

# Grace Hill Mennonite Church

November 16, 2008

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Julia Washburn

Chorister: Ben Lichti

Worship Leader: Marianne Eichelberger

\* **Hymn No. 84** *Oh, that I had a thousand voices*

**Offering** Local Church Missions

Marianne

\* **Hymn No. 388** *Grant us, Lord, the grace*

## Children's Moments

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

**Choral Anthem** *I saw a tree by the riverside* Celebration Singers

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 25:14-30 Casey Schunn

**Sermon** *Are you ready to invest all that God has given you?*

1. We have been given much.
2. God wants us to invest all that God has given us.
3. Be not afraid to invest it all in God's kingdom.

\* **Hymn No. 524** *What mercy and divine compassion* Vs. 1, 3 & 4

**Sharing and Congregational Prayer**

Pastor Jim

\* **Benediction**

Pastor Jim

\* **Choral Benediction** *The peace of the earth be with you*

Celebration Singers

\*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!**

## 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.*

**Choral Call to Worship** *Love the Lord your God*

Celebration Singers

\* **Congregational Call to Worship**

Marianne

One: There is something deeper than trouble.

**All: It is mercy.**

One: God's amazing grace;

**All: Carrying, lifting, holding us in all seasons.**

One: There is something more powerful than despair.

**All: It is mercy.**

One: God's amazing love;

**All: Seeing us through dark nights, waves of sadness,  
mountains of grief.**

One: There is something longer lasting than pain.

**All: It is mercy.**

One: God's healing touch;

**All: Bringing us hope, leading us to joy,  
teaching us to sing and to pray.**

\* **Prayer**

Marianne

## **For Sharing and Prayer**

Special thanks to the Social Council for the wonderful Harvest Thanks meal, to the Youth Group for serving us so graciously and to the Spiritual Council who served the evening pizza, pop and salad. And thanks too to all who baked the wonderful pies and salads!!! The Social Council also thanks the youth, sponsors and others who helped clean up and wash dishes.

**New address:** Joel Balzer, 216 Virginia Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30338  
E-mail: [jbalzer@live.com](mailto:jbalzer@live.com)

**Western District Conference:** Pray for Seminario in Dallas – a program of the Great Plains Seminary as it trains pastors in Spanish.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** MMN workers Gretchen and Keith Kingsley request prayer for the semi-annual retreat of the Mennonite Team in Argentina November 21-23. The team will formally bid farewell to Byrdalene and Willis Horst who complete more than 30 years of ministry among the indigenous peoples in the Chaco.

## Announcements

The elective Sunday school class on disciple-making with Brian McLaren's book More Ready than You Realize continues next Sunday in the fellowship hall with chapters 10 through 14.

**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.

**Special Music Next Sunday:** Adult Choir

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Sara Unruh

**Nursery This Sunday:** Lisa Harms and Melinda Regehr

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Nancy Harms and Jana Harms

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Ben Lichti and Rob Schunn

**Offering Next Sunday:** Western District Conference

## CHURCH OFFICES

*Pastor: James Voth*

*E-mail: [pastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:pastor@gracehillmc.org)*

*Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen*

*E-mail: [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)*

*Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen*

*Church Website: [www.gracehillmc.org](http://www.gracehillmc.org)*

## Church Events

**Monday afternoon** Quilters - You are welcome to come to the church and quilt on the MCC quilt on Monday afternoon anytime from 1-5 p.m.

**Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.** Spiritual Council meets at church.

**Wednesday 6:10 p.m.** All Church Meal\*

**6:50 – 7:30 p.m.** Adult Choir in sanctuary

**7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** Children's and Youth Programming

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

*A Note From Pastor Jim:* This Wednesday evening I will not be at church so there will be no 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. class. We will meet again Wednesday, December 3.

**Next Sunday** College Lunch: Peter and Katherine will be hosting a college lunch on Sunday, November 23. If anyone is interested in helping provide food, please talk to either Peter or Katherine. Thanks!

**Next Sunday** Youth Hymn Sing: The youth have been invited to Bethel College Mennonite Church's Hymn Sing for area youth groups on Sunday, November 23 from 6-8 p.m., which will be directed by Bethel College's Bill Eash. Plan to meet at the church at 5:00 for a pizza supper beforehand. The Hymn Sing will be followed by a dessert social. Hope to see you there.

**Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.** All Church Thanksgiving Service

**Sunday, January 4** Farewell for Pastor Jim and Barb

**Et Cetera**

**Community auditions for the *Upside Down King*** will be held November 17, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Bethel College Fine Arts Building, Room 143. Callbacks on November 19. The *Upside Down King* is a classic rock musical about the life and ministry of Jesus with script written by Carol Duerksen and musical score by Doug and Jude Krehbiel. This production is jointly sponsored by the Western District Conference and Bethel College. Theater direction by John McCabe Juhnke, vocal direction by William Eash. Performances will include late June 2009 shows at Bethel College and at Columbus '09, the Mennonite national convention in Columbus, Ohio, on July 3, 2009. For more information, see: <http://www.mennowdc.org/Youth.html> or contact: Doug Krehbiel, Conference Youth Minister for WD/SC: 316-283-6300, [dougk@mennowdc.org](mailto:dougk@mennowdc.org).

**All are invited to see "At the Death House Door"**, a documentary which chronicles the experience of Texas' death house Chaplain Rev. Carroll Pickett, who was present for 95 executions. It will be shown Monday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty annual meeting at Wichita State University, 1845 N Fairmount, Ahlberg Hall, Room 200. For information, contact KCADP at 785-232-5958 or [kcadp@cox.net](mailto:kcadp@cox.net).

