

MENNONITE CHURCH of the SERVANT

Meets in the Fellowship Hall of
Fairview Christian Church
1650 Fairview
Wichita, KS 67203

Worship - 10:00 AM

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 2007

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS...



Worship in SEPTEMBER

♦

SEPTEMBER 2: **THE BEATITUDES**

Scripture and teaching text is from Matthew 5:1-6.. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Jerry Truex will be the worship leader. The celebration of Communion will be a part of our worship.

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SEPTEMBER 9: **SALT AND LIGHT**

Scripture and teaching text is from Matthew 5:7-16. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. A potluck meal will follow our time of worship.

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SEPTEMBER 16:

THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

Scripture and teaching text is from Matthew 5:17-26. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader.

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SEPTEMBER 23:

IT IS BETTER FOR YOU

Scripture and teaching text is from Matthew 5:27-32. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Healing Prayer will be a part of our worship together.

♦

SEPTEMBER 30:

LOVE FOR ENEMIES

Scripture and teaching text is from Matthew 5:33-48. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. This worship service will include a time of commissioning for the gifts of MCS members.

♦

OCTOBER 7:

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Scripture and teaching text is from Matthew 6:1-18. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Communion will be a part of our worship



Bulletin Board



SEPTEMBER CHURCH LIFE

The September Church Life (decision making) meeting will be on Sunday, September 16, from 11:30-12:50.



SEPTEMBER OFFERING:

The emphasis for giving during September will be for **MCC Crop** in preparation for the Crop Walk in October. If you wish to give to **MCC Crop**, write a separate check or indicate how much is to be designated on your check to the church.



SEPTEMBER CHILD CARE

September 2	Cici Campbell
September 9	Karissa Truex
September 16	Jenny Hurd
September 23	Adam Cameron
September 30	Cici Campbell



Worship Attendance

Aug. 5	=	27
Aug. 12	=	27
Aug. 19	=	28
Aug. 26	=	



BUDGET REPORT

Offerings (monetary giving) for the month of May is as follows:

August	5:	478.20
August	12:	210.00
August	19:	
August	26:	1046.00

TOTAL

Servant Groups of Mennonite Church of the Servant

SHALOM Servant Group

This Servant Group will meet on Tuesday evenings, September 11 & 25 from 7:30-9:00 P.M. Together through prayer, sharing, study and service we seek to make connections between inner life and outward peacemaking. As a topic of study we are discussing the book "Essential Spirituality: The 7 Central Practices to Awaken the Heart and Mind" by Roger Walsh. Contact Pat Cameron (262-2644) for more information and meeting locations.

TRANSFORMATION Servant Group

This Servant Group will focus on spiritual discernment. We will begin each meeting with worship and prayer, including personal sharing, and be open to teaching the art of spiritual discernment to others in the church and/or offer ourselves for clearness meetings with others. Our name, "Transformation," comes from Romans 12:1-2, which says that transformation (not being conformed to the world) is the key to discerning the will of God. Contact Lois Barrett at 264-3686 for information concerning September meeting dates, time, and location.

FAITH ISSUES Reading Group

The "Borg sisters" meet on alternate Saturdays in September from 4-5 p.m. They are currently discussing Borg's "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time." All women who want to nurture their faith through intentional, focused discussion of faith issues are invited to join us. Call Vangie Truex at 263-0204 for more information and specific meeting dates.

**LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE
MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD, SERVE
ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER
GIFT EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED.
I PETER 4:10**

**Mennonite Church of the Servant
Wichita, KS**

is a member congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Pastor

Jerry Truex

<http://www.mcswichita.net>

Church phone number is (316) 260-9095.

Mennonite Church of the Servant

welcomes all people into a community covenanted
to follow the way of Jesus Christ through

- practicing peace and reconciliation,
- sharing our lives in love and accountability, and
- bringing the good news of the reign of God to the world.

