



Tabor Church News

March, 2017

Phil's Ponderings:

"Radical Hospitality"

*"As God's children and the body of Christ, we are called by God to offer **hospitality, healing and hope** in the name of Christ."*

(Tabor Vision Statement)

Sunday Worship Themes

March 1 - Ash Wednesday

March 5 - Restore us, O God!

We Hunger (Lent 1)

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7;

Psalms 32; Romans 5:12-19;

Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Phil preaching

March 12 - Restore us, O God!

We Wonder (Lent 2)

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

Pastor Phil preaching

March 19 - Restore us, O God!

We Thirst (Lent 3)

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;

Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Pastor Katherine preaching

March 26 - Restore us, O God!

We See (Lent 4)

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Pastor Phil preaching

March 1 begins the season of Lent, which is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. Lent is a season of repentance, reflection, and renewal. In preparation for Lent, I am reflecting on our church's vision to extend God's *hospitality, healing, and hope* to others in a world that resists these practices. In our polarized country and world, it seems more and more rare to hear or read stories of people extending hospitality, healing, and hope to others, especially toward people who are different than them, such as refugees and immigrants.

For this reason, during the six Sundays in Lent, I will be leading an elective Faith Formation class entitled "Radical Hospitality: Responding to the Issue of Immigration." The materials for this study were designed by Mennonite Church USA to be used in congregations seeking to learn more about the complexities of immigration today as well as how to respond faithfully as followers of Jesus. The curriculum includes video segments as well as discussion questions.

I invite anyone interested to join this class. I anticipate that we will have interactive, thoughtful, and challenging conversations. I hope that the class discussions will help us discern how to do more to extend *hospitality, healing, and hope* beyond the walls of our church and beyond our local communities. I pray that as followers of Jesus, we can extend hospitality, healing, and hope to all as a sign and foretaste of God's in-breaking kingdom.

*"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in **hope**, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend **hospitality** to strangers." (Romans 12:9-13)*

~Peace, Pastor Phil



As God's children and the body of Christ, we are called by God to offer *hospitality, healing and hope* in the name of Christ.

Did you know . . .

Newton Et Cetera Shop is a nonprofit thrift shop with a mission to provide quality, affordable, recycled merchandise to the community; encourage volunteerism, stewardship, and recycling; and benefit the work of MCC and the local community.

Et Cetera Shop was started by volunteers in 1976 as a way of raising money for MCC. Currently more than 230 volunteers are actively involved. Since opening, the shop has donated more than \$3 million to MCC.

MCC is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches that shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.

MCC partners with local organizations and individuals in more than 50 countries around the world. Its priorities include disaster relief, sustainable community development, and justice and peace-building.

"In 2012, Et Cetera Shop also began setting aside approximately 10 percent of its proceeds for local community giving," said Katherine Claassen, Newton Et Cetera Shop board member. "Since 2012, we've given away over \$100,000 locally. That's in addition to about \$5,000 each year going to community needs as merchandise vouchers given to local organizations."

Shop Et Cetera! For those who revel in the treasure hunt. For those who are trying to turn status quo consumerism on its head. For those who need a decent pair of shoes and a warm coat. For those who love shopping Et Cetera.

The store is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NewtonEtc/

*information from:
<http://www.newtonetceterashop.com/>



Rosie's Reflections

Last week as we gathered for Tabor's monthly *Stories & Stuff*, I was reminded again why it's so important to gather for storytelling. Whether sharing stories of traumatic events like being snowed in overnight at school or barely escaping from a house fire to sharing passions for writing, collecting vintage glassware, woodworking and art, we express through our stories who we are as fearfully and wonderfully made in God's good image. Telling our stories bears witness to our dreams, hopes and passions. Our stories shape who we are.

In the picture, you see vintage items and collectables, each one carrying an interesting story. Who knew that waffles could still be made with an antique waffle iron on a modern stove? Or how about grinding coffee beans by hand for your morning brew? Did you know there was an instrument used for bloodletting in the old days, and that Loren Brandt has one? As these and more items were explained and their stories told, more stories unfolded. That's the beauty of storytelling. Stories evoke more stories and memories in the listeners. But maybe more important than the individual story is the time we spend together each month. We usually gather on the 3rd Thursday at 10 a.m. for stories, laughter and food. There's always room for more at the table and we hope you can join us in March. Another theme is brewing and information will be coming soon. We hope to see you for *Stories & Stuff* on Thursday, March 16!

~Grace and peace, Pastor Rosie

Tabor Mennonite Women

"Why did you come to America as an exchange student?"... "What was your first impression of KS?"... "Tell us a funny story from your time here."... "How has being an exchange student changed you?"

