



The Study of Revelation

Sunday Worship Themes

March 1 - Revelation:

A Scroll and Two Witnesses

Revelation 10-11

Pastor Phil preaching

March 8 - Revelation:

The Woman and the Dragon

Revelation 12

Katherine Goerzen preaching

March 15 - Revelation:

The Beasts and the Lamb

Revelation 13-14

Pastor Rosie preaching

March 22 - Revelation:

Seven Bowls

Revelation 15-16

Pastor Phil preaching

March 29 - Revelation:

Fall of Babylon

Revelation 17-18

Palm Sunday

Pastor Phil preaching

from the staff...

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Tabor Church News

March, 2015

Phil's Ponderings

"What is an Anabaptist Christian?"

This past January, I joined 200 other pastors, professors, and students in attending Pastors Week at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Throughout our time together, we reflected on the above question: "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" What is it that holds us together? Throughout the week, we focused on 1 Corinthians 3:11 – "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." Through engaging speakers, energetic worship, and enriching fellowship, we focused our hearts and minds on Jesus as our firm foundation even amidst tension and conflict in the denomination and broader culture.

"What is an Anabaptist Christian?" It isn't quite so easy to define Anabaptists/Mennonites today. Anabaptists/Mennonites are no longer just an ethnic group of people that emerged out of the Radical Reformation. In fact, people all around the country and around the world are intrigued by Anabaptism, and there are new Anabaptist groups emerging all over the place. Therefore, a central challenge at Pastors Week was for those of us who grew up in Anabaptism to share it freely with others. Don't worry: God won't let the flame die even if Anabaptism looks different in the future than it has ever looked in the past. So "what is an Anabaptist Christian?" What is the core of our faith that we can share freely with our community and our world?

Mennonite Mission Network has explored this question and Palmer Becker wrote a booklet called "What is an Anabaptist Christian?"¹ in which he offers these central thoughts:

- *Jesus* is the center of our faith.
- *Community* is the center of our lives.
- *Reconciliation* is the center of our work.

What do you think? What would you say is an Anabaptist Christian? And how can we energetically share our Anabaptist, Christian faith with a hungry world?²

I went to Pastors Week to fellowship, learn, and worship. I was truly blessed by attending: I was blessed by the opportunity to visit with many other pastors, I was blessed immensely by the energetic hymn singing, and I was blessed by the engaging speakers who challenged me to keep Jesus as the firm foundation upon which we must all rely. Ever since our trip, I have felt a new energy and enthusiasm for the worship and missional life of our congregation. For all of this I say, Thanks be to God!

~Pastor Phil

¹Available as a free download at <http://www.mennonitemission.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/Tools%20for%20Mission/Missio%20Dei/DL.MissioDei18.E.pdf>

²We will continue exploring these questions in our May Worship Series.



Dates To Remember

- March 9 & 10: 2015 MCC Comforter Blitz
 - March 15: MCC Fellowship Meal at Tabor
 - March 16-21: Western District Conference Basketball Tournament
 - March 21: Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum 2015 Heritage Dinner
 - March 26: Mennonite Women Annual Spring Supper at Hesston Mennonite
 - April 17-18: Kansas Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale
 - June 30-July 5: Mennonite Church USA Convention
 - July 21-26: Mennonite World Conference
 - Oct. 30-31: Western District Conference Annual Assembly
- See announcements or bulletin board for details.

Rosie's Reflections

Saying goodbye isn't easy. I have a sister-in-law who even tears up every time she has to say goodbye at a family gathering. We don't know when we'll see each other again.

Saying goodbye has been weighing heavy on my mind lately. I know I'm not alone in this. Since I began as pastor 2 years ago, we've said goodbye to many loved ones. I've participated in 12 funerals here at Tabor, and more of us have lost loved ones beyond this community. Losses come in many other ways too; we grieve the loss of jobs, health, relationships, etc. When we experience loss we shed many tears and grieve deeply. Sometimes the pain we feel seems too much to bear. However, in the midst of our grief we also experience surprises of hope. Through family, friends and the Tabor church family, we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Together through hugs, prayers, the caring quilt, and words of comfort we are able to work through these difficult times of grief.

As we grieve our losses, we also celebrate memories. When we share our memories, for example, we sometimes learn something new about our loved one that we didn't even know ourselves. Sometimes we learn something new about ourselves as well. It's through these times of sharing that we open ourselves even more to receiving God's amazing grace, peace and strength flowing through us.

