

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 2, 2007

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Julia Washburn

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

First Sunday of Advent The world is about to turn!

Get ready! Wake up and smell the coffee! God comes at all times, though you don't know when or how. Preparation involves opening our hearts to God's instruction and guidance, allowing God to be in charge. Human surrender and yieldedness prepare God's way.

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.

*** Call to Worship** Pastor Jim

Leader: "Look," says the Lord, "I am coming soon!"

People: We trust the Lord, our eternal rock.

Leader: The Lord humbles those in high places
and brings down the lofty city.

People: Bring us back, almighty God
Show us your mercy and we shall be saved.

Leader: The night is almost over. The day is almost here.

People: O Lord, raise up your might.

All: Come quickly to help us.
Show us your mercy, and we shall be saved.

*** Gathering Prayer** Pastor Jim

*** Hymn No. 178** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Scripture Reading Luke 4:18-19 Pastor Katherine

Hymn No. 185 *Hail to the Lord's anointed* Verses 1 & 2

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 Emily Burch

An Advent Visitor *Mrs. Noah* Kristine Goossen

Advent Candle Lighting Meghan Nipper

This light reminds us that it is time to get ready. Something new is going to happen. Just as Noah listened to God and built an ark in the face of ridicule, we joyfully follow Jesus regardless of what others say.

Hymn No. 189 *To us a Child of hope is born* Verse 1

Offering Mennonite Church USA Pastor Katherine

Congregational Sharing and Prayer Pastor Jim

Special Music *Christmas Is A Time To Love* Kids in Praise

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

New Testament Reading Romans 13:11-14 Pastor Jim

Sermon *Get ready! God, in person, comes to judge and teach!*

*** Hymn No. 182** *Oh, how shall I receive thee*

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Invitation** Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor Katherine: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Jim: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer Pastor Katherine

Institution of the Bread Pastor Katherine

Serving of the Bread

Institution of the Cup Pastor Jim

Serving of the Cup

Our Covenant Together Pastor Jim

* **Prayer and Benediction** Pastor Jim

* **Benediction Hymn No. 189** *To us a Child of hope is born* Verse 3

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!**

This morning during the Sunday school hour all are welcome to come to the sanctuary to hear Tim Barr, the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Gulf Disaster Response Coordinator. Tim will describe the work of MCC and its partners following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the breaking of the New Orleans levees. Be prepared to think about the reconstruction of homes, lives and communities in the context of U.S. history and Jesus' call to radical discipleship. There will be time for questions and large group discussion. This is an elective Sunday School class.

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Give thanks for the completion of the remodeled WDC Resource Library being dedicated today.

Mennonite Mission Network: Thank God for three new Instituto Biblico Anabautista study centers of the Mennonite church in Puerto Rico. Pray for the students as they study the first course, "Introduction to the Bible." Ask God to form new leaders who will be a blessing to the church there.

Next Sunday December 9 is Harvest of Love Dollar Days. You will find a Harvest of Love envelope in your mailbox. You are invited to donate \$1.00 for each family member and place the envelope in the offering plate Sunday December 9 during worship. Canned and dry goods also make for a helpful contribution to the goal of \$35,000 and 50,000 pounds of food. We will be collecting food throughout December. Thanks again! Please note that the envelope you receive today has an incorrect address. The Salvation Army address is now 316 North Main, Newton. So please do not mail these envelopes. Thank you.

Church Events

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. Kid's Meal at the church*
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice
7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

*If you are unable to attend the meal, please contact Kaye Penner (283-3948) or Barb Voth (283-2644).

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

Monday, December 10 at noon Hands of Friendship will meet at church for a potluck dinner. Program: Sharing Crafts – Emma Mae Litton; Devotions: Rita Patterson; Financial Project: Mennonite Women USA.

Sunday, December 16 Spiritual Council will go Christmas Caroling with the Senior and Junior High Youth Groups and their sponsors on Sunday afternoon December 16. They will meet back at the church after caroling to enjoy a hot chili supper.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

This afternoon (from 2-6 p.m.) the High School Youth are invited to a Christmas Party at Peter and Katherine's! There will be games, a White Elephant gift exchange and Christmas treats! Please bring a White Elephant gift to exchange (\$5 or less). Hope to see you there!

Sunday, December 16 Caroling with Spiritual Council.

Announcements

Mittens/Gloves: We are again inviting you to purchase mittens and gloves for the Salvation Army in Newton. Please put them on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. - Hands of Friendship Committee

The Mennonite subscription list is being updated. The church has a group-rate policy and each subscription costs the church \$33.00. If you are not receiving *The Mennonite* and would like to, or if you are currently receiving it and would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact Debbie Claassen by December 9.

