



*"Jesus is the Center of our Faith"*

# Tabor Church News

June, 2015

## Phil's Ponderings "Vision"

I am a visionary person; I love seeing the big picture and dreaming about how things can be better than they currently are. My job description at Tabor includes visionary leadership: "The pastor will lead the congregation in searching for, finding, and implementing the vision and mission of the church and create ownership by the entire congregation." For some people, a statement like this might seem daunting. To me, a visionary person, a statement like this is energizing!

So, what is our church vision? As followers of Christ empowered by the Spirit, our vision is to extend God's *hospitality, healing, and hope* to everyone around. We are people who do not simply live for ourselves: we live for the benefit of others. We live so that all people will experience God's grace and peace in their lives.

Recently, with Pastor Doug's resignation, the question has been raised: "Shall we hire another half-time Associate Pastor focused on Youth Ministry?" In response to this question, I have a question: "What's the vision?"

In relation to church staffing and youth ministry, I believe that the vision is to hire a Pastor who focuses their time and energy on extending God's *hospitality, healing, and hope* to Tabor youth and their families. This Pastor will be someone who relates well to youth, who shares faith openly through word and deed, and who empowers youth to flourish in faith and life. This Pastor will be someone who has a passion for equipping volunteer youth sponsors to share their faith and gifts with Tabor youth. Furthermore, this Pastor will be a Pastor to the entire congregation, someone who is able to share in the overall ministry of our church through Worship Leading, Teaching, Preaching, Visioning, and Pastoral Care.

The vision is finding someone who meets all of the above...and more! "But Phil," you might ask, "Where are we going to find such a wonderful person?" Here's the good news: we already have! Tabor Deacons have been working as a preliminary search committee. We have reviewed a person's Ministerial Leadership Information form, we have interviewed this person, and we are excited to introduce her as our candidate for the position of Associate Pastor! And here's the even better news: our candidate is someone we already know. Our candidate is our very own Katherine Goerzen!

Katherine is an excellent fit for this open Associate Pastor position. She is already Ordained, she recently graduated from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary with her Masters of Divinity degree, and she has several years experience working as a Pastor, focusing specifically on Youth Ministry. Katherine has a passion for living out her faith, empowering young people, and equipping congregants to use their gifts. I am so excited for the possibility of having Katherine join Rosie and I on the Pastoral Team at Tabor!

So, "Shall we hire another Associate Pastor?" **"YES!"** I believe Katherine will help us live into our church-wide vision of extending God's *hospitality, healing, and hope* in the name of Christ.

Please join us for Katherine's Candidating Sunday in two weeks on June 14. Katherine will preach the sermon that morning, we will have an open time of question and answer with her during Faith Formation, and we invite all interested people, especially Jr. High and Sr. High youth and their families, to a potluck meal at noon.

~Pastor Phil

## Sunday Worship Themes

**June 7 - Bible School Celebration**

**June 14 - Twelve Scriptures**

**John 1:1-18**

Katherine Goerzen preaching

**June 21 - Twelve Scriptures**

**I Corinthians 3:11**

Pastor Phil preaching

**June 28 - Twelve Scriptures**

**Joshua 24:14-15**

Pastor Phil preaching

## Faith Formation

**June 14 - Question and Answer with**  
Associate Pastor Candidate

\*Summer Children's Faith Formation  
begins

**June 21 - Introduction of Resolutions**  
for MC USA Convention

**June 28 - Regular Faith Formation**  
Schedule

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## from the staff...

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

John Gottman, marriage researcher, has written a book entitled *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. Over the next several months, I will be using this book as a guide for our Marriage Moments in the Tabor newsletter. I encourage all married couples to pick up a copy of this book. It is packed with excellent marriage principles that will help your marriage not merely survive, but flourish and thrive.