During the March Faith Formation hour, I invite those of you who have experienced significant losses to come. The hour will be structured with time to share and pray together. Sharing our grief and losses can open new ways to heal. Come!

During this season of Lent, we are reminded of Jesus' invitation to come. He says, *"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* Matthew 11:28-30.

~Pastor Rosie



Grace's Goodies

Ham and Swiss Scones

Served at February church staff meeting along with Hot Curried Fruit and Sausage.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 3 3/4 cup flour | 1 cup finely diced ham |
| 1/4th cup sugar | 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese |
| 1 Tbs. baking powder | 2 Tbs. minced green onions |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 1/3rd cup plus 1 TBS. heavy whipping cream, divided |
| 3/4 cup cold butter, cubed | |
| 4 oz. cold cream cheese, cubed | |

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. In medium bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Using pastry blender, cut in butter and cream cheese until mixture is crumbly. Stir in ham, cheese and green onions. Add 1 1/3 cup cream, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened.

On a lightly floured surface, pat out dough into a 10 inch round. Cut into 8 wedges. Place onto prepared pan. Brush with remaining 1 Tbs. cream. Bake for 18 to 22 min. or until golden brown.

Digging Deeper with Doug

How's this for a five year plan?

- 1 - Go to law school
- 2 - Become a successful lawyer
- 3 - Buy a BMW
- 4 - Become a successful judge
- 5 - Become a Supreme Court Justice, become rich, write memoirs, become famous.

This was Justin Chambers' incredibly ambitious plan to follow after he graduated college. So for his last Spring Break his senior year he was ready to party. He thought he'd maybe go to Hawaii, or the Caribbean. But his bank account was a little low. And one of the teachers at the school kept bugging him to go on a service trip down to Atlanta, GA and work with homeless ministries via a program called DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection a partner program with Mennonite Mission Network). Justin didn't really want to do this trip, but it was cheap-- sponsored by the school-- and he'd never been to Georgia or actually met a homeless person. Justin was a Christian, president of the school's Gospel Choir, and had turned his life over to God. Justin decided to go to Atlanta.

Justin continued telling his story to the TMYF during a February, Wednesday night session. He said with conviction, *"You never know what might happen if you turn your five year plan over to God."*

Because of the power of serving and the power of community that Justin found during that Spring Break, one thing led to another and Justin's five year plan had a complete makeover. Justin is now director of the service program, DOOR Atlanta. There's no BMW. No big salary. But Justin says that in his three years working with DOOR's ministry with the homeless he has been incredibly blessed and received much more than he has given. The five year plan? It's now one day at a time listening to God's voice.

The TMYF will be going on a service trip this summer, place yet to be determined. TMYF'ers often cite service trips as a place "where they meet God".

~Pastor Doug

Nazareth Village Mission Bank Project

The Junior Department offering this year will go to support Mennonite Mission Network Mission Bank Projects. The mission bank project chosen is Nazareth Village.

Sometimes it may be difficult for us to understand Jesus' stories, because our life today is much different from the village farm culture of Jesus' time. While visitors experience Jesus' culture at Nazareth Village, they also hear his words. In that way, Jesus' teachings really come alive! Your offerings will help Christians in Nazareth share the life and love of Jesus with thousands of visitors each year!

\$500 helps to build a study center, where students, teachers and pastors can come to spend time learning about Jesus' life in Nazareth.

\$100 helps Nazareth Village stay open for a day.

\$50 helps Nazareth Village purchase one lamb for the farm.

\$15 allows one person to visit Nazareth Village to see how Jesus lived.

In addition to the offerings that Tabor children bring to Faith Formation on Sunday mornings, one half of the adult Faith Formation offering will go toward this project as well. The remaining half of the adult offering will go to support the Christian Education budget.



Know Jesus

A couple weeks ago, Jason and I were privileged to take nine Junior Highers to the overnight event, "Know Jesus" at Hesston College. This was a weekend full of music, games, laughter and fun. Our sessions took us throughout the history of the Anabaptist church. Our first speaker, John Sharp gave us a picture of how it all began in Europe, with our very own Elizabeth Alderfer getting to participate on stage. Our second speaker Ron Moyo told us stories about the current church in Ethiopia and the persecution they have endured there. On Sunday morning, Kevin Wilder gave us the challenge to have Jesus be our main course and not just a side dish as we go out to our own homes and schools.

