

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

January 4, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Marvin Zehr

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Julia Washburn

Chorister: Suzy Burch

Worship Leader: Brian Hilgenfeld

## Farewell Service for Pastor James Voth

### Prelude

### Welcoming Guests and Announcements

*During this time we spend a few moments introducing our guests. We're glad you have come to worship with us. May you sense God's peace and direction as we meet together with our Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Instrumental Call to Worship

Ben Lichti

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* – Schop/Bach (hymn 203)

### \* Call to Worship

**Leader:** With one voice, let us glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: We will speak of the glory of God's kingdom and tell of God's power.**

**Leader:** The Son is the radiance of God's glory, and he is the manifestation of the Father.

**People: In Christ, the complete being of the Godhead dwells.**

**Leader:** The incarnation of Christ has brought the divine into our midst.

**People: God's love was revealed among us in this way;  
God sent his only Son into the world,  
so that we might live through him. AMEN**

### \* Prayer of Invocation

\* **Opening Hymns No. 216** *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*  
**No. 102** *To God be the glory*  
*Lighting of candle – Carine Claassen*

**Offering** Mennonite Church USA

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 60:1-6

Emily Toews

**Special Music** *Thou True Vine, that Heals the Nations*  
- American Folk Melody (hymn #373)  
Ben Lichti and Suzy Burch

**Children's Moments**

Pastor Katherine

### Congregational Sharing

- ◆ Sharing by Pastor Jim and Barb
- ◆ Picture Presentation
- ◆ Time for sharing memories
- ◆ Congregational gift
- ◆ Prayer

\* **Hymn No. 327** *Great is thy faithfulness*

**New Testament Reading** John 1:1-18

Katie Regier

*Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care*

**Sermon**

Dorothy Nickel Friesen

\* **Hymn No. 311** *The church's one foundation*

### Service of Communion

**Litany of Blessing and Release for Pastor James Voth** *see insert*  
Dorothy Nickel Friesen

**Prayer**

Dorothy Nickel Friesen

\* **Benediction Hymn No. 118** *Praise God from whom*

\* **Benediction**

Pastor Jim

### Postlude

\*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

There is no Sunday School this morning.

All are welcome to the carry-in meal in honor of Pastor Jim and Barb in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

### **For Sharing and Prayer**

Ruby Barrett, mother of Roberta Harms, passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2008. Remember the family in your prayers at this time.

Thank you to all who participated in some way to make our Christmas Eve Service such a special event: To the Mariners, Seekers, and Pursuers Sunday School classes for planning, hosting, and decorating; for the candy sack treats for the children; to Pastor Jim for sharing in the program; for joining together for fellowship afterwards. Special thanks to all the children and youth who so willingly shared their talents to make this a joyful celebration.

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for the 23 years of ministry of James Voth as pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite Church as he completes his ministry today.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Join MMN workers Anna and Joe Sawatzky in Mthatha, South Africa, in praise to God for new vitality in the Bethany Bible School program. Pray for continued growth for students and vision for the committee leading the program.

## Church Events

**Monday afternoon** Quilters - You are welcome to come to the church and quilt on the MCC quilt on Monday afternoon anytime from 1-5 p.m.

**Monday at 7:00 p.m.** Worship Council meets at church.

**Wednesday 6:10 p.m.** Kid's Meal at the church\*  
**7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** Children's and Youth Programming  
**7:40 – 8:30 p.m.** Adult Choir

\*If you are unable to attend the meal, please contact  
Kaye Penner (283-3948).

Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Beginning this Wednesday, January 7 the adult choir will go back to the schedule of starting practice at 7:40 p.m. The Celebration Singers will practice from 7:00-7:35 p.m. and have Bible lesson from 7:40 – 8:15 p.m.

**Wednesday at 7:20 p.m.** Business Council meets at church.

**Friday** High School Lock-In: Friday January 9, after the basketball game. We plan to meet at the church at 10:30 p.m., drive to Druber's, come back to the church and stay till 6 a.m. the next morning.

**January 17-18** Junior High Youth: Know Jesus Event

**February 1 at 12:45 p.m.** Grace Hill Annual Business Meeting

**February 22 Bethel College Sunday.** The college choir will be coming and to accommodate them Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. that morning.

## Announcements

**Pastor Zehr** will have office hours at the church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – noon each week.

**Elective Sunday School Class:** Starting January 11, Pastor Katherine will be teaching an elective Sunday School class focusing on the issue of Peace. We will be discussing such topics such as what Jesus taught, diversity of perspective in the Bible, and how we as followers of Jesus should respond when we are confronted both on a personal and on a global scale.

**Reports for the church yearbook** – If you are responsible for a report, please get it to Debbie Claassen by January 18. E-mailed reports are preferred, if possible. Thanks!

**You're invited to join "Prayers of the Church"** each Sunday morning from 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. in the classroom next to the kitchen. Please feel free to place prayer requests in the prayer box in the foyer.