Before we get to the “Seven Principles,” I would like to highlight a key thought from chapter 2 of the book: “What Does Make Marriage Work?” Gottman says, “At the heart of the Seven Principles approach is the simple truth that happy marriages are based on deep friendship . . . [These couples] have an abiding regard for each other and express this fondness not just in the big ways but through small gestures day in and day out.” Furthermore, “Friendship fuels the flames of romance because it offers the best protection against feeling adversarial toward your spouse.”

**Marriage Challenge:** Build up your friendship within your couple relationship: do fun things together, get to know each other’s likes, dislikes, personality quirks, hopes, and dreams, show care for each other in big and small ways each and every day. Marriages built on deep friendship have opportunity to not merely survive, but to thrive!

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

~Pastor Phil



Junior High Camp WaShunga

## Rosie's Reflections

I’m excited! Not only do I get to help with Tabor’s Bible school this week, but I am also registered for adult Bible school through AMBS (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) beginning June 1. Every Monday evening for 4 weeks, I will be immersed in *The Sermon on the Mount*, along with other adult learners at Hesston Mennonite Church. According to Jerry Truex, the teacher for the course, “No religious text has influenced the world more. It the most quoted text in Mennonite confessions of faith since 1526.” Tabor folks know how important this text is since we’ve recently identified it as one of our 12 foundational scriptures!

Along with the Bible, we are also reading the book, “*Living the Sermon on the mount*,” written by Glenn Stassen. He says, “The Sermon on the Mount is based on God’s grace, on God becoming present, delivering, healing, and calling us to participate; it is not based on our being highly moral or perfect.”<sup>1</sup> I love the idea of participating, or as we often say, “joining God at work.” Bring on adult bible school – I’m ready! ~Pastor Rosie

## Digging Deeper with Doug

Every year that our church family hosts exchange students, it’s around this time that I reflect back on what it’s meant to have exchange students as a part of our youth group. All in all it is an incredibly positive experience. Here are five reasons why.

1. We get to see our church and community through a new lens. Exchange students point out traditions, history, beliefs and habits that we don’t notice anymore. This helps us to both examine and appreciate aspects of our culture.
2. Exchange students are excited and curious and generally positive and this can rub off on us. This often translates into good energy during lessons and events with the youth group.
3. Exchange students often ask us questions about our faith and traditions and having to explain it helps us to grow.
4. It’s a growth experience to get a window into another culture through a youth ambassador. It’s interesting and enlightening to know how things are different in their country (hardy bread and cheese is the main part of one meal per day, they only go to church three times a year) and how things are the same (yes, they also have a McDonalds, God is alive and well in Hamburg!).
5. We can practice “sneaky evangelism”. Ask someone if you’re not familiar with the classic story of *Rudy and Nola and the Hidden Bible*. We’ve also seen that exchange students are often worried about going to church two times a week or more and then are pleasantly surprised that they find it meaningful because the way we do church here is much more engaging. Exchange students have even wanted to take some ideas back with them or seek out groups like ours when they return home.

So this year as we say fare thee well to Max and Benedikt, we pray blessings upon them. They have certainly been a blessing to us. It was a joy to get to know them. It is so very sad to see them go and that means it was so very good to have them with us. ~Pastor Doug

<sup>1</sup>Stassen, Glen H (2009-05-18). *Living the Sermon on the Mount: A Practical Hope for Grace and Deliverance* (Enduring Questions in Christian Life) (Kindle Location 352). Wiley. Kindle Edition.

## Coming this summer June - August!

**Children**, don't miss out on an exciting summer of faith formation! **Beginning Sunday, June 14, children age 3 - grade 5**, will experience God's wonderful world, hear Jesus' teachings using examples from nature, and talk about sharing God's world. Our stories will be presented through dramas and we will frequently have outdoor activities.

