

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 8, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Marvin Zehr

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Debbie Claassen

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Doug Claassen

Russ Janzen, Marianne Eichelberger, Peter Goerzen

Choral Anthem *Blest are they* Celebration Singers

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

Gospel Reading Mark 8:31-38 Rob Schunn

Sermon Pastor Katherine

GOD BLESSES FOR SERVICE

With the gift of new names to reflect new reality, God replaces barrenness and emptiness with life and fruitfulness. We respond in trust, denying ourselves and following Jesus in a life of service and cross bearing.

Prelude *F Major Hymns* Carl Goossen & Pastor Katherine

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.

Gathering and Praise

Choral Call to Worship *Yonder come day* Celebration Singers

* Call to Worship

Leader: Hear the call, God's people: barrenness is not the end

People: Through God, what was impossible comes true.

Leader: Trust in God to keep promises, and commit yourselves to God's vision

People: We accept God's call.

Leader: With God there is new purpose and vision for the future:

People: God blesses us for service.

* Prayer of Invocation

* Gathering Hymns of Praise

No. 76 *Praise, I will praise you, Lord*

No. 546 *Guide my feet* verses 1-5

Hearing

New Testament Reading Romans 4:13-25

Rob Schunn

Readers' Theater

Responding

* **Hymn of Response No. 411** *I bind my heart this tide*

Offering Local Church Missions

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Sharing by Caleb Regehr

Song of preparation *Calm me, Lord* Celebration Singers

Congregational Prayer (see insert)

Sending

* **Hymn of Sending No. 389** *Take my life* verses 1,2,3,5 & 6
verse 2 – sung by men, verse 3 – sung by women

* Benediction

Leader: Lord and Christ, we hear your call to follow you and take up our cross.

All: Our lives are in your hands. Though barren we are not despairing.

Leader: Grace Hill, may the Lord speak your name, make your life fruitful and bless you with the joy of serving in Jesus' name.
AMEN.

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.

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

For Sharing and Prayer

Laura Janzen will celebrate her 90th Birthday on Saturday March 14. The family will hold a come and go reception from 2-4 p.m. at the church on March 14th to celebrate her birthday for anyone who wishes to stop by and wish her Happy Birthday. No gifts please, but cards would be appreciated.

The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to Agnes & Edgar Harder and Willard & Mary Ann Wiebe on the death of Agnes and Willard's sister, Helen Friesen on Monday. The memorial service will be Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the Bethel Mennonite Church in Mt. Lake, Minn. where she was a member. Let us support the family with our thoughts and prayers during this time of bereavement and loss.

The Administrative Council has decided to provide support for Caleb Regehr and his summer ministry with Adventures in Missions to Nicaragua through the Mission Inquiry Fund of our church. Persons in our church wishing to provide support for Caleb are encouraged to make the contribution to the church designated to the Mission Inquiry Fund. These contributions will then be forwarded to Adventures in Missions to go toward his support. Please give donations to Doreen Harms.

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Executive Committee (Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, Doug Penner, Berni Kaufman) as they lead our conference (along with many others) in vision and mission.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mey Idawaty and Nora Iwarat minister to Indonesian and Filipino domestic workers at the Cheung Chau Christian Center, Hong Kong, which MMN supports. Pray for the Thursday Bible study in the Tagalog language.

Church Events

Today There will be a college-age lunch at Virgil and Kaye Penner's home today after church. All college age youth are invited and encouraged to invite friends!

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

Wednesday 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Programming
7:40 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Business Council meets at church.

Wednesday 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.

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

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

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

Announcements

An offering will be taken for Wheat State Manor Auxiliary today 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.

The Health Resource Team will do blood pressure checks the second Sunday of each month in the library at 11:30 a.m. (following Sunday school). If you have any questions please contact Kaye Penner.

Thank you for your generous contributions to the High School Youth Group! We are excited about our trip to the MCUSA Convention in Columbus OH this summer! We will be taking a charter bus there with the Zion Mennonite Church youth group. We will also be visiting Bluffton University and Goshen College on our way there. The cost is looking to be a little less than \$700 per person to be able to go, which puts our grand total at a little more than \$19,000. Because of your generosity, we already have a little over \$16,000 worth of funds available to us, which leaves a little less than \$3,000 that we need yet to be able to go! Please bear this in mind for the March 15 offering, as it goes towards the Youth Group. Thank you again for your generosity!

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.

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Marv

Keyboard Next Sunday: Teresa Martin

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir

Nursery This Sunday: Joyce Wedel and Elizabeth Martin

Nursery Next Sunday: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,356.00

Offering Next Sunday: Grace Hill Youth Group Missions

Et Cetera

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 (Tigist Tesfaye, Cynthia Peacock and Albert C. (Bert) Lobe) will be speaking about their individual Mennonite experiences and how MWC has influenced them.

