

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

May 31, 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: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Matthew Regier

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** No. 762

* **Prayer of Invocation**

* **Gathering Hymn No. 26** *Holy Spirit, come with power*

Offering Mennonite Voluntary Service

Scripture Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lon Hiebert

* **Hymn No. 303** *Come, gracious Spirit*

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

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21

Lon Hiebert

Sermon *What Does This Mean?*

Pastor Marv

* **Hymn of Response No. 299** *New earth, heavens new*

Service of Communion

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession No. 690

Blessing and service of the bread

Blessing and service of the cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

* **Hymn of Sending No. 478** *Sent forth by God's blessing*

* **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.

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

All are welcome to attend a Sunday school hour question/answer time with pastor candidate Peter Goerzen in the sanctuary. Today (10:40-11:30 a.m.) – Seekers, Pursuers, and Explorers S.S. Classes and anyone else who would like to attend.

For Sharing and Prayer

Mildred Buller was a medical patient at Newton Medical Center this week. Please remember her in prayer as she continues her recovery at home.

Western District Conference: Pray for Christina Litwiller as she is installed as pastor of Salina Mennonite Church today.

Mennonite Mission Network: Many young adults are considering service opportunities for next year. Pray for them as they consider various MMN Christian service programs and for those who mentor them in determining next steps.

Next weekend Pastor Marv will accompany the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus for concerts in Mt. Lake, MN and Freeman, SD. They will leave early Friday morning and return Sunday evening.

Announcements

The final session of the elective class on "What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty" will be held today in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. All interested persons are invited to attend this wrap up session, even though you may not have been able to attend the earlier classes.

The Combined Adult Summer Sunday School Sessions will begin on June 7. A variety of interesting speakers and topics are scheduled for the summer months. All adult, high school-age, and college-age classes are invited to attend.

The Spiritual Council has a policy to pay the full registration fee for those from our church who attend a children's or youth camp at Camp Mennoscah for the first time. Parents of such first time campers are asked to contact Kathy Balzer, chair of the Spiritual Council, to access this scholarship. Please contact Kathy as soon as possible so arrangements for payment can be made prior to the camp session.

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: Diana Schunn and Emily Klassen
Nursery Next Sunday: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert
Ushers Next Sunday: Lon Hiebert and Dean Patterson

Preaching Next Sunday: Peter Goerzen
Keyboard Next Sunday: Linda Harms

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,632.25
Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

Church Events

This evening at 7:00 p.m. A special Prayer and Praise Service will be held in the sanctuary this evening at 7:00 p.m. Planned and sponsored by the Spiritual Council, this service is a way to strengthen the spiritual foundations of our congregation as we experience this period of pastoral transition. The service will focus on singing, reading of Scripture, sharing and prayer. All participants in the life of the church are encouraged to come and share in this special service.

Monday at 7:30 p.m. Business Council meets at church.

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

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth group meets at church.

Next Sunday Pastor Candidate Peter Goerzen will bring the message, carry-in dinner and question/answer time following the dinner and **June 14** vote between worship service and Sunday school.

High School Youth Group: Sunday June 14 - Pool Party at Gary and Karma Hill's! This will also be an evening to go over information for Convention and to talk about our Youth Group Covenant for the trip. The event starts at 6:00 p.m. Supper will be provided.

Et Cetera

Bethel College Women's Association is sponsoring the sixth annual Faculty Public Lecture on Thursday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium located in the Bethel College Fine Arts Center. Speaker will be Dr. Allison McFarland, Chair of Business Administration. The topic will be *The New Generation at Work: Managing Millennials*. Refreshments will be served after the lecture and a short Bethel College Women's Ass. 2009 Annual Meeting. Come join us.

Parents - need a safe, fun and educational place for your kids? Enroll them in Prairie Tales Story Time and Summer Reading Program at the Western District Conference Resource Library from June 10-July 22. Storytellers Marlene Bogard and Amanda Friesen would love to see you! Oh yes, and bring your kids, ages 3-12! For full info: www.mennowdc.org/SummerReadingProgram2009.pdf.

Wheat State Manor Auxiliary is planning a Bake Sale at the Manor in conjunction with the Whitewater Garage Sales on Friday, June 12 beginning at 8 a.m. The Auxiliary is inviting anyone who wishes to contribute baked goods to bring them to the Manor the evening prior to the sale or during the morning hours of sale day. Please price food in advance. For more information contact – Gladys Reimer, Miriam Claassen or Agnes Harder.

Kidron Bethel Village Celebration Day is from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 12 at 3001 Ivy Drive, North Newton. The event offers fun for all ages, pop and popcorn, entertainment, a pig roast from 5:30 - 7 p.m. (cost is a donation), benefit auction at 7:34 p.m. and the Kidron

Klassic Kar Show from 5 - 8 p.m. on the campus. Proceeds of the pig roast and benefit auction go toward construction of additional health care rooms for Bethel Health Care Centre.

