

# MENNONITE CHURCH of the SERVANT

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

Sunday  
Worship - 10:00 AM

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 2007

# The World is About to Turn!

### Advent & Christmas 2007

Get ready!

Take heart!

Rejoice!

Be restored!

Praise the Lord!

Arise and shine!

## Season of Advent

### December 2:

Advent 1



*Get ready! God, in person, comes to judge and teach*  
"Let us go to the mountain of the Lord"  
Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Scripture text is from Isaiah 2:1-5: Communion will be a part of this worship.

### December 9:

Advent 2



*Take heart! God turns our barrenness into fruitfulness*  
"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse".  
Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Scripture text is from Isaiah 11:1-10.

### December 16:

Advent 3



*Rejoice! God's justice breaks forth*  
"...The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad."  
Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Scripture text is from Isaiah 35:1-10.

### December 23:

Advent 4



*Be restored! O weary mortal, your salvation is here.*

They shall name him Immanuel..

Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Scripture text s are from Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25.

## Christmas Season



### December 24: Christmas Eve

*Jesus: Word made flesh*

In the beginning was the Word...

A Christmas Eve Celebration will be held on Monday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Bring holiday refreshment to share after our worship together.



### December 30: Christmas I

*Praise the Lord! God's gracious acts prevail*

Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Scripture texts are from Isaiah 63:7-9 and Matthew 2:13-23. Healing prayer will be a part of this worship.



### January 6: Epiphany

*Arise, Shine! God's mystery is revealed*

Scripture texts are from Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12.



# Bulletin Board



## DECEMBER CHURCH LIFE

There will be no Church Life (decision making meeting) scheduled for the month of December.



## DECEMBER OFFERING:

The offering focus for the month of December will benefit our church's **Sharing Fund**. If you wish to give to this ministry, write a separate check or indicate how much is to be designated on your check to the church.



## DECEMBER CHILD CARE

- December 2: Cici
- December 9: Karissa
- December 16: Jenny
- December 23: Adam
- December 30:



## DECEMBER GREETERS

- December 2: Erna Jeffries
- December 9: Pat Cameron
- December 16: Nancy and Jenny Hurd
- December 23: Dori Esau-Rutherford
- December 30:



## Worship Attendance

October 28:	24
November 4:	29
November 11:	35
November 18:	36

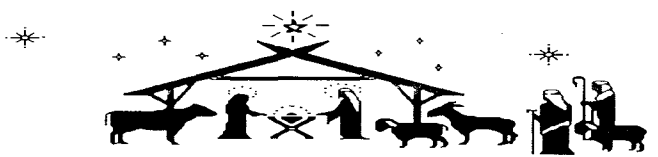


## BUDGET REPORT



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

	General Offering	Sharing Fund
November 4:	206.00	245.00
November 12:	190.00	230.00
November 19:	386.00	40.00



# Servant Groups

of

# Mennonite Church of the Servant

## SHALOM Servant Group

This Servant Group will meet twice during the month of December-- the first being Tuesday, Dec. 11. Together through sharing, prayer, study and service we seek to make connections between inner life and outward peacemaking. We are currently reading and 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 concerning meeting dates, places and times.

## 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 December meeting dates and locations.

## FAITH ISSUES Reading Group

The women's Reading Group meets December 1 and 15, 4 PM at the church. This group is beginning to read and discuss the book "Essential Spirituality: The 7 Central Practices to Awaken the Heart and Mind" by Roger Walsh. Women interested in joining a discussion of stimulating books and nurturing our spiritual growth are welcome at this time. Contact Vangie Truex at 263-0204 if interested.



**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

Doug vonEhrenkrook

11704 West Douglas

Wichita, KS 67212

Phone : (316) 722-4759

e-mail: [dvon@sped618.org](mailto:dvon@sped618.org)

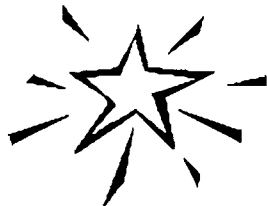
*SONG OF THE MONTH*

**My Soul Cries Out**

**My heart shall sing  
of the day you bring.**

**Let the fires of your  
justice burn.**

**Wipe away all tears,  
for the dawn draws  
near, and the world  
is about to turn!**



DECEMBER

MEMORY VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

For surely I know the plans  
I have for you, says the  
Lord, plans for your  
welfare and not for harm, to  
give you a future with hope.