Harvey County Food Pantry suggested items to donation this month: canned meats. 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.

Nursery This Sunday: Tammy Regehr and Amanda Regehr

Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Rita Patterson

Special Music Next Sunday: Praise Team

Keyboard Next Sunday: Katherine Goerzen

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Orville Schmidt

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$2,437.10

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Et Cetera

Faith & Life Bookstore, Newton, invites you to a book signing by Mennonite children's author Cindy Snider this afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. Snider attends Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita, and is a former communications director for Mennonite Church USA. Her novel, *Finding Anna Bee* written for ages 8-12, follows six friends as they travel back in time to witness the courage of Anabaptist martyrs and leaders. Ten percent of the proceeds from the sale of books at Faith & Life will go to Peace Connections in Newton.

Today's the day to meet friends from far and near, young and old at the Western District Conference Resource Library (2517 N Main, North Newton) from 4-6 p.m. We will ask God's blessing on the newly remodeled and expanded space, then share refreshments and story telling. Children of all ages are welcome, especially those who might be Story Time alumna.

First Presbyterian Church of Newton is excited to be hosting a concert by the internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir this evening at 7:00 p.m. The African Children's Choir is comprised of 26 children from Kenya and Uganda, ages 6 - 12. Many of the children in the choir have lost one or both parents to extreme poverty or to AIDS. The choir delivers a powerful blend of singing, dancing, and storytelling to bridge cultural differences and spread hope and joy to audiences throughout the world. There is no admission to the concert. A free-will offering will be taken to support the choir's efforts back in Africa.

The M-2 (Match Two) program of Offender / Victim Ministries is holding an orientation for new volunteers December 6, 6:00 p.m., at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility East Unit. M-2 is an in-prison Christian 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. We are looking for 50 + new volunteers to accommodate men awaiting matches. A volunteer commits to visit one evening per month. Contact OVM (316-283-2038) to submit your name and other required information no later than December 4 so that clearances may be obtained for admission. You may also email ovm.ks@sbcglobal.net.

Et Cetera

Please come to the *Framing Blitz* at Camp Mennoscah to help frame the new Director's House on December 6, 7 and 8 at 8:00 am. We need contractors, builders, wannabe builders and your friends. Get a carload together and come! Meals provided. Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you are willing to help. We also still need a Site Supervisor for all or part of the project. Please call Galen Waltner 620-345-2626 or 620-386-0287.

“Where the Heart Is” Plan now to attend the 2nd Annual *Where the Heart Is Advent Musical & Dinner Theater Production* December 6-9, 2007. The event will again be held at Salem United Methodist Church in Newton. The “Where the Heart Is” Dinner Theater Production is a joint venture between Harvey County Homeless Shelter and the Newton Community Theater. 2006 was the first year for the dinner theater event. Those in attendance were pleasantly surprised with the quality of the program, meal, and musical production. This is definitely a night you don't want to miss! We appreciate your support as this is our main fundraiser for the year. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Night in the Barn, the annual living nativity event by the youth of Tabor Mennonite Church, is December 15-16 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. This year's program will feature Mary's story, and of course the menagerie of animals will hanging out in the barn too. Call 620-367-8432 for more information.

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary – Great Plains Extension is offering courses for the interterm and spring semester. See the notice posted on the bulletin for more details or contact Norma Johnson at 316-283-7098 or email at lbarrett@ambs.edu.

Mennonite Disaster Service is in need of volunteers willing to serve at the MDS project in Greensburg, Kansas over the Christmas holidays. The town of Greensburg was destroyed by a tornado in May. Anyone regardless of skill-level can be used. If you are interested and able to serve, contact Marvin Penner at (985) 291-1296 to determine when you plan to come and if you have further questions. MDS plans to keep the Greensburg project open from December 17-29. There are also openings for volunteers in the new year.

MCC's Serving and Learning Together (SALT) Program for young adults Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is an eleven-month program of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for Canadian and U.S. Christians ages 18 to 27 interested in a cross-cultural service experience. Through participation in the daily lives and realities of communities in need, SALT participants will learn, reflect, absorb and above all, change. For more information check out www.mcc.org/salt.

Mennonite Central Committee is responding to the disaster left in Bangladesh by Cyclone Sidr. Thousands of lives were lost and hundreds of thousands of people are now homeless. Crops were destroyed and livestock swept away. As part of MCC's \$500,000 response, MCC requests funds to rebuild homes, provide food and support workers. Contributions should be marked "Bangladesh Cyclone Disaster Response" and sent to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. For more information please visit www.mcc.org/bangladeshrelief or call 316-283-2720.