

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

September 9, 2007

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Jana Harms and Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Suzy Burch

Congregational Prayer Response 371 *Let there be light, Lord God*

Special Music *As the Deer with My Faith Looks Up to Thee*
Samantha Claassen

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

Scripture Reading Philemon 1-21 (p. 1183) Laura Harms

Message *An Appeal to Love*

* **Hymn No. 539** *Make me a captive, Lord*

* **Benediction**

* **Benediction Hymn No. 421** *Bless'd be the tie that binds*
Verses 1, 3 5 & 6

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

Today is Grandparent's Day.

The flowers are in memory of Ray Balzer's birthday, which is today.

Please add the following name to the list of our high school students: Maria Spolczynska. Maria is from Poland and is living with Carl, Kristine, Lucas, Paul and Renata Goossen. She is a senior at Remington High School. We regret that her name was omitted from last Sunday's list. Welcome Maria to Grace Hill!

Additional college student: Jason Schmidt, Clemson University, South Carolina

Western District Conference: Pray for Hallie Cable as she is installed for her first pastoral call as youth pastor at Kingman Mennonite Church.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

A special welcome to each of our guests! 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.

Congregational Call to Worship Psalm 1 Alma Schmidt

LEADER: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

PEOPLE: but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law they meditate day and night.

LEADER: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

PEOPLE: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

LEADER: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

PEOPLE: for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Gathering Prayer

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

Worship in Giving Local Church Missions

Sharing and Prayer

Mennonite Mission Network: Please pray for grace on the lives of Mennonite Voluntary Service participants in New York City who assist the homeless and work in reading programs and in gardening projects: Amanda Hastings, Adriana Koehn, Leigh Anna Ridge and Daniel Talstra.

HOMELESS SHELTER UPDATE: Next Sunday during worship Penny Dugan, founder and director of New Jerusalem Ministries, will come and share with us the ministry and need of the homeless shelter in Newton. We share a week of service to the homeless shelter with Zion Mennonite Church every 13 weeks. The next week is October 31 – November 7. At present we are responsible for meals and two volunteers for Wednesday, Friday, Sunday and Tuesday evening and night. If it works best for you shifts may be split. If you are interested in volunteering, training sessions may be arranged at your convenience. Please see, call or email Pastor Jim who presently serves as the church team leader. Come and join the team and share in a ministry to those Jesus called us to care about the most, the poor and the oppressed.

COMING SOON! 30 DAYS OF GENEROSITY! Beginning Monday, October 1! As a congregation we will embark on a holistic stewardship journey of worship and study that will challenge our hearts and minds regarding our use of time, talent, health, relationships and more. Participants will engage in daily readings and reflections during the week, and then gather on Sundays for worship and for Sunday school discussion. **A participant's guide** with daily devotions as well as a Sunday school class course will be available to all adults as well as junior and senior high youth. The participant's guides will be available beginning Sunday, September 23. The **30 Days of Generosity** devotions begin on Monday, October 1 with special worship services throughout the four Sundays of October. A special prayer vigil is also being planned. You are encouraged to begin praying about this special season of personal and congregational study and worship; praying that God's Word and Spirit will impact your life with renewed vision, affirmation and commitment to live as generous stewards of all that God has placed in your charge, be it family, relationships, possessions, money, talents and health. And praying too, that this may be a revitalizing and unifying journey for the congregation.

Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:2

This afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Senior Faspa at Kidron Bethel Community Room. Spiritual Council would like to invite all church members and spouses ages 65 and over for a Faspa this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Kidron Bethel Community Room. Theme: Most influential person in your life.

Monday at 2:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship will begin the first meeting of the season on September 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the church. Bernell Baldwin, author from Wichita, will be the speaker and share about the two novels she has written. "Ordination" is a novel based on her mother's life as a widowed women preacher set in the Dust Bowl in Western Kansas; and "Preacher Bill's Bats in the Belfry", which was published after the death of her husband "Preacher Bill" –the Rev. William J. Baldwin. He was a United Methodist minister and they lived in Newton many years. Devotions: Marge Harms, Hostess: Kaye Penner, Offering: Western District Women in Mission. All are invited to attend and bring friends.

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

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

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

September 19 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. All women are invited to practice in preparation for special music on September 30. All ages are welcome!!! If you have questions, contact Valerie Klaassen.

September 23 Installation of Katherine Goerzen during worship
11:30 a.m. - carry-in meal
12:45 p.m. - Semi-annual Business Meeting

September 30 Due to scheduling conflicts, the Youth Group's Progressive Supper has been moved to the evening of Sunday, September 30th. If you would like to host a dinner course, please email Katherine Goerzen at katherine@complete.org. Thanks!

November 11 Harvest Thanks Sunday

The first 5th Quarter event will be on Friday, September 14 at Doug and Katherine Claassen's house after the Remington home football game. During Sunday School a food sign-up sheet will be sent around in the different classes. If you sign-up, please bring the food to the church by 5.30 p.m. on that Friday. Thanks!

