



Tabor Church News

August, 2015

Phil's Ponderings "Mennonite World Conference"

Mennonite World Conference

Sunday Worship Themes

August 2 - Twelve Scriptures

God Sent Jesus for Salvation

John 3:16-17

Communion

Pastor Phil preaching

August 9 - Pastor Doug's last Sunday

Pastor Doug preaching

August 16 - Twelve Scriptures-Clothe

yourselves with Qualities of Christ

Colossians 3:12-17

Pastor Phil preaching

August 23 - Twelve Scriptures

In the beginning was the Word

John 1:1-18

Candidating Sunday

Katherine Goerzen preaching

August 30 - Twelve Scriptures

Be a Living Sacrifice

Romans 12

Pastor Phil preaching



I had the wonderful opportunity to attend Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, PA from July 21-25! It was such a joy to travel with Frank and Joyce Ashley, to reconnect with people I know living all across the country, and to worship and fellowship with Anabaptist people from all across the world! At one of the worship services, the speaker emphasized that our worship was not simply a foretaste of heaven, it really was heaven come to earth!

Please see Frank and Joyce's article on the back of the newsletter calendar to read several of their highlights from the week. In this article, I will focus on several different highlights than what they mentioned. That being said, one highlight that I would like to echo from what Frank and Joyce wrote is the powerful, inspiring music that we participated in all week long. We were led by a wonderful international music team, and we sang songs from all across the world! There is something very inspiring about energetically singing all different kinds of songs in different languages with thousands of other Anabaptist believers!

In addition to the powerful music, a highlight for me was hearing testimonies from several "Young Anabaptists." Each morning, one or two Young Anabaptists reflected on the theme for that day, weaving in their personal experiences, and sharing their Anabaptist convictions related to peace and service. What an inspiration it was to hear from passionate young people who care about the future of the church!

Another highlight for me during worship was listening to "Ecumenical Greetings" from many different people representing many different faiths: Moravians, Lutherans, Catholics, and more. One thing that especially struck me in many of these ecumenical greetings was how these people emphasized the importance of Anabaptists continuing and furthering our peace witness around the world. As a result, I feel inspired to preach more about God's way of peace and reconciliation, and I hope to reflect this in my everyday living.

In addition to dynamic worship services, I also attended several inspiring workshops, focused on the themes of Bible Study, diversity, and peace. I left each workshop challenged to live out my faith in more practical and tangible ways.

Overall, I was impressed with the spirit of unity, passion, and friendliness present throughout the week. We gathered as one people from many nations to worship God, be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and commit to following Jesus faithfully.

If you would like to hear more about Mennonite World Conference, please feel free to ask myself, Frank or Joyce. We would be glad to share our stories, and we encourage you to consider attending a Mennonite World Conference in the future!

~Pastor Phil



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*. In chapter 3 of the book, Gottman describes how he can predict with close to 90% accuracy whether a couple will get divorced or not after listening to them talk to each other for only 15 minutes! But the focus of this book is not on predicting divorce, it is on enriching marriage relationships, including those that are in deep trouble to those that are already strong and vibrant.

The first of Gottman's seven principles is "enhance your love maps," which is a fancy way of saying "get to know each other better." Gottman says, "emotionally intelligent couples are intimately familiar with each other's world. I call this having a richly detailed *love map*—my term for that part of your brain where you store all the relevant information about your partner's life."¹ Furthermore, "Couples who have detailed love maps of each other's world are far better prepared to cope with stressful events and conflict."² This principle might sound overly simple, but as Gottman says, "There are few greater gifts a couple can give each other than the joy that comes from feeling known and understood."³

Marriage Challenge: Take some time to reconnect with your spouse and get to know each other better! Have some fun with this challenge and play Gottman's "The Love Map 20 Questions Game," which you can find at the following web link: <http://rhlink.com/mmw003>.

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

~Pastor Phil

¹Excerpt From: John Gottman Ph.D. & Nan Silver. "The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work." iBooks. <https://itun.es/us/GtdG2.I>

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

Rosie's Reflections

It's hard to make changes. Transition comes in many forms and it impacts us in different ways. Change is a big part of life, and it comes whether we like it or not. Sometimes we plan well in advance for transition and welcome it, while other times we are caught off guard by changes and find them hard to swallow.