Saturday night was the highlight for many of the youth as we played the Anabaptist game. The rain made it more fun as we sneaked around to nine different safe houses. These safe houses told the stories of Anabaptists going through persecution, both from the past and the present.

Many of the memories from the weekend will include hanging out with friends, playing the Anabaptist game, ice cream and hot chocolate, worship, and eating our loaves of bread on Sunday morning. Over all it was a wonderful weekend that I am blessed to have shared with these amazing young people.

-Anna Unruh

Pictured above left to right: (standing) Justice Johnson, Dawson Duerksen, Anna Unruh, Porclein Unruh, Kaitlynn Lee, Elizabeth Alderfer, Jakelin Limon, Jason Unruh. (kneeling) Layci Froese, Audessi Unruh. (not pictured: Emily Brandt)



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

Healthy communication leads to healthy marriage relationships. Two key aspects of healthy communication are *assertiveness* and *active listening*. This month, let's focus on *assertiveness*.

"Assertiveness is the ability to express your feelings and ask what you want in the relationship." Practicing assertiveness means speaking for yourself using "I" statements: "I wish," "I feel," "I think," etc..." It also means avoiding statements that begin with "you": "you always," "you never," etc..." Assertive communication is positive, respectful, and polite.

One example of an assertive statement: "I wish we had more time to go on dates. I love spending time with you and would appreciate having more quality time together."

Marriage Challenge: Incorporate *assertiveness* into your everyday communication with your spouse, and then note how it affects the way that you relate to one another.

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

~Pastor Phil



Jr. High girls and sponsors Kristin Unruh and Anna Unruh attended "Daughters of the King" on February 28.

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Willis Roy Goerzen was born on May 3, 1930 to Jake J. and Sarah Schroeder Goerzen at Bethesda Hospital, Goessel. He lived all his growing up years on the family farm in rural Newton. He attended his first 8 years of school at Emmenthal country school and then attended Goessel High School where he graduated in 1949. He was very involved in the work needed on the farm throughout his young life as well as later after he was married.



He attended Tabor Mennonite Church and was baptized on his confession of faith on May 16, 1948 by Rev. H. B. Schmidt. Attendance at church and his faith were very important to him.

Willis and Thelma Fae Unruh were married on September 9, 1951 at Tabor Mennonite Church. Willis worked on the farm along side his father for the first few years of marriage, and then started working at a dairy farm owned by the Driers, north of Newton.

He started at Graber's Plumbing and Heating in 1955, starting at \$1.35 an hour, and worked there for 40 years until 1995 when he retired. He continued to do many "jobs" for his own family as well as other relatives and friends long after his retirement. He rarely said no to anyone who asked for his help. He was so knowledgeable of carpentry, electrical, plumbing, concrete, and almost anything that had to do with construction of a home. Of course he was so gifted in heating and air conditioning which were his primary focus most of his working career. Venita and Bryan would not have the homes they have today if it had not been for their dad Willis!

After retirement from Graber's, Willis served as a transporter of residents to doctors' appointments, etc, for Bethesda Home. He did this for 14 years. He really enjoyed this and the residents also enjoyed the way that he cared for them and took care of them while driving them to and from Bethesda.

Willis worked but he also played. He loved sports and would go to professional basketball games and baseball games and always would take his family. He loved to barbeque hamburgers and make homemade ice cream and many relatives were able to enjoy his gifts. The start of the season of barbequing was always on his birthday, May 3.

When it came to work or play, Willis and Thelma did everything together. Thelma was his "right hand man". Whether it was cutting fire wood or helping with any of his construction jobs, Thelma was always there. It was important to Willis to have her there.

Willis was very involved in the lives of his children, Venita and Bryan, as they grew up. He attended school functions and spent time with them as a family. Family vacations were very important to him and he made them a lot of fun for all! He was also a grandfather that played with his grandchildren and always made each one of them feel very special.

He started to have health problems in 2004, from bladder cancer to hip replacement, left knee replacement, and then multiple myeloma in 2014. Willis was able to die peacefully at home with Thelma on February 12, 2015, where he always had wanted to be. Home was so important to him!