**Special Music Next Sunday:** Tim, Lisa & Eli Schmidt

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Linda Harms

**Nursery This Sunday:** Deb Hiebert and Brittany Claassen

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Bonita Schroeder and Emily Burch

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Doug Hiebert and Orville Schmidt

**Christmas Eve Offering:** Harvey County Health Ministries \$691.63  
Community Playschool \$691.63

**Offering Last Sunday:** Western District Conference \$1,364.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Local Church

## CHURCH OFFICES

*Interim Pastor: Marvin Zehr*

*Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen*

*E-mail: [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)*

*Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen*

*Secretary's E-mail: [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)*

**Et Cetera**

**The Red State Ramblers** will be performing on Friday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium. Band members are Nikos Pappas, Kevin Kehrberg, Jeff Keith and Will Bacon. This is old time music, a music that sings of the old ways in a new way that remains brilliantly alive. General admission: \$7, Students/Senior citizens: \$5. Call 316-283-4902 or email: [bcapa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bcapa@sbcglobal.net).

**Mennonite World Conference** will be held in Paraguay July 14-19, 2009. MWC is asking for donations for the MWC Travel Fund. If anyone would like to give to this fund please give donations to Doreen Harms by January 11, and designate for MWC Travel Fund.

**Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service** will be having their annual meeting on January 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Center A.M. Church Rural Hutchinson. Scott Sundberg will be the speaker. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

**Mennonite Central Committee Central States** is working for justice in New Orleans. Pre-existing systemic injustices in New Orleans were made worse by Hurricane Katrina and the breaking of the levees in 2005. You are invited to a community meeting at the MCC Center (121 E. 30th) in North Newton on Sunday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. to learn about the work MCC is doing in New Orleans. We continue to partner with grass roots groups to empower communities for racial justice. All are welcome, please call our office if you have questions, 316-283-2720. To find out more or make a donation online, go to [www.mcc.org/centralstates](http://www.mcc.org/centralstates) and click on New Orleans Program.

**The Relief Sale Fellowship Meals** will be on Sunday, February 22 and Sunday, March 1. Please pick up a form in the foyer, fill it out, and return it to Barbara and DuMont Schmidt, preferably by January 4, but no later than January 25. If you cannot get it to Barbara or DuMont by January 25, please mail it directly to Marvin and Marjorie Stucky at 200 17th Village, Apt. 18, Moundridge, KS 67107-7002. The adult meals are \$15.00 each and children (6 – 12) are \$6.00. Children under 6 are free. Checks should be made payable to: Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale and handed in or sent in with the form. Gift certificates are available.

### ***Litany of Blessing and Release for Pastor James Voth***

*Conference Minister:* As brothers and sisters in a covenanted faith community, we give thanks today for the ministry of Pastor James Voth.

***Congregation:* Praise be to God, who calls us to many forms of ministry within the body of Christ and equips the church with gifts through the work of the Holy Spirit.**

*Pastor Jim:* In October of 1985, we shared together in a service of celebration of a new ministry. We have shared worship and work, happy and sad occasions, council meetings, and building projects. We fellowshiped together at Wednesday night meals and potluck meals on Sunday noon. We met in funeral homes, at the hospital, and in homes. It is now time to give thanks for the life we have shared in Christ. It is also time for me to move on to the next chapter in my calling.

***Congregation:* God has blessed us richly through your ministry. We now bless you as you begin a new chapter in your life journey.**

*Conference Minister:* You have been a part of the Grace Hill Mennonite Church for 23 years. This is a time of many feelings: excitement, sadness, joy, anticipation, loss and satisfaction as you enter a new part of God's kingdom work, and as we as a congregation turn another page in our journey with the Lord.

***Congregation:* For some of us, Pastor Jim was the only pastor we have ever known. You have baptized some of us. You have taught, preached, fellowshiped, and worshiped with us. You helped us grieve when death visited us. You celebrated new births, anniversaries, and marriages. You led us around the Lord's Table. You met with us in many meetings, in many different places and settings. You and Barb have blessed us in many ways. Now we, as a congregation, bless you as you leave us to continue following God's plan for your life. Remember us as friends and co-workers with God.**

*Conference Minister:* As you, the people of Grace Hill Mennonite Church, bless Jim as he leaves this congregation to answer the call to ministry at the Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, do you now release him from his pastoral responsibilities and relationships?

***Congregation:* With the help of God, we do. We give thanks for Jim's faithfulness and acknowledge this transition in the life of our congregation. We will pray for God's continued guidance in Jim's life.**

*Conference Minister:* Jim, do you release the congregation from its loyalty to you as a pastor? Do you release the members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

*Pastor Jim:* With the help of God, I do. When we meet in the future, I will be your friend but not your pastor. I will no longer perform pastoral duties among you. I will keep this congregation in my heart and in my prayers.

*Conference Minister:* May God bless and guide you, Jim, and this congregation at this time of endings, as well as new beginnings. (Prayer)