



Sunday Worship Themes

**Feb. 5 - The Bible and Our Bodies:
*When Sexuality is Abused and Violated***

2 Samuel 12:1-22; Psalm 22
Pastor Katherine preaching

**Feb. 12 - The Bible and Our Bodies:
*The Church, the Family of God***

Colossians 3:12-17; Mark 3:31-35
Pastor Phil preaching

Feb. 19 - Ministry Storytelling
Commission Reps

Feb. 26 - Youth Sunday



Tabor Church News

February, 2017

Phil's Ponderings:

"Prayer and Visioning"

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship...For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:1, 4-5).

On Saturday, January 14, almost 30 people from Tabor gathered for our annual Prayer and Visioning Retreat. It was good to have so many people from the various church commissions participate in this retreat together!

Our time together was fruitful and encouraging. We began the morning with fellowship while eating some delicious homemade cinnamon rolls (thanks Barb and Denise!). Then we moved into a time of community prayer using the Anabaptist Prayer book. After our time of community prayer, we spent the rest of the morning prayerfully reflecting on Romans 12. This passage was chosen for three main reasons: 1) It is one of our church's 12 Scriptures. 2) It speaks to how we as followers of Jesus can live as a healthy **body** of Christ, and the body language fit nicely with our current worship series, "The Bible and Our Bodies". 3) It is a passage that offers specific, practical, and challenging practices to embody together.

As we read through Romans 12 in three sections (vv. 1-2, vv. 3-8, vv. 9-21), we reflected in small groups about how we as a church family had embodied Paul's words in the past year and how we hope to embody them in the coming year. At the end of the morning, we reflected on practices/experiments that we can try in this coming year to improve the health of our collective body.

Some ideas that were mentioned include persevering in prayer, enhancing our peace witness, facilitating conversations about Tabor traditions, participating more actively in Bible Study, building healthier communication patterns, and practicing sharing the Gospel through word and deed. Many more ideas were shared and it was a joy to brainstorm and dream together about how we can live as a healthier community.

I pray that the work of this retreat is not complete. I pray that commissions will continue to reflect on and implement practices that will enhance our health as a body. And I pray that all who attend and participate in the ministries of Tabor will do so actively with the intent of building up the body in love.

"Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16).

~Peace, Pastor Phil



Tabor Mennonite Women

The Tabor Mennonite Women (TMW) concluded our year with our annual Christmas breakfast at the church. About a hundred women and girls from the church and their guests braved the cold and incoming snow on the morning of December 17th.

Carrie Smith, co-chairperson welcomed everyone to the brunch, and offered a blessing for the delicious meal which the social committee had prepared. Carrie had decorated the tables with various ornaments, nativities, candles, and other Christmas decorations. We enjoyed singing some traditional Christmas hymns, and the children listened intently to Barb Banman as she read the story "If You're Missing Baby Jesus." This was a true story from 1943 by Jean Gietzen. Our entertainment for the morning was harpist Judy Mace. Judy is a harpist and pianist, with a degree in piano performance and certification in harp therapy. She shared some beautiful music of Christmas on the harp, and invited interaction throughout her time with us.

TMW met January 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to cut fabric squares. We had 15 women in attendance and cut enough squares to make six comforters tops.

-Diana Schmidt and Sharon Adrian, reporting

Rosie's Reflections

When is a tradition something to hold onto, and when is it something to let go of? What's the difference between having a tradition and repeating something over and over again (a repetition)? Asking these questions may help us discern the importance of what we're doing at Tabor. In other words, if we stop doing *this or that*, will our core beliefs be comprised? Will we be losing an important part of our Anabaptist heritage? Who are we as followers of Jesus Christ?

At our January Leadership Retreat, we asked a lot of questions about how we're living out Romans 12, one of our discerned 12 scripture texts. Part of our discussion led us to the topic of tradition. How do they help us be "holy and acceptable to God," as Paul encourages us to be? One of our practices has been singing *Nun Ist Sie Erschienen* during the season of Advent and Christmas. What do we lose/gain by singing it once or five times?

Another practice at Tabor is having children and adults meet for Faith Formation. Every week on Wednesday and Sunday, we hold on to this tradition. Why do we place a value on meeting together for Faith Formation classes?

Are these two examples traditions or repetitions at Tabor? What do we gain from them? What would be lost if we didn't have them? How do they help us live out Paul's words in Romans 12? How do they help Tabor extend hospitality, healing and hope to others?

An exercise for Tabor might include listing our traditions, then ask the questions suggested above. And please hear me; I'm not advocating dropping or changing everything Tabor is doing. What I am advocating for is a healthy, Christ-centered body. "*Brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, (may we) present (our) bodies as living (sacrifices), holy and acceptable to God, which is (our) spiritual worship.*" Romans 12:1.

~Grace and peace, Pastor Rosie



“The Other Talk”

Our church family has been having a series of worship services centered around the theme “Healthy Sexuality”. In many families this would be referred to as ‘the talk’. There is no question that this is an important topic and we need to engage it even if it is sometimes difficult. With trust and love we can learn from each other and become all that God envisioned when we were created in God’s image.

There is another difficult talk that many families find benefits from love and trust, which is discussions about money. This is “the other talk” Tabor is having with our Facility Fund Drive. Yep, it is sometimes hard, in families, to say what our priorities are and stick to them. Why shouldn’t I own a jet ski just because I am saving for retirement? Why shouldn’t we eat out again, even though we are saving for college? All of us can supply the examples from our own families. The Finance Task Force would like to have this type of loving and trusting discussion with our Tabor family members.