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 or Barb Voth.

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: Kaye Penner and Brittany Claassen
Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katie Regier

Special Music and Keyboard Next Sunday: Maxine Fast
Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,757.00
Offering Next Sunday: Youth Group Missions

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth Pastor's Study: 283-2644

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Pastor's Cell Phone (in case of emergency) 1-316-655-2811

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen Office Phone: 799-2238

Home Phone: 620-327-4609 Cell Phone: 620-747-0696

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen 1-888-516-8474

Secretary's E-mail: kimdebc@wheatstate.com

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Announcements

Et Cetera

Mennonite Central Committee Service Workers Linda Kusse-Wolfe and David Wolfe will present *Life with the Ayatollahs: Two MCCers Experience in Qom, Iran* at Shalom Mennonite Church (800 E. 1st Street in Newton) on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. They will give an overview of life in Qom plus some Interfaith Bridgebuilding experiences. Light refreshments will follow the program.

DID YOU KNOW? More than 50% of personal bankruptcies are related to healthcare costs. DID YOU KNOW? Healthcare access and affordability is a moral issue: *Jesus said, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."* (Matt. 25:34-36). Healthcare is a business issue: Productivity and public cost lost to under and un-insured is higher than basic coverage for the uninsured. Healthcare is an ethical question: A society may be judged by how well it cares for its weakest members. DID YOU KNOW? You have a voice! Find it at *Healthcare Summit: Finding Our Voice* on Saturday, September 15 at Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church. For more information and/or to register check the church bulletin board or go to www.viewofhope.org or call 620-585-6733.

Need to get away and play... Come to Camp Mennoscah - join us for the annual Work and Play Camp September 16-20. We will work together on several projects, Floyd Bartel will lead us in Bible Study and on Tuesday evening, our special presenter is LaVerle Schrag of Hutchinson. Brochures are available in the foyer or contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or email: campmno@mennowdc.org.

Story Time for children ages 3-5 will begin at the Conference Resource Library in North Newton on Wednesday, September 19, 10:00 - 10:40 a.m. (Note change of time from past years) Our story teller is Kara Janzen, a substitute school teacher who has recently taught Kindergarten for 3 1/2 years. Kara graduated from Bethel College with a degree in Elem. Ed. with a minor in Music and says she "loves spending time with small children." Please call the library at 316-283-6300 if you have any questions and to reserve your spot!

The CROP Walk is September 23 in Newton. How can you become involved? 1) Sign up to be a walker and get pledges. 2) Sponsor a walker. For more information see the display in the lobby or contact Marlin Lichti.

Gather 'Round Refresher Workshop A Gather 'Round Refresher Workshop will be held at First Mennonite, Halstead, on Sunday September 23, from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. This will be an interactive training

session on the Gather 'Round curriculum led by WDC Minister of Christian Nurture Marlene Bogard. This can serve as an introduction for those who are new to the curriculum or as a refresher. Bring your Fall, 2007 Gather 'Round curriculum. Register by calling WDC offices, 316-283-6300 or emailing wdc@mennowdc.org. Cost: \$5.00 / person.

Eastern Mennonite University is offering an on-line course on "Basics of Parish Nursing," October 1 - December 14, 2007, open to any registered nurse or upper-level nursing student in an RN nursing education program. For more information visit <http://www.emu.edu/nursing/parish/index.html> or call (540)432-4982 for registration information.

HOPE Home Repair is a faith-based organization that preserves and revitalizes houses and communities, assuring that homeowners in need (particularly those who are elderly, disabled and low-income families with children) live in warmth, safety and independence. HOPE Home Repair fills the void left when Mennonite Housing discontinued their home repair program. The organization's goal is to make a sustainable impact with people and neighborhoods in partnership with the communities in Harvey and Sedgwick counties. **Your gifts are needed** to support the ongoing work in Newton. Many more requests are received than can be acted upon right now – your support would make a difference! **Opportunity:** Grace Hill Mennonite is invited to submit a request to be represented on our Board of Directors. Our Executive Director's position is expanding to manage the increased activity in our organization and we are currently interviewing new candidates for this position. If interested, contact Marvin Holck (283-8701) or Stan Bohn (283-6075). HOPE Home Repair, P.O. Box 721, Newton, KS 67114

Vision 2012 - Urgent Need The Retreat Commission of Western District Conference would like to inform WDC constituents of the urgent housing needs at Camp Mennoscah. The director and her family have been "homeless" since April. The former director's home must be demolished due to rat and mold infestation. The commission is exploring options for quality permanent housing for both maintenance staff and director. Due to the urgency of this need, we must move quickly. We ask for your prayers and support as we make important long-term decisions. Contributions for this project need to be earmarked for "Director's home" through Vision 2012 and sent to WDC, Box 306, North Newton KS 67117. Retreat Commission members: Arlin Buller, Ann Doerksen, Bruce Janzen (Chair), Valerie Klaassen, Galen Waltner and Kevin Wiens.