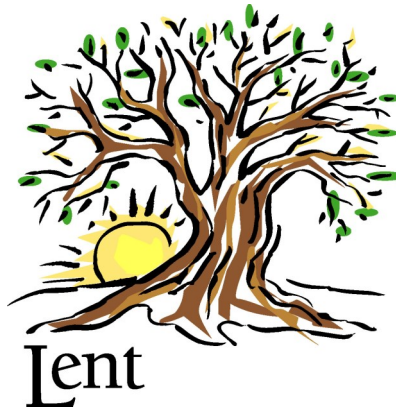
These are just some of the questions that six foreign exchange students, brought together by Carol Duerksen, answered at the Tabor Mennonite Women's meeting on the evening of February 13th. A group of about 22 of us enjoyed meeting the students, and hearing them answer questions about their lives and their time here so far. Brenda Buller shared the devotions, and an offering was taken. We ended the evening with some refreshments provided by the social committee. We encourage people to attend the comforter blitz on March 6-8. Our next meeting will be a work day (morning) on Saturday, March 11th from 9:00am – noon at the church.

-Diana Schmidt, reporting

Katherine's Candor

This Lenten Season we will be using the worship resources from the *Leader Magazine*. Here is an introduction to the series we'll be using:

"Our world is filled with many voices and distractions that call us away from God – violence and fear, consumerism and materialism, hectic schedules and constant busyness, to name just a few. As Christians, we are not immune to the side effects of living in this environment and can feel afraid, filled both with doubt and an inner restlessness.



So what is an antidote to this perpetual bombardment? Enter the season of Lent. Lent is a 40-day period in the Christian calendar that provides a chance to step back and create space, offering opportunities for reflection. It is a time to repent, to renew our commitment to God's ways, and to empty ourselves of what distracts us from hearing God's voice. Lent is often referred to as a wilderness, a space where the familiar is stripped away and we face our brokenness. Jesus began his ministry alone in the wilderness, where he faced temptations, fasted, and prayed.

The stories highlighted this season call us to conversion and new life (Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and Lazarus). In these texts, there is an "overwhelming call to be restored, often in the midst of the depths of humanity as we experience our thirst, hunger, breath, sight, and temptation but turn to wondering and hoping.

We invite you to enter into this Lenten journey of new life. This is not a journey of perfection, but one where we face both the limits of our humanity and our need for divine transformation. Restore us, O God!"

~Pastor Katherine



Community Renewal

Bible Study and Concert

We are excited to have Bryan Moyer Suderman with us on 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!

For information on Bryan see:
<http://www.smalltallministries.com/>



Foreign Exchange Students share at Tabor Mennonite Women meeting.

March



TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

			1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Meal Ash Wednesday Service Fellowship Hall	2 10am Staff Brunch 12pm Newton Lunch Bunch Tabor Serves at New Hope Shelter	3	4
5 <i>Communion</i> 9:30am Worship 10:45am CFF Noon WaShunGa Fundraiser	6	7 9:30am Staff meeting 7pm Church Council MCC Comforter Blitz	8 Wednesday Evening Activities	9 7pm Tabor Program @ Bethesda	10	11 TMW Project Day
12 9:30am Worship 10:45am CFF Noon-MCC Fellowship Meal Chapel @ Bethesda	13	14 10am Staff meeting	15 Wednesday Evening Activities	16 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Items Due</i> 10am Stories & Stuff	17	18
19 9:30am Worship 10:45am CFF 4:30pm St. Patrick's Potato Potluck	20	21 10am Staff meeting	22 Wednesday Evening Activities	23 WDC Women's Spring Supper at Bethel College	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am CFF Chapel @ Kidron Bethel	27	28 10:00am Staff meeting 12pm Tabor Ladies Lunch Bunch		Daylight Savings Time Begins March 12		

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Richard Johnston | 19 - Carol Duerksen |
| Taylor Buller | Eva Pankratz |
| Taylor Hall | 20 - Eileen Schmidt |
| 3 - Melissa Kalinoff | 21 - Elaina Graber |
| 6 - Jerol Schmidt | Miles Lafferty |
| Keri Unruh | 22 - Delaney Duerksen |
| 8 - Sandra Duerksen | 24 - Jude Krehbiel |
| Austin Unruh | Samantha Haxton |
| Eve Buller | 25 - Norma Graber |
| 9 - Kristie Diller | Laura Unrau |
| Brenda Buller | 26 - Lee Hiebert |
| 10 - Susan Merrifield | 27 - Boyd Unruh |
| Josephine Unruh | 28 - Lynne Voth |
| 12 - Kathryn Smith Derksen | Jonathan Enszt |
| 13 - Dana Gleason | 30 - Sophia Goerzen |
| Evelyn Schmidt | Sawyer Unruh |
| 16 - Duane Duerksen | 31 - Norah Schmidt |
| 17 - Nicholas Johnson | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Russ & Sandra Duerksen | March 7, | 30 yrs. |
| Doug & Jude Krehbiel | March 11, | 31 yrs. |
| Londell & LeNora Duerksen | March 13, | 41 yrs. |
| LeRoy & Alice Funk | March 16, | 69 yrs. |
| Tim & Katie Wedel | March 26, | 34 yrs. |
| Darren "DJ" & Lisa Schmidt | March 26, | 6 yrs. |
| Bruce & Eileen Schmidt | March 29, | 48 yrs. |

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