Mark Frey, with Christian Peacemaker Teams, will speak on “Christian Peacemaker Teams: A Growing Experiment in Front-Lines Peacemaking” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in Krehbiel Auditorium on the Bethel College campus in North Newton. This lecture is sponsored by the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) and is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken. For further information call 316-284-5217.

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. See bulletin board for program details. Reservations are required by March 9. Please contact Agnes Harder from our church or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Singers unite! A special opportunity for learning new songs and hymnody happens on Saturday March 21 from 2-5 p.m. at the Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. Director Ken Nafziger will introduce the Hymnal Supplements Sing the Story and Sing the Journey to choirs, directors, everyone who loves to sing. Special pricing for groups makes this very affordable! See registration form at: www.mennowdc.org/coming events. Registration deadline: March 10. On Sunday, March 22, all are welcome to attend a Hymn Sing at 2 p.m., also with "the Kens" at Eden. An offering will be taken for expenses. This event sponsored by WDC Music and Worship Task Force and Eden Mennonite Church.

Reasons to attend the Men & Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah, April 24-26: --For boys, sleeping in the tent with dad for the first time...how fun is that? --For dads, starting traditions that your boys will always remember. --Fishing, campfires, kite flying, canoe rides, and wading in the river. Contact Brent Voran for information: 316-284-2657 or bcvoran@cox.net.

Match Two (M-2) Training March 28 at Hutchinson Correctional Facility The M-2 (Match Two) program of Offender / Victim Ministries seeks new volunteers to be involved in prison visitation. Ministry in prison requires a training session given by both prison staff and the M-2 director. The upcoming training will be March 28 from 7:00 – 11:00 am. M-2 is a supervised in-prison friendship program. Your friendship, love and concern can be the catalyst for lasting inner changes. Most of the inmates in M-2 receive no other visits than those of their M-2 friend. More than 70 men are waiting to be matched. A volunteer commits to visit one evening per month. Contact OVM (316-283-2038) or email (ovm.ks@sbcglobal.net) for further information or to submit your name and other required information so that clearances may be obtained for admission to training. Please submit your information no later than March 23.

The Mennonite Relief Sale is coming soon – April 17-18. Our MCC Sale’s Quilter’s Corner is again asking for donations of quilt related items for the 2009 sale. Clean out your Quilt and Linen Closets for MCC! We need your used/unused/unfinished things that you no longer need. Last year’s donations earned over \$13,000 for MCC. Items may be delivered to the MCC Material Center in North Newton (marked for Quilter’s Corner) or given to a Quilter’s Corner Committee Member. **Also, there are many opportunities to help at the Relief Sale** – see the sign-up sheets in the foyer.

We want to see you at Camp Mennoscah this summer—we’re going to have riotously good time! Camp Mennoscah has a stunning selection of Summer Youth Camps for campers in grades 3-12 (fall 2009). Check out our 2009 Catalog at www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html for more information. Our summer theme is “Breakthrough” and focuses on how Jesus breaks through to all people in stories from Mark and Luke. Want to know more? Contact us at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org.

Get out your volunteering boots! We’ve got a place for you here at Camp Mennoscah. For our summer youth camps, we are looking for folks to help out in the kitchen. You only need the ability to follow instructions and a fun-loving attitude. Interested? Give us a call at 620-297-3290 or email us at campmno@mennowdc.org. Discounts available for campers of parents who volunteer.

Congregational Prayer
Taken from Take our Moments and our Days:
An Anabaptist prayer book
Morning and evening prayers for Advent through Pentecost

Call to Intercession: The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought

All: but that the very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Leader: Sheltering God, we pour out our hearts before you, because you are a refuge for us. In your mercy,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: You lead us with your light and truth. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(Open prayers: may be spoken aloud or prayed silently)

Leader: In your mercy,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: You provide for the poor and the stranger. We pray for our community and for our neighbors

(Open prayers)

Leader: In your mercy,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: You are the help and hope of your people. We pray for the church in all places, that we may be one

(Open prayers)

Leader: In your mercy,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: All the nations belong to you. We pray for the world, that your reign may come and your will be done on earth

(Open prayers)

Leader: In your mercy,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts

(Open prayers)

Leader: In your mercy,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Humble Christ, your body is broken in the rocky soil of human fear. Lovingly tend and till us, that we may, at this day's beginning, entrust ourselves into the hands of the merciful One, as we pray together the prayer that you taught us: *The Lord's Prayer*. Amen.