Mennonite Church of the Servant

newsletter is published monthly. All literary, commentary,
creative, and news contributions are considered. Compiled by

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Song of the Month

We are the
light of the
Lord

Memory verse of the month

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that
he gave his only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have
eternal life.*

Commissioning Sunday

September 30, 2007



Commissioning Sunday is held
to encourage MCS members to
use their gifts in some sort of
ministry.



*The church is called the "body of
Christ"--the hands and feet through
which Christ is made known today.*



We believe that God calls each
Christian to serve Christ and the
church-- and God gives us the
skills, abilities, and talents to do
that.



**Now there are a variety of
gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are a variety of
services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of
activities, but it is the same
God who activates all of
them in everyone.**

I Corinthians 12:4-6



from the Shepherds

A word to the congregation of
Mennonite Church of the Servant
from the Shepherds

Removing the Logs from the road

In September we will discern spiritual gifts for ourselves and others for use in the life and witness of Mennonite Church of the Servant. This process, with a long tradition in this congregation, grows out of our conviction that the God who calls us into God's people has also given each one of us the spiritual gifts to build up that people and further its witness in the world.

Once we know what our gifts are, how do we get the courage to use them?

Sometimes we are like the person driving a car down a country road who found a large tree branch fallen across the road. It didn't help just to give the car more gas. The driver had to get out of the car and move the tree limb out of the way. Then the driver could press on the accelerator and move on down the road. So, with spiritual gifts, it doesn't help just to tell ourselves we should our spiritual gifts more or better. Instead, we need to see what the obstacles are to using our spiritual gifts, remove the obstacles, and then proceed on our way.

Elizabeth O'Connor from Church of the Savior in Washington D.C., in the book *Eighth Day of Creation*, tells of three barriers that keep us from using our gifts: fear of failure, jealousy, and lack of accountability.

The first barrier, or log in the road, that we need to remove is our fear of failure. Some of us have the idea that it is not okay to fail-- ever. We think that if we fail, we will not be loved. We think we need to be perfect so that we will never

have to face the pain of criticism. The result is that our gifts lie unused. We need people who give us room to fail, who can demonstrate to us that, no matter what, they will still be with us and care about us. We need people who let us be persons in process. They help us change direction and try moving on again. They are the people who love us into risking. That is what the church is supposed to be.

The second large tree branch to move out of the way is jealousy. Jealousy happens when we want the gifts someone else has given, rather than the gifts God has given us. As Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son, the climax is not the prodigal's homecoming and the love of the father, but the jealousy of the obedient older brother. The younger brother has the gift of the homecoming party. The older brother has the gift of a close relationship with the father and sharing in all that the father has. There is no need for jealousy because each brother has a different gift from the father. Difference does not need to produce jealousy. It can result in appreciation for each person's contribution to the whole. The way to remove the barrier of jealousy is to thank god for the gifts that God has given us, rather than worrying about the gifts that we don't have.

The third barrier in the middle of the road is lack of accountability. No matter how many spiritual gifts have been discerned for us, we will not use those gifts unless we are clear what we will do, when, where, how, and with whom--and someone holds us accountable. In the church, we often resist accountability--we think we get enough of that at work or at school. But good accountability to each other in the congregation helps get the work done. Deadlines can be useful. We want to know when we are supposed to show up. We don't know whether to start the task until we're authorized to do it. Accountability also helps us to show appreciation to each other and thank each other for a job well done.

Lois Barrett



servant sayings

Servant Sayings serves as a monthly forum reserved for the lay membership and friends of Mennonite Church of the Servant to make comment on spirituality, the church, discipleship, social issues, etc.

A Letter about Mother-to-Mother

Dear MCS

I want to explain the changes that are happening in Mother to Mother. Mr. Friesen, my high school social studies teacher, said that the only thing in life we can be certain of is change. After 40 years his remark still amazes me. And I feel honored by God, my community, and the mothers we serve in M2M to be part of this change.

The original M2M began in Indiana in 1966. It was a wonderful program, meeting the needs of the society, especially the women of the 60's. Our mothers have a much different life in the 2000's. And our program has evolved to meet the needs of these mothers. Our chapter is 26 years old and growing.

