

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 9, 2007

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Katherine Goerzen

Music by the Praise Team

***Second Sunday of Advent - The world is about to turn!
Take heart! God turns our barrenness
into fruitfulness!***

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 *Come, Let Us Worship And Bow Down*

Spoken Call to Worship

*** Gathering Prayer**

Songs of Worship

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching o'er wondering flocks by night,
Behold from out the heavens, there shown a holy light.

Chorus

Verse 2

And, lo! When they had seen it, they all bowed down and prayed;
Then traveled on together to where the Babe was laid.

Chorus

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Chorus

How Can We Be Silent? Michael Mahler See insert

King of Kings County and Batya

King of kings and Lord of lords, Glory, hallelujah,

King of kings and Lord of lords, Glory, hallelujah,

Jesus, prince of peace, Glory, hallelujah,

Jesus, prince of peace, Glory, hallelujah,

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Emily Toews

An Advent Visitor *Isaiah* Peter Goerzen

Advent Candle Lighting Paul Goossen

This light reminds us that God is busy transforming the world. Like Isaiah, we long for God's dream to be complete: for the lion and lamb to lie down together, for springs to flow in dry lands, for the time when wars have ceased and the universe rejoices in its full healing.

Hymn No. 198 *Let our gladness have no end* Verses 1 & 2

Offering Local Church Missions Pastor Katherine

Congregational Sharing and Prayer Pastor Jim

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

New Testament Reading Romans 15:5-13 Pastor Jim

Sermon *Take heart! God turns our barrenness into fruitfulness*

*** Hymn No. 176** *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

*** Benediction** Pastor Jim

*** Benediction Hymn No. 198** *Let our gladness have no end* Verses 1 & 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!**

Today is Harvest of Love Dollar Day. 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 today 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 received has an incorrect address. The Salvation Army address is now 316 North Main, Newton. So please do not mail these envelopes. Thank you.

Update from Brett & Cassie Klingenberg The Venezuela Yes Team is getting to know the area around them and the church family is wonderful. They will begin language study January 17 and will travel 40 miles by train to Caracas. Brett, Cassie and Jeremy are living in apartments above the church; the girls are staying with host families. The church family is very protective of them at the present time and they accompany them as they travel around the town. "People are really friendly, and that has been nice. We have been encouraged by people, who say that our being here is a part of their greater vision. There has been significant spiritual growth here, and they feel that our coming is a part of their growth. So, keep up the prayers, especially for creativity and patience as we wait." Brett

Please note the added first line to their address:

Ceferino Quintero
Brett and Cassie Klingenberg
Shalom Congregation
Apartado 120, Charallave Estado Miranda
C.O. 1210, VENEZUELA

Be sure to check out their blog site. It is really cool.
www.yesvenezuela.blogspot.com They have access to the internet at the church. So here is their email address: bcklingenberg@hotmail.com

For Sharing and Prayer

Thank you for all your expressions of concern and caring for our family during Dad's final days and at his death. Also, thank you for your personal visits, for pastoral calls by Pastor Jim, for caroling at Christmas, and so many other acts of friendship during this past year and a half while he lived at Kidron. After living in one community for 96 years Dad accepted the necessary change of living nearer to us with grace and without complaint. Virgil and Kaye Penner

A special thank-you to all who contributed to the Toy-a-Thon through your donations of toys and cash. Grace Hill brought in the first 89 toys. The final count for the number of toys collected was 3,051. The Salvation Army director was overwhelmed and was crying with joy at the end of the event. She said: "This year all the children in Harvey County who are on the list will get gifts".

About our Advent Décor: Advent begins with mountains as we referred to Isaiah's vision of the mountain of the Lord from Isaiah 2 last Sunday. The draping purple, white and blue cloths, the Advent colors, take the eyes of God's people to the sky as we watch for God's promises to come to fruition, turning the world toward the coming kingdom. The stars shining through the luminaries remind us of the star that appeared at the time of Jesus' birth. The coming of a special Advent visitor each Sunday is a tradition of the Albuquerque Mennonite Church. These Advent visitors represent God's people who caught a glimpse of God's dream and turned to join it. Special thanks to those who prepared and decorated the sanctuary!

Catechism class to begin in January. Pastors Jim and Katherine announce the beginning of the next catechism class for baptism and church membership preparation beginning in January 2008. The class will be taught during the Sunday school hour and is for both youth and adults who desire to prepare for baptism and church membership. If you wish to participate in this class please contact either pastor.

Western District Conference: Pray for the Search Committee (Valerie Klaassen, Ann Doerksen, Delon Martens and Dorothy Nickel Friesen) as they find a new director for Camp Mennoscah.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for the staff at Korea Anabaptist Center as they make goals for publishing materials in 2008. Pray for wisdom in discerning how to increase sales and how to finance the many titles which are ready for publication. MMN shares in this ministry.

Church Events

Monday at noon Hands of Friendship will meet at church for a potluck dinner. For the noon meal bring either a salad or dessert. The committee will furnish the hot food and table service. Program: Sharing Crafts – Emma Mae Litton; Devotions: Rita Patterson; Financial Project: Mennonite Women USA.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Program Practice
7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

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

Next 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.

December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program

High School Youth Group

Wednesday We will be Angel Tree shopping on Wednesday December 12 at the Newton Wal-Mart. Meet at the Church at 6:40 p.m. and bring \$10 per person (plus money for ice cream afterwards). We plan to return between 8:45 and 9:00 p.m.

Next Sunday Caroling with Spiritual Council.

Announcements

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.

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 today.

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 Rita Patterson

Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katie Regier

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir

Keyboard Next Sunday: Julia Washburn

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$2,081.00

Offering Next Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Et Cetera

Faith and Life Bookstore Community Events Children's Story Hour - Sundays 2:00 p.m. (with coffee, peppernuts, and fellowship for the grown-ups!) December 9 - Jennifer Chappell Deckert, December 16 - Marlene Bogard, December 23 - Ruth Harder. Live Music - Thursdays 7-8 p.m. December 13 - Book of Job, Bluegrass, December 20 - Donna Stucky, Piano.

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.

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.

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.

Addiction: Do you know a family confronting addictions? Finding Hope in Recovery: Families Living with Addiction is a new TV documentary from Mennonite Media/Mennonite Mission Network which will air on Hallmark Channel, Sunday December 30 at 7:00 a.m. ET/PT, 6:00 a.m. CT/MT. For more information, go to www.FindingHopeInRecovery.com or call 800-999-3534.