

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

February 13, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Donna Balzer

Musicians: Tara Harms-Becker, David Janzen, Caleb Regehr,

Eli Schmidt, Curtis Toews

Gathering and Praising

Prelude

Welcome 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.

Call to Worship Psalm 103:1-13

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 6** *Here in this place*

Offering our Gifts Local Church Missions

Hearing God's Word

New Testament Reading Ephesians 5:6-14 Rachelle Claassen

* **Hymn No. 493** *I heard the voice of Jesus say*

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

Gospel Reading John 9 Pastor Katherine

Sermon *Blind Faith* Pastor Peter

Responding to God

* **Hymn of Response No. 377** *Healer of our every ill*

Sharing our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sent by God

* **Sending Hymn No. 427** *You shall go out with joy*

Benediction

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

At the conclusion of the worship service we invite the adults to be seated and take a few moments to greet one another while the children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes.

**The Adult Sunday School classes will begin
10 minutes after the service is over.
Everyone is welcome!**

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray for God's guidance in the appointment of a church planter for the new Hispanic church in Wichita. Pray for our Missouri church plant now called Peace Mennonite Church with a new focus on Columbia. Pray for the new church plant getting underway in Oklahoma City called Metro Mennonite Church.

Mennonite Mission Network: Thank God for SOOP participants serving at the Hopi Mission School in Kykotsmovi, Arizona through MMN. Pray that the SOOPers may be blessed as they support the ministry of the school through tutoring, maintenance and office assistance.

Church Events

This evening at 7:00 p.m. Jerusalem Presentation: Pastors Katherine and Peter will share photos, stories, and reflections from their recent trip to the Holy Land. All are invited.

Monday at 1:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: “What I have learned from my China painting” by Marie Regehr; Hostess: Elva Unruh; Devotions: Carol (Olin) Claassen; Financial Project: Western District Women in Mission.

Tuesday 1:00-5:00 p.m. Quilting at church.

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!

7:00 p.m. Children’s and Youth Programming

7:00 – 7:40 p.m. Adult Study with Pastor Peter

7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

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

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

Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast at Whitewater Café.

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Education Council meets at church.

Friday-Saturday Youth Group Lock-In: We will have our annual lock-in with the Zion Youth Group from 11 p.m. – 6 a.m. this Friday-Saturday. You are invited to bring snacks/drinks to share.

Next Sunday, February 20 Youth Sunday

Next Sunday at 7:30 p.m. College-age Bible Study at Pastors Peter & Katherine’s home.

Host College-age Meal? For anyone interested in hosting a meal for all college-age young adults in February or March, or for anyone interested in providing food, please speak with Pastor Katherine. Thank you for prayerfully considering this important ministry of our congregation!

Et Cetera

Jr. high and high school youth, and young adults are invited to a special “Youth call to Peace” event at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, on Sunday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove is an author, speaker, and new monastic. Jonathan is an Associate Minister at the historically black St. Johns Baptist Church, and is engaged in peacemaking and reconciliation efforts in Durham, North Carolina. The Rutba House, where Jonathan lives with his family and other friends, is a new monastic community that prays, eats, and lives together, welcoming neighbors and the homeless. Music will be offered by the Camp Mennoscah Sr. high camp reunion band and friends. Learn more at, <http://jonathanwilsonhartgrove.com>.

Please join us for Offender/Victim Ministries’ Annual Meeting on Monday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m. at East Heights United Methodist Church in Wichita. Special guest speaker Buzz Alexander will speak about twenty years of the Prison Creative Arts Project, a Michigan-based program that collaborates with incarcerated adults, incarcerated youth, urban youth and the formerly incarcerated to strengthen community through creative expression. Dinner will be provided; donations appreciated. RSVP to 316-283-2038 or email ovm.ks@sbcglobal.net by Tuesday, February 15.

Invitation to conversation: On Thursday, February 24, 9:45-11:30 a.m., First Mennonite Church of Newton will host three international guests from Mennonite World Conference (MWC). You are invited to join in a conversation with them concerning the global Mennonite fellowship. MWC participants are Albert C. (Bert) Lobe, Canada; Cynthia Peacock, India; and Mawangu Cisca Ibanda, Democratic Republic of Congo. Please contact the First Mennonite church office for more information or to RSVP: office@firstmennonitewton.org or 316-283-0273.

Western District Conference, South Central Conference and Everence are offering three financial seminars on February 28 (7-9 p.m.), and March 1 (3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.). You are invited to attend one, two or all three of these presentations. Presenters are Ashley Hagelin and Beryl Jantzi. A brochure is posted on the bulletin board with information about the seminar content, presenters, schedule and registration form. This information can also be found at: www.mennowdc.org, under Coming Events. Registration deadline is February 23.

Western District Basketball and Volleyball Tournaments are coming up March 15-19. Information and registration forms are available on the WDC website at www.mennowdc.org (Coming Events) for anyone interested in forming a team.

Looking for a way to serve while sharing your faith? Menno-Hof in Shippshewana, Ind., needs individuals and couples in agreement with Anabaptist values and beliefs to serve as host and/or hostess during July and August 2011. Responsibilities include conducting tours and some light housekeeping. Menno-Hof offers visitors from around the world accurate information about the faith and life of the Amish and Mennonites. For more information contact Susan Miller, managing director: 260-768-4117 or smiller@mennohof.org.

Announcements

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.

Nursery This Sunday: Lisa Harms and Melinda Regehr
Nursery Next Sunday: Theresa Toews and Kristen Toews

Keyboard Next Sunday: Linda Harms
Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,525.00
Offering Next Sunday: Grace Hill Youth Group

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors’ Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Pastor: Peter

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie

Secretary’s E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org

History Blurb #6: THE NETHERLANDS TO PRUSSIA/POLAND

There were decades of Anabaptist/Mennonite persecution in the Netherlands especially during the reigns of King Charles and his son King Philip. Mennonites were considered “heretics.” Thus many Mennonites fled to other lands, particularly East Prussia and Poland. In the 16th century, there were many Dutch ships going to Baltic Sea ports and from there it was not difficult to reach towns and cities along the Vistula River. Dutch refugees were the earliest Anabaptists to locate in the region of the Vistula River and the Baltic coast in Poland & East Prussia. Later some came from Austria and Switzerland.

Poland knew the skill Dutch people had in reclaiming land and thus welcomed farmers to the lowlands to rebuild dikes and ditches and restore the land to productivity.

C. Henry Smith in *Story of the Mennonites* writes on p. 168, “Under the feudal system of land holding which still prevailed here, the local noblemen in the lower Vistula, most of whom were of Catholic persuasion, also enjoyed more or less local control over their large estates. This division of political authority accounts for the fact that frequently king, city and feudal lord-- Lutheran and Catholic --held conflicting views regarding the policy to be adopted toward the Mennonites and issued contradictory orders against them.” The Mennonites were tolerated because noblemen derived benefits from them as expert farmers with knowledge of draining swamps. The Mennonites did manage to obtain military exemption.

Smith goes on to say on p. 168: “the Mennonites never enjoyed equal civil or religious privileges with those of the state churches. Toleration, at first, did not extend beyond the right of worship... There was to be no proselytizing. Worship must be carried on quietly, without attracting public notice, and in private homes only. Meeting houses were not allowed until the close of the sixteenth century.”