I became a mother in 1971. I became a single, temporarily homeless and unemployed mother of three children in 1980. Some of the mothers we serve in M2M have more frightening and difficult issues than I ever imagined. That's why I feel privileged to be part of their support group.

Women who volunteer to be "Support Mothers" are few and far between in our modern society. So we do a great job of supporting each other. What we do best is to be available to talk and possibly pray whenever and wherever the need arises. We can help search for resources and solutions to help each other. I'm proud of that. There is no national or State M2M organization any more. There are a few other chapters that are still meeting. But they're so different from us. And they're nothing like the original model. So, we may have to legally change the name. But we're not sure yet. So we're unique and we're blessed.

We've resigned from Interfaith Ministries. So we don't have an umbrella organization now. We hope to become our own nonprofit agency. It isn't related to our church's relationship with Interfaith Ministries. That's an entirely separate issue. It has nothing to do with people not getting along. It is to accommodate the needs of the mothers we serve now and in the future. It also makes it easier for us to request grants and other

supports. We've been blessed by the use of First Presbyterian's van since the majority don't have cars of their own. And we have been especially blessed by the great space we have upstairs in our church. This year in October during our annual Homecoming Celebration we'll have a grand opening and blessing of our new space. Kansas Church Women United, the United Way, and the Wichita West Lions Club have helped us a lot this year, as well as many other individuals and groups. The MMA grant from Kelly's Pancake Brunch provided our operating funds for this year.

I'm careful not to invite the members to our church because that's not part of the program. And it is not fair to those who have home churches. Therefore, I'm so happy that Cindi and Linda chose to join MCS. You all made them feel comfortable and accepted them into our church family. Others have expressed interest in visiting. Many talk about needing to belong to a church. So M2M isn't just my project. Cindi, Linda, Kelly, Jeffrey and Jerry are all part of this ministry. That's awesome! We're all blessed by M2M being part of our church. It's exciting!

Thank you,

Sally Huber



Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us; prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

ANNOUNCING

IN THE NEWS



GIFT DISCERNMENT PROCESS

On Sunday, September 9, following the potluck meal and lasting until 2:00, a time of reflecting and discernment will be held for participants of Mennonite Church of the Servant. What gifts has God given to you and how will these gifts be used in the church to further God's witness in the world? Clarity to the answer to this question is the purpose of this process. Please join us in the spirit of expectation.



WORSHIP THEME

Beginning with the first Sunday in September, an eleven-Sunday series on the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5 - 7 will be presented. This will nearly take us to the beginning of the season of Advent.



MMA WORKSHOP

Sally Huber will be attending the Mennonite Mutual Aid Fall workshop in October. *Healthy Bodies, Grateful Hearts* will look at health care issues facing our congregation and how MMA can help. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas to be considered at the workshop, please let Sally know. Remember, that as Christians, we need to help each other be healthy and grateful.



WOMEN'S & GIRLS' RETREAT

September 7-9, 2007 are the dates for the Mennonite Women's and Girls' Retreat to be held at Camp Mennosciah. The featured speaker will be Beverly Baumgartner. The camp pastor will be Mary Herr and featured music will be from the Cousins Four. Please join for activities and programming for girls young (grade 3) and young at heart. Watch your mailbox for registration information.



MCC PROJECTS

As followers of Jesus Christ we are aware of the importance of standing with those who are suffering. Sharing resources is a concrete way to signal our awareness and willingness to respond. This is why MCC sends school kits, health kits, blankets, soap, Aids care kits, etc. We can be involved. The greatest need today is 5000 school kits and 50,000 relief kits. In August we made 20 school kits. We have the potential and materials to make more. School kits are the most requested item. They are primarily given to refugee and displaced children, helping students and teachers add normalcy to disrupted lives. MCC sends school kits to children in Bosnia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Liberia, Nicaragua, North Korea, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine and to poorly funded schools in North America.



