in their classes during the Faith Formation hour.

Themes addressed during Advent worship are: **\*Worship Fully \*Spend Less \*Give More \*Love All**

**December 28** – No Faith Formation classes. Bring Christmas goodies to share!

**Jr. Department 2014-15 Fall - Spring**

Two year olds will be using the *Wee Wonder* curriculum

Preschool through grade 8 will be using the new SHINE curriculum