Adults, this is your chance to share your love of creation with the children. Even if you've never helped with a children's class before, you can show God's love to Tabor's children by signing up as a helper for a Sunday. We are also looking for volunteers to lead activities and provide snacks. *See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board!*

## Outreach Moment

Highlighting Our Mennonite Mission Network Partners  
Wes and Deb Bergen in Ghana

Wes and Deb do a great job keeping their blog BergenBeats up to date.

On May 7, Wes wrote: *Yesterday I went to a store to buy some avocados. Around here they are called pears, which is pronounced peh-ah. So at the store I asked for a peh-ah. The man gave me a quizzical look, so I repeated that I wanted a peh-ah. He still did not understand, so I pointed. Oh, he said, a peh-ah. So, we keep learning and practicing the language.*

On May 2 he writes: *Today was the funeral for one of Wes' students. Na (Hilda Korkor Naniyo Debrah) was 43 years old. Na had good English and a pastoral heart, so she took Deb under her wing our first months here, visiting for tea, taking us to meet her family's village home, sharing her considerable skills in beading, and making sure we had some good local food. She had survived an earlier bout of cancer, but it came back and she died March 15. Funerals are a big thing in Ghana. There is often a considerable period of time between death and funeral, to allow the family time to raise money, make the plans and arrangements. Posters are often put up around town. There was also a full-color, 20-page booklet giving details about her life and various tributes from family and church.*

Keep Wes and Deb in prayer and keep up with their postings of interesting stories at <https://bergenbeats.wordpress.com>

-Denise Nickel, for the Outreach Commission

### Grace's Goodies

Overnight Stuffed Doughnuts  
*Served at May staff meeting.*

1 8oz. pkg. cream cheese  
3 Tbs. sugar  
6-8 glazed doughnuts -depending on size  
6 eggs  
1 1/4 cups milk  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/4th tsp. salt

Coat a 9x12 baking pan with cooking spray. In a small bowl combine cream cheese and sugar. Cut each doughnut in

half and place bottom half in bottom of pan. Evenly spread cream cheese mixture over doughnut bottoms. Place remaining doughnut halves over cream cheese. In large bowl whisk together the eggs, milk, vanilla, cinnamon and salt. Pour evenly over doughnuts. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Uncover and bake at 350 ° 35 to 40 min or until firm in center. Serve with maple syrup or a sprinkle of confectioners sugar. 6-8 servings.



### Tabor Mennonite Women

The Tabor Mennonite Women's group has had some enjoyable times of meeting together these past several months! These have included a meeting to tie comforters for the MCC Sale, and a work day for MCC projects, which was planned by the Project Committee. Then in March we enjoyed an evening with Carol Duerksen, coordinator for SHARE!, and the exchange students who have attended Goessel High School this past year. This is always an enjoyable evening where we hear stories, for instance, of their first impressions, favorite activities and foods, and lasting impressions they will take back home with them.

In April we held a Salad Supper and enjoyed the music of the women's group WOVEN from Bethel College. Michelle Unruh has been a part of this group during her time at Bethel.

This month Gayle Funk planned a mystery trip for us! The evening of May 27<sup>th</sup> a large group of women, including some guests, found themselves at the Unzicker Bros. Pottery, which is located on the curve of K-15. While owner Tom Unzicker demonstrated his craft by creating a small pitcher, he explained the process of working with clay. Later he showed us the two kilns he has on his property, and we were able to shop in his showroom before leaving. We then went to the Emma Creek Barn, located a few miles northwest of there. As we entered the barn we were greeted by live music by The Flannelbacks and Bethany Schrag. We enjoyed some of Gayle's favorite foods made for us by Monica Voth and Abby Schrag. Some products for purchase were on display throughout the evening.

