

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 1, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Marvin Zehr

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Linda Harms

Chorister: Suzy Burch

Worship Leader: Roberta Harms

* Hymn No. 546 *Guide my feet*

Children's Moments

Kris Goossen

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

Congregational Sharing

Pastor Katherine

Special Music

Valerie Klaassen

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen arr. James Sclater

Congregational Prayer

Pastor Katherine

New Testament Scripture Mark 1:9-15

Tim Harms

Sermon *Entering the Wilderness*

Pastor Marv

Service of Communion

Hymn No. 145 *There's a wideness in God's mercy*

Invitation to Communion

Confession

Providing God, we're often tempted by fruitless self-sufficiency. Help us instead to trust your faithful care and draw us close to you and our neighbors. We pray these things in Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Prayer of blessing

Serving of the bread

Serving of the cup

Prayer of thanksgiving

* Hymn No. 546 *Guide our feet*

* **Benediction**

Pastor Marv

Leader: God of covenant, you are the one we trust.

People: **Our lives are in your hands.**

Leader: Send us out as your beloved children, fresh from the waters of the flood and the Jordan.

People: **Our lives are in your hands.**

Leader: Make us a sign for the world that your promise is reliable, your kingdom has come.

Postlude

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.

* **Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather in this Lenten season to remember, repent, and seek renewal.

People: **Creator God, open our minds and hearts to your Spirit and help us to claim your promises.**

Leader: We see your movement through history: from destruction to provision, from flood to foundations, from death to life.

People: **You are an active, responsive God. We trust your mysterious ways and rest in your mercy. Amen.**

* **Prayer of Invocation**

* **Opening Hymn No. 59** *Sing praise to God who reigns*

Offering Mennonite Church USA

Offertory *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* James Sclater
Valerie Klaassen

Readers' Theater

Russ Janzen, Marianne Eichelberger, Peter Goerzen

Old Testament Scripture Genesis 9:8-17

Tim Harms

*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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

For Sharing and Prayer

Thank you to all who brought an abundance of food for the potluck last Sunday! The students appreciated the great food. Some were overheard saying "This is the best potluck I've ever been to!" Most of them took advantage of the take home offer and enjoyed your food again in the evening.

Pastor Marv will leave on Thursday of this week for meetings of COMB, the Mennonite Church USA congregational employee health plan, on Friday and Saturday. He will return Saturday evening. Consequently he will not be in the office on Thursday of this week. If you have concerns or needs during this time, please contact Pastor Katherine or a member of the Spiritual Council.

Western District Conference: Pray for your pastor(s) and their leadership. How is the face of God reflected in your congregation?

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN Board continues meeting today and tomorrow in Harrisburg, Virginia, following participation in the Damascus Road Anti-Racism Training prior to the meeting. Pray that board members will have energy for the tasks at hand.

Church Events

Today at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service. The Pursuers S.S. Class is in charge. Also this week at Wheat State: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – mending; Friday at 3:00 p.m. – Bingo.

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

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Marv will lead Bible study in the classroom next to the kitchen. The study will end in time for adult choir rehearsal. Passages for study this week are: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 3:31-38. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Next Sunday There will be a college-age lunch at Virgil and Kaye Penner's house on Sunday March 8 after church. All college age youth are invited and encouraged to invite friends! If any are interested in helping with food for this event, please contact Pastor Katherine or Kaye. Thanks!

Monday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church to bake peppernuts for the MCC Sale. Devotions: Valerie Klaassen; Hostess: Marge Harms; Financial Projects: Mennonite Women USA.

March 11 Zion Mennonite Church in Elbing is hosting three persons visiting this area on behalf of Mennonite World Conference: Cynthia Peacock from India; Bert Lobe from Canada; and Tigist Tefaye from Ethiopia. They are inviting persons from our church to join them on Wednesday evening, March 11. A meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. with a presentation by the visitors between 6:30 and 7:30. The meeting will be concluded in time for our adult choir members to return to our church for their rehearsal. We will ask for a count on Sunday, March 8, of those planning to attend.

March 17, 19-21 WDC Basketball & Volleyball Tournaments

March 18 There will be no meal or education activities on Wednesday, March 18 so that everyone can enjoy spring break.

NEWS RELEASE...Pirate Alert! Suspicious looking pirates have been sighted near Grace Hill Church. Pastor Katherine assures us that these pirates are the good-hearted sort. They've made port at church in preparation for *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything-A VeggieTales(R) VBS*, scheduled for May 26-30, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Kids from ages 3 through those entering sixth grade are invited for a fun-filled week of Bible adventure. For further information contact Tammy Regehr or Ashley Enns.

Announcements

The MCC Quilt is on display in the Fellowship Hall.

An offering will be taken for Wheat State Manor Auxiliary on Sunday, March 8 in the Adult Sunday School Classes. The offering will be used to purchase items that are beneficial to the residents of the Manor. Hands of Friendship is sponsoring this offering.

It is time to sign-up to work at the Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson on April 17-18. Volunteers and contributions are being sought for quilt volunteers, Ten Thousand Villages, Plants & Things, Comforter Blitz, Kansas Crafts, Feeding the Multitude, New Year's Cookies, Run for Relief, the annual golf tournament and we also need 5 loaves of bread. Information and sign-up sheets are in the foyer. Contact persons for Grace Hill are Barbara and DuMont Schmidt and Doug and Penny Hiebert. DuMont is planning on running and would love to have others join him. Please sponsor those running!