The Upside Down King is back! Same music! New cast! Western District Conference and Bethel College are producing the musical for the Mennonite Church USA Convention in early July. Three preview concerts will be held at Krehbiel Auditorium on the Bethel campus: Friday evening, June 26, and Sunday, June 28, 2:00 matinee and 7:30 p.m. An offering will be received.

Mark your calendars now for August 7-8, when persons from all congregations will gather at Bethel College and Bethel College Mennonite Church for Western District Conference's annual conference session and fellowship opportunity. A Program Committee is putting the finishing touches on planning details, promising an inspirational and educational experience. Programs and activities will also be included for children: infants through junior high. More details to follow in coming weeks.

Mennonite Education Agency has a website at www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS where monthly "Prayers for Faith and Learning" can be accessed. You can also sign up for a free subscription to "Prayers." E-mail info@MennoniteEducation.org and use "Subscription to Prayers" as the subject.

Getting to know Peter Goerzen

Following a series of questions, the search committee would like to share the following information with you to get to know Peter better:

Peter grew up outside of Goessel, KS in a Mennonite home where his parents taught him daily about God, about love and peace, about community and how to pray. Peter attended Tabor Mennonite Church, where he was baptized in 2002. Peter enjoyed playing electric bass for the high school's production of GODSPELL, which reprised at the Mennonite convention in Nashville 2001. Other memories from high school include breaking the 15-year-old triple jump record (which was broken by someone else two weeks later) and a youth group service project at Morning Star Ranch near Florence, KS.

Peter graduated in 2007 with a B.A. in Computer Science from Bethel College, serving as president of the Math Club his senior year. Peter also

served as a student chaplain, where his tasks included counseling, leading two Bible Studies, and planning chapel services. In addition to his Computer Science courses, Peter also completed 26 hours of Bible and Religion.* While at Bethel, Peter began sensing God calling him to ministry, and he participated in the Ministry Inquiry Program, doing a summer practicum as a ministry intern at Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita. While at Bethel, Peter's spiritual journey was especially influenced through chapel services, Bible studies, hymn sings, and many discussions with peers, campus pastors, and professors who challenged and nurtured his faith.

Katherine and Peter were married in 2007 and now live in North Newton with their ornery cat, Ivan. They met in Kindergarten, when Peter did "not" want to invite Katherine to his birthday party. He has since apologized for that lapse in judgment. They dated some in high school and stayed in touch while Katherine was getting her Church Ministries degree in Canada. Katherine graduated in 2006, and they were engaged later that fall. They both filled out the paperwork necessary for churches to consider them as pastors, but decided that only Katherine would interview with churches so that they could be a part of the same congregation.

Katherine and Peter are currently part-time seminary students at the Great Plains extension of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Courses at AMBS have given Peter a profound passion to learn and have challenged him to think deeply about theological and ethical issues and how he might apply them to his faith and life. Peter and Katherine have nearly completed their Foundations of Ministry Certificates and have completed about one-fourth of the requirements for the Masters of Divinity degree.** Two of Peter's favorite classes so far are Theology of the Church and Foundations of Worship and Preaching.

When Peter completed his application, he responded to the question of: What are the spiritual disciplines that vitalize your life and faith; describe how these are shaping you as a ministering person. His answer was: "Study of Scripture and regular worship continue to steep me in the faith tradition and invigorate me. The more I am steeped in this tradition, the more it flows out of me as I minister to those around me, and the more I understand my own faith. Prayer centers my spirit around God, opens my heart to God's voice and binds me to those for whom I pray. It connects me, beckons me to pause and release, to repent and to rejoice. Prayer makes me more aware of myself, God and others, and it surely transforms my life and the lives of those for whom I pray. Music and nature instill in me a sense of awe and peace in abiding in God. This gives me a great deal of joy as a ministering person. I find that the discipline of writing helps me organize my thoughts and discern how God has been present and active in my life and the lives around me." Peter

has been described as bringing compassion, caring and calming presence in a tense situation.

When asked about his vision for youth and young adult ministry, this is his response: "As young adult activity in the Mennonite church continues to decline in most areas, it is vital that we rediscover a youth and young adult ministry. As pastor, I would want to be active in already-strong youth activities, and I would want to stay in touch with them as they go to college. Events that help college students stay connected with the church will help encourage them to remain active in the church as they graduate and move into the next phase of their lives. I believe that an important part of young adult ministry is relationship. As pastor, I would seek to provide environments where young adults build lasting relationships with one-another and support each other in faith."

In his spare time, Peter enjoys baseball, reading Sherlock Holmes novels, and yard work. Peter is currently employed as a software developer at Excel Industries in Hesston.

* Courses: Introduction to Biblical Studies, Nonviolence Theory and Practice, Christian Social Ethics, Old Testament Studies, New Testament Greek, and Basic Issues of Faith and Life

** Courses: Thinking Ethically, Book of the Twelve, Theology of the Church, Congregational Song, Biblical Perspectives on Atonement, Formation in Ministry Seminar, Pastoral Leadership and Ministry, and Foundations of Worship and Preaching.