I think I deal with transitions fairly well most of the time. However, I am more comfortable when I know what's coming. For example, when my sister got married to a guy from England last year, I saw a change coming – she is moving to England! I am so happy that she and Dave found each other later in life, but I will miss having her close by in Wichita. On the bright side, they plan to return to the states for retirement in 5 or 6 years. But before that happens, I think I need to make my first jaunt overseas, don't you? Good things can emerge from change.

Another change just around the corner is Pastor Doug's transition. We just had our last staff breakfast meeting with him this week. On one hand it's hard to think of life around Tabor without Doug. On the other hand, it gives us the perfect opportunity to take a look at how we do ministry, and reevaluate our gifts as well. Good things can emerge from change. Tabor is embarking on another transition – building a new fellowship hall. Everything that goes into getting ready for this project presents us with many opportunities to get involved in it. Many people are excited while others still have lingering questions. Whatever you are feeling, we can all take this opportunity to hold each other up in prayer, and look for "God sightings" along the way. What are the good things that will emerge from these changes at Tabor? How will we grow in our relationship to God and each other?

Here's a challenge for all of us. As you experience changes in your life, try to look for the opportunities to grow through them. When life throws you a curveball, catch it instead of dodging it. Make friends with change by sharing your fears, frustrations, hopes and dreams as the winds of change blow your way. Embrace the words of Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight." ~Pastor Rosie

Digging Deeper with Doug

Eleven years ago, during a time of deep prayer and asking God "what's next?" in terms of vocation, four "random" youth from various parts of the U.S. told me I should be a youth pastor. So I took it as a sign and came back into youth ministry.

Jude and I have been blessed in countless ways at Tabor during these last eleven years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve among you and with you.

I thank you for entrusting your youth to me. It's been an honor ministering with these young folks and sharing service trips, lessons, sessions, one-on-ones, outreach, a traveling worship band, highs and lows, joys and sorrows and even LOCK INs while discovering what it means to be followers of Jesus.

I am grateful for the support of my passion for music-as-ministry and the way so many of you have joined this ministry and offered your incredible gifts as part of various worship bands and ad hoc music groups.

I continue to be inspired by Tabors commitment to peace and justice issues and community outreach. In many ways this church is indeed a city on a hill.

I have appreciated the ways many in this church offer kind words, loving comments and inspirational scriptures to each other. I too have been on the receiving end of these blessings and will carry them in my heart as I leave this place.

There are many other items of gratitude too numerous to mention here, but may I simply add that the Spirit of God is alive and well in this congregation!

As I sign off with this last article in the Tabor Newsletter, I leave you with these words from Numbers 6:24-26:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
-Pastor Doug

Introducing...

Hello, we are Duane and Sharon Adrian and have just moved to Kansas from Minnesota about six months ago. Duane was born in Butterfield, MN and raised on a farm. Sharon was born in Goessel, KS, the daughter of LeRoy and Alice Funk, and grew up attending Tabor Church. We met at Bethel College, got married in 1969, and moved to Minnesota. We have four children, two sons and two daughters, and five grandchildren.



Duane farmed most of his life and also started a manufacturing company on our farm at which he made agriculture grain handling equipment. Sharon was the accountant for the farm and the manufacturing and also had a custom sewing business in the home. After living in Minnesota for 45 years, we decided it was time to semi-retire, so we moved to Kansas for warmer weather. We brought our businesses along and purchased the Ratzlaff Draperies building for Duane's business and the Peppernut building for Sharon's business. We are thrilled that three out of our four children and all our grandchildren will be living close to us in Kansas too. Our oldest son lives on our farm in Minnesota. We have already become members at Tabor and have enjoyed getting to know our church family.

Tabor Church Finance Task Force

Here is your chance to get to know your Tabor Church Finance Task Force! Or as we lovingly call ourselves, TCFTF. We are excited to continue the work that has already been done and move the process through the next steps. We have energy (most of the time)! We have vision (some more than others)! We are creative (in lots of different and fun ways)! And we love our church and its people. Your reorganized TCFTF has met and made preliminary decisions regarding fundraising. Can you donate already? Of course! Some of you already have! Do you want to know more about how you can participate? Great! September is the month to learn. Are you anxious to meet with us face to face? Wonderful! We are planning to meet with each of you this fall. Keep your eyes, minds and hearts open to the Spirit's movement in our midst.