We will not be meeting in June. On July 15<sup>th</sup> we will spend the day working at the MCC Center in North Newton. We plan to be there from 9:30 to 3:00. Come out and join us if you can! -Diana Schmidt



# Our College Graduates

## Angelina Adame

I graduated from Bethel College with a B.A. in Biology. On August 1st I will marry my best friend :). After the wedding, Michael and I will be moving to Elkhart, IN, where he will begin seminary studies at AMBS and I will work. After a few years of healthcare experience, I plan to continue my studies at Wichita State University in their Physician Assistant program. My appreciation for Tabor Church could not be put into words! When I began coming to Tabor with Michael I was nervous, but everyone was so welcoming that my nerves were put at ease. For the first time I feel like I am part of a church community. I love the way Tabor wraps people in support, prayer, and love when they need it most. Tabor has and will continue to be an important part of my faith journey. I'm especially thankful for Cynthia who opened her house to me and so many others. Her house was my first experience of community at Tabor. I will surely not forget and am thankful for the 4 years worth of fellowship, sharing, learning, laughs and the best cheesy potatoes my tummy has encountered in the Goerzen home!



## Leah Unruh

I am currently finishing up my final college course for Goshen College. I am spending the month of May at Merry Lea, the college's environmental learning center located about 45 minutes from campus. Following this course I will be receiving my bachelors in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. Goshen College has been a wonderful place for me to further my education, challenging me not only academically but also spiritually. I have been exposed to a variety of cultures and many new viewpoints. Through countless hours of practicum, I have come to know the Goshen schools, full of a culturally and economically diverse population of students. I have come to better understand how valuable an educator's role is in many of these students' lives and also how valuable my faith has been and will continue to be as I work with students such as these. This summer, I will be working for ADEC, a nonprofit organization that services individuals with disabilities. I will be working at a day camp they offer for elementary through high school age students. Beyond this summer, my future plans are still developing. I will be staying in Goshen, renting a house with a few of my friends. I appreciate all of the support that I have felt from you throughout these past four years and look forward to my future visits! I think of my tabor family often and hope that you all are doing well!



## Michelle Unruh

I graduated from Bethel College on May 17 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. In August, I will begin student teaching at Hesston Elementary School and Freeman Academy (Freeman, South Dakota) to complete my education license to teach K-12 Vocal and Instrumental Music.



## Shelby Unruh

I graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Music Education.



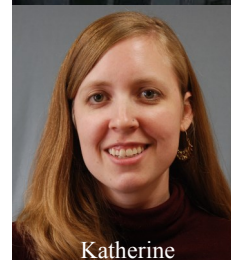
## Grace Unruh

I graduated from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D) degree. I will be pursuing post-graduate training through a year-long residency in community pharmacy practice at various practice sites associated with Idaho State University. One thing that I really appreciated about Tabor was that, even though I wasn't able to spend much time in the area, the church reached out and connected with me to remind me that you were involved in my life, through care packages and kind words.



## Katherine Goerzen

I'm graduating from AMBS with a Masters of Divinity degree. I have seen God at work through this experience in my classes, in my relationships with classmates and professors, in lingering questions about how to put into practice the things that I have learned, in new understandings and a deeper appreciation of Scripture, and through a continuing sense of God's movement in my life, the church, and the world. I have greatly appreciated Tabor's ministry through worship and music, Tabor's deep love and compassion for children, and the ways that Tabor has so warmly welcomed our family into its life and fellowship. For my future plans, I am very excited to be the candidate for the Associate Pastor position at Tabor Mennonite Church!



## Peter Goerzen

I appreciate many things about Tabor! One that stands out is Tabor's ability to join together for a common purpose, such as the MCC Sale. I graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN with a Masters of Divinity (M.Div) degree in Pastoral Ministry. Seminary courses have become a sort of spiritual discipline for me over the past eight years. Seminary courses begin with a time of worship, reminding us of why we are doing the work we are doing and ensuring that scholarly work becomes practical and relevant to God's work in the world. I will continue serving as campus pastor and director of church relations at Bethel College.



## Kathleen Bair

Kathleen graduated from Tabor College last December, receiving her diploma at Commencement ceremonies this Spring. For information from Kathleen, please see the February newsletter. *Picture not available.*