**Worth Viewing: A new documentary, Pax Service: Alternative To War** will air on Hallmark Channel Sunday, November 23, and feature young Mennonite and Brethren volunteers in this historical alternative service program that ran from 1950-1975. Program features work in Germany, Austria, Greece, Paraguay and Congo. Time is 7 a.m. ET/PT (6 a.m. CT/MT). Tell your friends and anyone you know who worked in Pax. They won't want to miss this. For those who don't get Hallmark Channel or anyone who wants a DVD with bonus chapters, the DVD will be available by Jan. 30, 2009.

**The Newton Community Children's Choir** invites you to their Holiday Concert, Monday, November 24, 7:00 pm at Bethel College Mennonite Church, located at 2600 College Avenue, North Newton (note change of location from previous announcements). Admission is \$5 Adults, \$3 Students, and Pre-K free. Bring non-perishable foods for Harvest of Love food drive sponsored by the Salvation Army and receive a \$1 off admission.

**Wheat State Manor** will have their Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. We welcome the community to join us in offering thanks for the many blessing in our lives.

**Learn the basics with "Foundations of Worship and Preaching."** Expand your knowledge of the Bible through courses in "Isaiah" and "Gospel of Matthew." Cultivate the practices of the missional church with a course in "Social and Cultural Contexts of the Missional Congregation." Check out these and other courses at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary – Great Plains Extension, North Newton at [www.ambs.edu/GreatPlains](http://www.ambs.edu/GreatPlains). Weekend and evening classes. Register for January classes by December 1; for spring semester classes by January 6. For more information, contact Lois Barrett, Director, AMBS – Great Plains, P.O. Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117; phone: 316-283-7098; email: [lbarrett@ambs.edu](mailto:lbarrett@ambs.edu).

**Community Playschool** benefits from the Ten Thousand Villages sales on December 4 (from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.). That is the night of the Newton Parade of Lights parade with Santa – and the evening the proceeds from sales at TTV go to support Playschool, which is an outreach mission of our church.

**A service of worship and ordination for Pastor Gail Graber** will be held in the Eden Mennonite Church sanctuary (rural Moundridge) on December 7, at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to attend. "Ordination is a rite of the church which confirms those whom God and the church have called to particular roles of ministerial leadership in and for the church." (Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership.) A reception will be held in the fellowship hall following the service.

**2008 Christmas Giving Options:** As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the gift of God's love for us, Mennonite Central Committee invites you to give gifts that touch lives around the world. You can provide gifts of food, water and shelter for people around the world and walk alongside communities seeking solutions to poverty. Go to <http://mcc.org/christmas> for projects which need support.

## Et Cetera

**WDC stewardship suggestion:** Congress has passed the IRA Charitable rollover for 2008 and 2009. Withdrawals from your IRA are normally subject to being taxed. However, for those over 70 1/2 a direct gift from an IRA to a charitable organization (like your local congregation or Western District Conference) eliminates the tax, even if you have already maxed out on your charitable deduction for the year. The gift is not counted as income; however, you do not receive a tax deduction for the gift either. Ask your IRA custodian or financial adviser for more information on this giving opportunity.

**New "Hymns Of Nature" CD Makes Inspiring Christmas Gift.** Mennonite Media's newest CD, "All Nature Sings: Hymns and Anthems of God's Creation" offers a bouquet of nature hymns that are sure to draw listeners closer to God. Or select from 12 other CDs of a cappella music from the former Mennonite Hour radio program. \$12.95 plus shipping. We can gift wrap and mail for you. Proceeds support the work of Mennonite Media and Mennonite Mission Network. Order online at [www.store.mennomedia.org](http://www.store.mennomedia.org) and click on "Music," or call 800-999-3534.

**Western District Conference** has a 1/2 time Associate Conference Minister for Kansas/Nebraska available beginning February 1, 2009 for two years officed in North Newton and accountable to the Conference Minister, Dorothy Nickel Friesen. This position assists in pastoral searches, meets with pastor-peer groups, offers support to pastors and congregational leaders. All applicants must submit a letter of application with an up-to-date completed Ministerial Leadership Information form by December 5, 2008 to WDC. Position is open until filled.

## 2008 Harvest Thanks Offering

### Mennonite Church USA

Total Mission of Mennonite Church USA	\$6,300.00
Mennonite Mission Network (Missions)	6,185.00
Mennonite Education Agency (MEA)	100.00
Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary	785.00
Bethel College	210.00
Hesston College	350.00

### Western District Conference

Total Mission of the WDC	4,075.00
Camp Mennoscah	1,125.00
Leadership Commission – Church planting	75.00
Peace & Social Concerns	95.00
Resource Library	100.00
Vision 2012	200.00
Youth Ministry (WDC programs)	200.00

### Other Institutions

Hopi Mission School	100.00
Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre	20.00
Mennonite Central Committee	10,285.00
Mennonite Disaster Service	100.00
Offender Victim Ministries	700.00
Prairie View	300.00
Wheat State Manor	1,720.00

### Local Church Support

Local Church Missions (undesignated)	43,183.37
Care Fund	1,755.00
Mid-Kansas Relief Sale	620.00
Relief Canning	1,920.00
Scholarship Fund	960.00
Marie Wiebe Scholarship Endowment	50.00
Mission and Service Inquiry Fund	30.00
Cemetery Upkeep	50.00
Ronda Schmidt Mission	100.00

**Grand Total** **\$81,693.37**

2007 Harvest Thank Offering	\$81,542.53
2006 Harvest Thanks Offering	62,420.69
2005 Harvest Thanks Offering	48,338.20
2004 Harvest Thanks Offering	38,414.13