We have ten months left to reach our goal of raising \$1,000,000 for our planned Fellowship Hall addition. This addition will allow us to re-purpose our current fellowship hall and to reach out to our community in new ways. Our current total commitment to the project is \$660,000. We have direct contributions from 83 Tabor families and many more have contributed to our various fund raisers. This progress represents about 2/3 of our goal and we have enough time to make substantial further progress. The Task Force has clearly felt your enthusiasm and commitment and we praise God for it.

The Finance Task Force is reaching out to all the commissions and leaders of our church in the next few weeks to compile a list of priorities for our project. In addition, at least a few of the Task Force members, Carol Duerksen, Eric Litwiller, Carrie Smith, Doris Unruh, John Unruh, Lewis Unruh and Myron Voth will be available after the worship services in February to hear your concerns and priorities for the next months of our fundraising. Can you share with us what God is revealing to you about our project and our money? Will you trust us to hear you and to respond as a body to your vision for the future? Will you include the Finance Task Force and our fund drive in your prayers? What advice and direction will God reveal to you that you can share with us?

The Finance Task Force is going about the task that you have set for us: we are collecting the money that you wish to contribute to this project. But now we want to add another task. We want to begin talking about the best imaginable outcomes for the money. Of course we have a plan that we have agreed upon but what can that plan accomplish? Just as when a family says “What if we could send all our children to college?” or “What if our retirement allowed us to do voluntary service somewhere?”, what do we dream about for Tabor? What’s next as we continue “Building Hospitality, Healing and Hope”?

~Myron Voth for Finance Task Force



... with our Time, Talents and Treasures



**It's time to put
together
College Student
Care Packages!**

The youth group will be assembling the Care Packages on Wednesday, February 15. Goodies can be placed in the decorated box in the foyer anytime between now and February 15. Please bring home-baked goods to the church on Wednesday, February 15 and put on the back table in the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen. Our current college students are Sarah Booth, Carson Voth, Reece Hiebert, Luke Unruh, and Mark Schmidt. Let's show them our love!

~Kristin Unruh



Community Bible Study and Concert

Save the Date! We are excited to announce that Bryan Moyer Suderman (<http://www.smalltallministries.com/>) will be with us April 21-23 to lead community Bible Study sessions on Friday and Saturday, to provide a community concert for all ages, and to lead worship at Tabor on Sunday morning! If you haven't heard Bryan's music, be sure to check it out. This event will be hosted at Tabor and is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Save the dates and plan to join us for this fun and enriching opportunity to study scripture, worship, and fellowship together!





TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

			1 Wednesday Evening Activities	2 12pm Newton Lunch Bunch	3	4 6pm Post College - Pre Family gathering @ Tabor
5 9:30am Worship 10:45am CFF	6	7 9:30am Staff meeting	8 Wednesday Evening Activities	9 6:30pm What's Cookin'? 7pm Christian Education	10	11 11am Worship Planning Team @ Mojo's
12 9:30am Worship 10:45am CFF 11:45am We ♥ Grace Potluck	13	14 10am Staff meeting	15 Wednesday Evening Activities	16 Newsletter Items Due 10am Stories & Stuff	17 ← AVDS @ Hesston College	18
19 9:30am Worship: Ministry Storytelling 10:45am CFF →	20	21 10am Staff meeting	22 Wednesday Evening Activities	23	24	25 8am-3:30pm Community Women's Retreat @ Bethesda Home Chapel
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am CFF	27	28 10:00am Staff meeting 12pm Tabor Ladies Lunch Bunch 7pm Deacon meeting				

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - LeRoy Goertzen | 19 - Kevin Nickel |
| Justin Graber | 20 - Jessica Wulf |
| 2 - Stan Schmidt | Adriana Duerksen |
| Dora Unruh | 21 - Barb Abrahams |
| 3 - Roman Chiappetti | David Wedel |
| 4 - Leah Unruh | 22 - Chris Schmidt |
| 5 - Natalie Church | Van Schmidt |
| 6 - Richard Voth | 23 - Tara Duerksen |
| 8 - Art Schmidt | Nancy Ediger |
| 9 - Jerry Voth | Tara Coopridner |
| 10 - Christian Graber | Jerry Graber |
| Vatiken Unruh | Carol Schroeder |
| 13 - Erica Stoltzfus | Laura Goerzen |
| 14 - Dwight Schmidt | 24 - Lynette Johnston |
| 16 - Rodney Franz | 25 - Jenny Goertzen |
| 17 - Katherine Goerzen | Emma Coopridner |
| Isabelle Alderfer | 26 - Dora Goerzen |
| 18 - Kristin Schmidt | 27 - Mae Frey |
| Sharon Unruh | Andrew Seibel |
| Austin Hiebert | 28 - Marcene Entz |
| Aubrielle Francis | Stanley Ediger |
| Lydia Nickel | Kindra Goertzen |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Fred & Brenda Schmidt | February 3 | 44 yrs. |
| Richard & Sharon Schroeder | February 21 | 47 yrs. |
| Patty Wiens & Tim Bechtle | February 23 | 35 yrs. |
| Elmer & Lynne Voth | February 26 | 40 yrs. |

*Bulletin Announcements due 8 a.m.
Thursday mornings.*