

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 28, 2008

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Jana Harms

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Barbara Voth

First Sunday of Christmas - The Embracing Face of God!

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
That we may be saved. Psalm 80:3, 7, 19*

Candles are being distributed as you enter the sanctuary

Prelude

Jana Harms

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** Based on Psalm 148 and Luke 2:30

Leader: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens on high.

People: **Sun, moon, and stars, solar systems and galaxies**
– **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Praise the Lord from the depths of ocean and canyon.

People: **Sea creatures swimming deep below the surface and
plant life growing in the crevices of the earth,
species known and those yet to be discovered.**

Leader: Praise the Lord from the land, in all its thriving diversity.

People: **Microbes, insects, wild and domestic animals,
women and men, infants, elderly and everyone in
between – Praise the Lord.**

All: ***For our eyes have seen our salvation
which is for all creation –
love in person in Jesus the Christ child. Praise the Lord!***

* **Opening Prayer**

Barb

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Pastor Jim

Singing of the Carols

* **No. 212** *O come, all ye faithful*

No. 209 *Oh, how joyfully* Verse 1 in German

Offering Western District Conference

Reading from the Epistles Galatians 4:4-7

Barb

Special Music

A Visit from Simeon

Ben Voth

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40

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

Sermon *Oh Lord, Now Dismiss us!*

Pastor Jim

Sing Praise to God (59, vs. 1)

Be Thou my vision (545, vs. 1)

Guide my feet (546, vs. 1)

My life flows on (580, vs. 1)

I Bind my heart (411, vs. 4)

And I will raise you up (596)

* **No. 201** *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Pastor Jim

* **Sending Hymn No. 318** *Joy to the world*

Candle lighting service during the Carol

* **Benediction**

Pastor Jim

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

Please place candles in the bins as you leave the sanctuary

**Immediately following worship all are invited to Sunday school
10:45 – 11:30 a.m.**

*To our Grace Hill Church family
From Pastor Jim & Barb Voth*



For the last time as your pastor Barb and I wish to extend to each of you our most joyous Christmas greetings. We thank you for the many expressions of love shown to us throughout the years.

As we celebrate Christ's birth may God give each of you a spirit of expectancy, repentance, joy and a growing desire to magnify God in all you do and say as together we follow the One who is Emmanuel, God with us.

A joyous Christmas to each of you! Pastor Jim & Barb Voth

For Sharing and Prayer

Ruth Zook went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 23, 2008 at the age of 85. The funeral service was yesterday, December 27 at the church. Please remember Ruth's family during this time.

Special thanks to our **Seekers Sunday school class** for helping with the candle lighting service.

Special thanks to **the Youth** for the Scripture readings and accompanying songs during Advent.

New address: Peter and Katherine Goerzen
2401 N. Main, North Newton, KS 67117
New home phone: 316-283-2412

Western District Conference: What ways do you remember as showing the "face of God" in your congregation this past year? Give thanks!

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN workers Lillian and Norm Nicolson have returned to the village of Tin in Burkina Faso following a period of language study. Pray for Norm working in the recording studio and for Lillian in Bible translation.

Church Events

No Wednesday night programming this week. Beginning on Wednesday, January 7 the adult choir will go back to the schedule of starting practice at 7:40 p.m. The Celebration Singers will practice from 7:00-7:35 p.m. and have Bible lesson from 7:40 – 8:15 p.m.

Next Sunday Farewell for Pastor Jim and Barb – There will be a time of sharing during the worship service and will be no Sunday School classes that morning. Carry-in meal at noon. Bread will be furnished. Bring Pastor Jim's favorite dishes.

February 1 at 12:45 p.m. Grace Hill Annual Business Meeting

Announcements

Quilters – There will be no quilting tomorrow. Quilting will resume on January 5.

Reports for the church yearbook – If you are responsible for a report, please get it to Debbie Claassen by January 18. E-mailed reports are preferred, if possible. Thanks!

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: Ben Lichti
Keyboard Next Sunday: Julia Washburn

Nursery This Sunday: Deb Regier and Katie Regier
Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Hiebert and Brittany Claassen
Ushers Next Sunday: Lon Hiebert and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre \$1,808.00
Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

CHURCH OFFICES

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

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen
E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen
E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Et Cetera

Celebrate the New Year at Ten Thousand Villages, open 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 1. We will be having a New Year Sale-a-bration with discounts of 25-75% off select merchandise. We will also be serving treats, cider and maybe some black-eyed peas all day to help ring in the New Year. Join us to take advantage of great bargains on beautiful handcrafted Fair Trade items.

Addictions Documentary Airing On ABC-TV. A documentary on addictions produced by Mennonite Media will air on ABC-TV from Jan. 4 to Feb. 15, 2009 at the discretion of local TV stations. Finding Hope in Recovery: Families Living with Addiction tells challenging and heartbreaking stories of families facing addictions and traveling the stages of recovery-and setback. For airing schedule, click "Airing Dates" at www.FindingHopeInRecovery.com. Or call 800-999-3534 for more information or to order a DVD for \$24.95. The program aired earlier on Hallmark Channel but this is its premiere on network TV.

The Red State Ramblers will be performing on Friday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium. Band members are Nikos Pappas, Kevin Kehrberg, Jeff Keith and Will Bacon. This is old time music, a music that sings of the old ways in a new way that remains brilliantly alive. General admission: \$7, Students/Senior citizens: \$5. Call 316-283-4902 or email: bcapa@sbcglobal.net.

The Relief Sale Fellowship Meals will be on Sunday, February 22, 2009 and Sunday, March 1, 2009. Please pick up a form in the foyer, fill it out, and return it to Barbara and DuMont Schmidt, preferably by January 4, 2009 but no later than January 25, 2009. If you cannot get it to Barbara or DuMont by January 25, please mail it directly to Marvin and Marjorie Stucky at 200 17th Village, Apt. 18, Moundridge, KS 67107-7002. The adult meals are \$15.00 each and children (6 – 12) are \$6.00. Children under 6 are free. Checks should be made payable to: Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale and handed in or sent in with the form. Gift certificates are available.