If you have a church event that you would like to have publicized in the newspapers please contact Judy Janzen at 316-799-2659 or janzenj@powwwer.net.

Harvey County Food Pantry suggested items to donate this month: condiments. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

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.

Et Cetera

Chelsea Vaught will be performing her Master's Organ Recital on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bales Recital Hall on the University of Kansas Campus in Lawrence. She will be performing works by Guilain, Sweelinck, Bach, Brahms and Reger. Everyone is invited to attend. Chelsea will finish her masters in the summer and then begin studies on a doctoral degree, also at KU.

Attention: youth and young adults: You are invited to a conversation with Shane Claiborne on Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall, Bethel College. Free. (Sponsored by Faith Mennonite Church, Newton and Bethel College. Contact: Mindy Smith, 316-283-2145 or faith@sbcglobal.net)

The third annual Comforter Blitz will be held at The Journey, 1 mile north of Yoder, KS, on March 9, 12:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday March 10, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, or to volunteer supplies (frame, pin magnets, etc.) call JoLene Kaufman 620-241-5489 or Debra Selzer 620-628-4629.

All are welcome to attend a community meeting to learn more about Mennonite World Conference at the Mennonite Central Committee Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th St) at 7:00 p.m. on March 10. Three international guests will be speaking about their individual Mennonite experiences and how MWC has influenced them. Tigist Tesfaye is a 25 year old Ethiopian Mennonite from the Gurd-shola Meseret congregation, Addis Ababa, of the Meseret Kristos Church. Cynthia Peacock is a 60 year old Indian, who grew up in Kolkata and worked for MCC India for 38 years. Albert C. (Bert) Lobe who has served and worked for MCC for most of his adult life, along with serving as a principal for several schools in Canada. He is now the Chair of the Conrad Grebel University College Board and lives in St. Jacobs, Ontario.

"From Reality to Hope: Road Signs for the Church's Journey", an interactive consultation with Conrad Kanagy, author of *Road Signs for the Journey: A Profile of Mennonite Church USA*, will be held March 20-21 at Journey at Yoder (a campus of the South Hutchinson Mennonite Church). Sponsored by South Central Conference, South Hutchinson Mennonite Church, and Hesston College. Weekend includes performance of Ted & Company. For more information/registration see <http://www.mennowdc.org/ConradKanagyMarch2009.pdf>.

An evening of fellowship and inspiration is planned for all women Thursday, March 19, at 6:00 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 South Main, Hesston. This annual Sunset Supper will include a delicious meal served at 6:00 p.m. (cost \$6.00 per person paid that evening) followed by a program in the sanctuary. Carol Duerksen and Laurie Oswald Robinson, two of the authors of the devotional *Now It Springs Up*, will speak on "God and You: As Big As You Are" and Cousins Four will present special music. An offering will be taken for Mennonite Women USA. Reservations are required by March 9. Please contact Agnes Harder from our church or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Love to sing? Love to learn? Join with dozens of other Mennonites on Saturday, March 21 from 2-5 p.m. at the Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge and be resourced as we explore the Hymnal Supplements *Sing the Story* and *Sing the Journey* with Director Ken Nafziger and accompanist Ken Rodgers. Special pricing for groups makes this very affordable! See registration form at: www.mennowdc.org/HowCanIKeepFromSinging.pdf events. On Sunday, March 22, all are welcome to attend a Hymn Sing at 2 p.m., also with Ken at Eden. An offering will be taken. This event sponsored by WDC Music and Worship Task Force and Eden Mennonite Church.

Sign up for Trailmix - morsels of info from the Western District Conference Resource Library. Want to be among the first to know of new DVD's, curriculums and other resources available for loan? Sign up for an email newsletter from Marlene Bogard, director of the Conference Resource Library. Simply email crlib@mennowdc.org and put subscribe me in the subject line.

Camp Mennoscah We are still accepting registrations for our Scrapbooking Retreat on March 6-7! We don't want you to miss this opportunity for two whole days of scrapbooking fun and fellowship. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org for information. Our brochure can be found at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section.

Et Cetera

Camp Mennoscah Spring Cleaning! We want to look great for all our guests! Regardless of the wonderful, yet fickle, weather of Kansas, Camp Mennoscah will be hosting a spring cleaning extravaganza on March 2-4 and March 6-7 to prepare the camp grounds and buildings for the new season of campers and guests. Join us for a carnival of cleaning and landscaping fun on any or all days! Please contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org so we can plan meals.

Camp Mennoscah--Sustainable Farming? You betcha. Join us for our Growing and Eating Faithfully Retreat on March 21-22—our first Sustainable Foods & Farming Retreat! Jon Piper, Esau Professor of Biology at Bethel College will speak, and we're offering the following sessions: Cooking with Sustainable Foods, Taking the Plunge: Lifestyle Transition into Sustainable Farming & Low-Impact Living, and Community Gardening: Feeding the Whole Person. How can you resist? We're now offering a Saturday only option. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org for information. Our brochure can be found at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section.

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Katherine
Keyboard Next Sunday: Teresa Martin
Special Music Next Sunday: Celebration Singers

Nursery This Sunday: Diana Schunn and Emily Klassen
Nursery Next Sunday: Joyce Wedel and Elizabeth Martin
Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Terry Klassen

Offering Last Sunday: Bethel College \$1,916.00
Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Interim Pastor: Marvin Zehr
E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen
E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen
Secretary's E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org
Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org