HEALTH CARE SUMMIT

A healthcare symposium, planned by Western District Conference, designed to raise awareness of the state of healthcare in Kansas will be held on Saturday, September 15 at Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church. Among the featured speakers will be Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Dorothy Nickel Friesen. *Finding Our Voice* is about the state of healthcare and to look at ways to reform the system in ethical ways. For more information and/or to register check the church bulletin board or go to www.viewofhope.org or call 620.585.6733. Registration deadline is September 8.



SCHOOL AND HEALTH KITS

Opportunity to create more school and relief kits for MCC will be given on Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 P.M. in the upstairs workroom. If each family would bring 2 or 3 of the relief kit items to the church before that meeting it would be appreciated. The relief kit items are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, volunteers to deliver the kits to Newton are needed.

AIR CONDITIONER UNITS VANDALIZED

The air conditioning units for the Fairview Christian Church complex were vandalized twice in August. The freon was drained and the copper tubing was stolen. The units were repaired, but only to be vandalized once again. Ways to protect the units is under consideration.



FUTURE CALENDAR ITEMS

- Oct. 7 - World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 28 - Mennonite Heritage Sunday
- Nov. 1 - All Saints Day
- Nov. 4 - TIME CHANGE to Standard time





FROM THE PAST

From September 1987's MCS Newsletter

- The Midtown Ministries Coordinating Council is planning to reopen the thrift store at 13th and Waco.
- Steve Ediger is beginning a seminary-level program in Clinical Pastoral Education at Wesley Medical Center.
- At Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, Nick King is sweating through Greek studies (Ronda writes that prayer doesn't really help, just good hard work).
- Mennonite Church of the Servant is composed of three house churches; groups of six to 12 people who meet in each others homes for worship, sharing, prayer, study, discernment, etc.
- The 1600 block of Fairview will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 19, for the first Midtown churches' street fair.
- Lois Barrett, Mentor, will teach three sessions on Thursday evenings in September on "Doing Justice--in the Bible and Now."

? DID YOU KNOW

Have you heard of the phrase "Going Green"? Here's a few suggestions of what you can do to join in.

- Buy local produce--especially organic produce when possible.
- Teach by example, turn off lights and other electrical appliances when they are not being used.
- Give up plastic bottled water (use a glass bottle and fill it from the tap).
- Use non toxic products such as soda, vinegar, salt, etc. for cleaning.
- Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth.
- Replace your light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Install water-saving shower heads in all your showers.
- When you purchase paper, ask for PCF paper.
- Use the funny papers for gift wrapping.
- Buy organic Fair Trade coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

MCC SCHOOL KIT ITEMS

- 4 spiral notebooks
- 4 unsharpened pencils
- 1 box colored pencils
- an eraser
- a ruler (includes both inches and centimeters)
- 11x16 drawstring bad



MCC RELIEF KIT ITEMS

- 4 bars of soap
- 1 plastic bottle of shampoo placed in a resealable plastic bag
- 10 cups powdered laundry detergent double bagged in resealable bag
- 1 large squeeze tube tooth paste in box
- 4 adult size tooth brushes in original wrappers
- 4 new medium weight dark colored bath towels
- 1 hairbrush
- 1 comb
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 box adhesive bandages
- 1 package sanitary pads
- Assemble in a bag to be repacked in new 5 gallon plastic buckets.

The Beatitudes

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people rebile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way the persecuted the prophets before you.

September 2007

MENNONITE CHURCH of the SERVANT

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 10:00 AM Worship Gathering Communion	3 LABOR DAY	4	5	6	7	8 Happy Birthday, Susanna Mierau
9 10:00 AM Worship Gathering 2:00 PM Gift Discernment Meeting Pot luck Meal	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 AM Worship Gathering <u>11:40 AM</u> <u>Church Life</u>	17	18 7:30 PM Worship Committee	19	20 7:30 PM Church Council	21	22
23 10:00 AM Worship Gathering Autumn Begins	24 Happy Birthday, Elyse Ruthford Happy Birthday, Russell Jeffries	25 7:00 PM Joint Task Force	26 Happy Birthday, Jeffree Coba	27	28	29
30 10:00 AM Worship Gathering Commissioning Service						