Members of the TCFTF: John Unruh, Doris Unruh, Lewis Unruh, Carol Duerksen, Nathan Graber, Eric Litwiller, Myron Voth and Carrie Smith

-Carrie Smith



Grace's Goodies

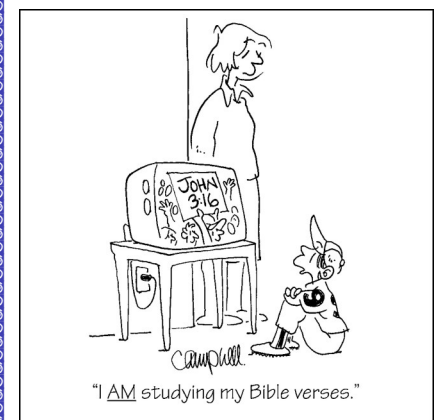
Frozen Fruit Slush
Served at July staff meeting.

Combine:

- 2 cups water
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 12 oz. can frozen orange juice concentrate. (I use with added pulp)
- 1 16 oz. can sliced peaches (cut into smaller pieces)
- 1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple
- 5-5 ripe bananas (sliced)
- 2 small or 1 large carton sliced, sweetened, frozen strawberries, thawed

Dissolve sugar in water. Add orange juice (undiluted) the add fruit. Ladle into individual cups or pour into large bowl and freeze.

Kim's Cartoon Pick





Tabor Mennonite Women

1. Everyone is invited out to visit with the residents at Bethesda on Thursday, August 20 at 7:00 p.m. Please bring an object, story or a picture from the past that can be used for discussion. Tabor Mennonite Women please also bring a dozen cookies to share with the group. We hope you can join us for a fun evening of reminiscing and getting to know the residents better!
2. You will find in your mailboxes a form asking for your input for the 2016 year. We are looking for a new group of officers to lead us and need your help! Please prayerfully consider each position to discern how you will be involved, whether that is an officer position or helping with monthly meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Unruh.
3. Women and Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be September 11-13. The theme is "Joy! It's More Than A Detergent!" Registration forms are available in the foyer. Registration deadline is August 22 and Early Bird discount is August 8. Late fee of \$10 applies to all registrations postmarked after August 29. No registrations accepted day of retreat. Plan on enjoying a weekend away with food, fun, fellowship, and relaxation.

from the staff...

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

Lawn Crew Retires

It is taking four people and a mower donated by Excel to replace what Lee and Phyllis Goertzen did for years, and that's just the beginning.

For at least 20 years, this Goertzen team volunteered their time, equipment, lawn expertise, gas and whatever else it took to keep the church yard mowed and looking good. Lee loved doing the work and put in most of the time, but when he was on the road trucking, Phyllis had plenty of seat time on the mower as well. She was also on hand to pull him out of the lagoon when his mower got too close to the edge.

"I pulled him out with the truck at least twice," Phyllis smiles.

Perhaps it was Lee's desire to have everything look as perfect as possible that got the mower too close to the lagoon. Certainly it led him to mow the lawn near the church twice every week, cutting it in a different direction each time. It led him to irrigate the lawn, sometimes daily as needed. It led him to spray for weeds, fertilize, and personally purchase a sidewalk trimmer just for the church.

The biggest challenge, he said, is just making sure it looked nice all the time, especially for weddings or funerals. And if that meant 2-5 hours a day, twice a week, that's what he did.

Lee also did snow removal many of those years, and he was involved with the sound system too. Somebody had to make sure there were batteries on hand. Somebody had to buy CDs and hearing aid supplies. Somebody had to schedule the sound system operators. Somebody had to encourage people to use the "sound boxes" so they could hear the service better. Lee did that too.

The Tabor Mennonite Church family is made up of many people who volunteer many hours to make it all work. Lee and Phyllis say that their work has been part of their mission to the church and God.

Thank you, Lee and Phyllis!

~Carol Duerksen

Outreach Opportunity

One of the outreach opportunities that was recently begun here at Tabor is collecting bags for the St. Francis Foster Care program. Often children are removed from their homes unexpectedly and their belongings are quickly packed into whatever is available, many times trash bags. In order to give these children dignity, St. Francis has gently used bags on hand for the children to choose and place their possessions in. Bags continue to be collected and delivered to St. Francis and they are very much appreciated.

Now we have the opportunity to help in another way as well. Many times children arrive at the center and need to wait up to a day before a family is found to place them with. At other times, they return to the center for visits with their biological parents, grandparents or guardians. During these times, new or gently used toys would be welcome for their use or to use as gifts to send with them when they meet their new families. Items such as books, magazines, nail polish, craft items (not beads, which are too small for children and may become hazardous) are good to have for older children and teens. Please consider making a donation. You may leave your items in the church office and Mandy Funk will make sure they are delivered to the center.