

Joy Mennonite Church

Pastor's Corner

*"The job of the peacemaker,
is to stop war,
to purify the world,
to get it saved from poverty and riches,
to heal the sick,
to comfort the sad,
to wake up those who have not yet found God,
to create joy and beauty wherever you go,
to find God in everything and in everyone."*

from *Baptist Peacemaker, Spring & Summer, 1995*

The proclamation to the world is more than proclaiming our favorite themes from the Bible, or explaining the uniqueness of Mennonites to the curious. It is more than words. It is being, but it is also more than being, more than modeling good living. It is proclaiming God's grace, God's acts of redemption. It is proclaiming the possibility of restoration to a world that was created good but has fallen. Humanity too was created good but has fallen. We are part of that fallen humanity. To know that and to confess it, is the way to restoration by the grace of God. It is what we call being saved. For too long, however, we did not connect our fallen condition and the fallen world that is groaning in the misery of its sins. For too long we repented from some mystical sin of Adam instead of our real sins.

These are some of the things we think about as we seek to relate to the community that surrounds our church. We especially think of proclamation when we do service projects in the community. We just finished several days of work in the community with youth from the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita, Kansas. They did a tremendous job. We were proud to have them represent the Mennonite Church in this community.

Now we try to evaluate and understand what have we proclaimed. One way to understand is to hear what people say. We get many favorable comments like "hard working", "good neighbor", "need more people like you", etc. I don't hear people talk about our understanding of brokenness, forgiveness, restoration, etc. Do we, like our American society, refuse to accept responsibility for the fallen condition of our world, our nation, our city and our neighborhood? Only when we confess our part can we be healed and only then can we speak of the grace of God in terms that can be understood, and healing can be offered to others. This is called the gospel, the good news. That which we have seen with our eyes and touched, we proclaim. (1 John 1:1)

Thanks for all your help and encouragement. Thanks especially to Janeen Bertsche Johnson, for bringing the youth from Wichita, and to Willard Ebersole for his hard work and leadership in the roofing project, and to all the youth and their sponsors.

Moses Mart

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July 1995

Editorial



Dear Friends and Readers,

In many cases there will have been or will be role reversals as we go through the summer -- already one third spent. Those of school age may be working through this break or "vacation" period, while those in the work force may be planning their vacation breaks.

Already we have seen how some have elected to use a portion of this period to good advantage. Opportunities surround all of us for character building, development of high standards and clean morals, and for service to humanity. Whether or how we respond positively to these challenges, it is a most rewarding phase to observe.

Normally something of this nature could be a paragraph in the "Great News" column, but it wouldn't seem appropriate to condense a newsworthy item to that extent, and you may be exposed to several perspectives of this news, including what follows:

A community beautification project (cleanup, paintup, fixup) is in swing in the neighborhood area west of Joy Mennonite Church in which "we could participate if we wished." This offer inspired the youth from Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, in Wichita, to get involved, and on Thursday, 15 June, they started arriving. Supported and encouraged by parental and pastoral leadership, a total of eight teenagers from Wichita were involved in the project through Saturday, 17 June.

The work project and the Saturday noon picnic in the Harn Homestead Park were both well coordinated and well attended, and a good time was had by all. Seeing the enthusiasm build and witnessing the community spirit made participation a marvelous experience. This window for service will be open for the foreseeable future.

As we continue on through the summer, let us all plan safe activities and try to make our trips safe for a good and happy summer.

Best wishes to all.

Bee Klassen



Back: Sarah, Monique, Allison, Marie, Christiana, Tammy, Rico. Front: Josh, Tim, Laura, Katie.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

Our annual church camp-out, June 23-25 at Red Rock Canyon State Park, was an enjoyable time, hopefully, for the 18 people who attended part or all of the weekend. Everyone took turns fixing the meals and the food and fellowship was great! We endured the rain that came in the night Friday, and the exploding "mulberry bugs" and sap-dripping trees by Masts' campsite! Several people went swimming Saturday afternoon to cool off. Others played horseshoes, resulting in Ralph Ediger and Darlene Powers (her first time playing!) beating Moses Mast and Bill Klassen, two games to one. Our Sunday morning worship service included lots of singing. Moses shared about MCC's report on Africa, and we took our quarterly offering for MCC.



Stephanie Bonner and her friend, Jessica, along with Nathan Corbett attended Camp Mennoscah, June 18-24.

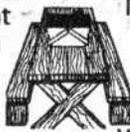
Ben Austin, son of Becky and Ralph Ediger, and Alicia Patton will be married on July 8. We wish them God's blessing and much happiness.

WORSHIP NEWS:

The youth from Wichita led the worship service on June 18th, with singing, scripture readings, sharing, and dramas. They were an inspiration to all of us. Those participating were: Christiana Harms, Katie Mitchell, Tim Nussbaum, Laura Powers (from

OKC), Tammy Ratzlaff, Allison Schmidt, Sarah Shorthill, Marie Unruh, and Josh White. Their sponsors were: Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Willard Ebersole, and Larry and Melanie Mitchell.

Moses and Sadie Mast will be gone for part of July. In their absence, Mike Powers and Bill Klassen will be preaching on July 16 and 23, respectively.



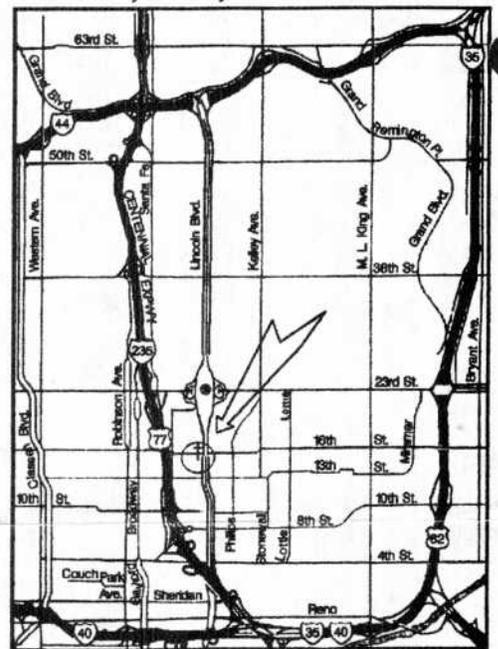
There will be no Sunday service on July 30. We are encouraged to attend the final worship service of Wichita '95, at the Kansas Coliseum (north of Wichita on I-135), at 9:15am.

COMING EVENTS:

Wichita '95 is the joint conference of the Mennonite Church (MC) and the General Conference Mennonite Church (GC). The theme "Prepare the Way of the Lord" will be explored through worship, Bible study, seminars, and the arts. Each group will also meet separately for business and elections, reports, and discussion of issues, including the possible merger of the two denominations. Darlene Powers will be our delegate to Wichita '95, and Moses and Sadie plan to attend some of the sessions, especially when our church is welcomed as a member of the General Conference. Laura Powers also will be attending the Youth Convention and staying with one of her new friends from Wichita. The evening worship events are free and open to the public: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the Kansas Coliseum; and Wednesday and Friday at Century II, downtown Wichita.

Worship Service

Every Sunday at 10 O'clock A.M.



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.
(just west of the oil derrick)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 25-30	Wichita '95
Sept. 9-10	WDC Women's Retreat, Camp Mennoscah
Sept. 16-17	Camp Mennoscah
Oct. 27-29	WDC annual sessions, Bethel College, North Newton, KS

CHURCHES: Feel free to post this newsletter for your members to read. Thanks.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: Moses Mast, Pastor; Bill Klassen, Editorial; Darlene Powers and Sadie Mast, news items; Mike Powers, Publisher.

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