ADVENT 2007  
December 2-23, 2007

*The world is about to turn!*

Week One

**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.**



Week Two

**TAKE HEART! IN A WORLD THAT SEEMS TROUBLED, BARREN AND DEVOID OF HOPE, GOD OFFERS AN UNEXPECTEDLY UPSIDE-DOWN MESSAGE OF PROMISE AND FRUITFULNESS. CONTRADICTIONS ABOUND: A SHOOT GROWING OUT OF A DEAD STUMP, A WOLF LIVING WITH A LAMB, RAIN SHOWERS WATERING A DROUGHT-STRICKEN LAND. WE ARE CALLED TO COURAGE, TO CLEARING AWAY THE WEEDS AND PREPARING FOR STRANGE, UNEXPECTED FRUIT.**



Week Three


**REJOICE! GOD HAS TRIUMPHED OVER THE DEATH-DEALING POWERS THAT SEEM TO RULE THE EARTH. AS WE REMEMBER GOD'S GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS, WE ARE SURPRISED BY LIBERATION COMING FROM THE LOWLY AND HUMBLE RATHER THAN THE MIGHTY AND POWERFUL. IF WE TURN TOWARD THE JUSTICE-WIELDING GOD, WE TOO WILL BE SAVED.**



Week Four

**BE RESTORED! THOUGH WE OFTEN FEEL DIS-INTEGRATED BY STRUGGLES IN OUR OWN LIVES AS WELL AS BY A WORLD BENT ON DESTRUCTION, GOD PROMISES TO BRING WHOLENESS THROUGH IMMANUEL, "GOD WITH US." OUR SCATTERED AND BROKEN LIVES BECOME ONE AS CHRIST MOVES AMONG US.**

**Leader, Fall 2007**

 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.*

The following Advent Reflection is from The December, 1987 Mennonite Church of the Servant newsletter, Volume 11, Number 12. Cindy Kauffman Zehr was the editor/compiler.

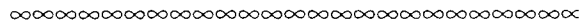
**Reflecting on Advent**

Advent means "coming" or "arrival." It is the season of the year when we reflect on Jesus' coming-- not only his coming as a baby, but his continual coming into our lives and into the world in new ways to set things right.

How has Christ come to you in the past? Through events? relationships? prayer? insight?

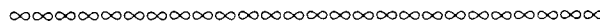
Sometimes Christ comes with compassion and comfort, assuring us that we are loved. Sometimes Christ's coming scares us. We are like the shepherds, whose first response to the angel's announcement was fear.

When Christ comes to us, we either reject him or we change-- and that change may be difficult. But our assurance is that God is with us, Immanuel, and God loves us and wants to lead us into right relationship with God, with our brothers and sisters in the church, and with all the world.



During Advent, you may want to study the following Scripture passages for each of the Sunday's of Advent:

- December 2: Isaiah 2:1-5
- December 9: Isaiah 11:1-10
- December 16: Isaiah 35:1-10
- December 23: Isaiah 7:10-16; Mt. 1:18-25



God of Advent,  
in the darkest days and nights of the year,  
our hearts turn toward your promised light.

With the first glimmer of a single candle  
dancing into the light of many bright flames,  
our hope is ignited once more.

In these Advent days, lead us in your light  
to a manger where the face of God  
shines bright and clear. AMEN

Sing the Journey



# Announcing



## ADVENT 2007 WORSHIP THEME

The Advent 2007 theme, "The world is about to turn!" seeks to integrate paradoxical currents of celebration, lament, anticipation, and awareness into a call for action. The weekly Advent themes urge us to not be passive but to Get ready! Take heart! Rejoice! Be restored! These commands point to the need for our heart, soul, strength, and mind to be transformed as well as for us to act confidently because we know God's power is breaking into the darkness.

## BOOK SIGNING ON DEC. 2

Faith & Life Bookstore, Newton, invites you to a book signing by Mennonite children's author Cindy Snider on Sunday, December 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. 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 the book at Faith & Life will go to Peace Connections in Newton. To reserve books to be signed or to receive more information, call Faith & Life Bookstore, 316-283-2210.

## FRAMING BLITZ

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 a.m. We need contractors, builders, wannabe builders and your friends. Get a car load together and come! Meals provided. We also still need a Site Supervisor for all or part of the project. Call Galen Waltner 620-345-2626 or 620-386-0287.

## PEACE CENTER ANNUAL MEETING

The Peace Center is holding its annual meeting on Friday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 13th & Broadway. Patty Shelly will be the guest speaker and she will talk about "Encounters with Iran."



## WASSAIL GET-TO-GETHER

On Saturday, December 15, a Wassail will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Come enjoy an evening of wassail and singing favorite Christmas songs. Please bring snacks to share; the wassail and other hot drinks will be provided. We will sing favorite Christmas songs after a time of sharing the goodies. Child care will be provided. Bring a friend to share in the fun evening.

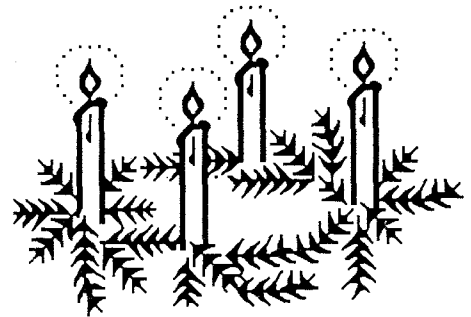
## GREENSBURG MDS VOLUNTEERS

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 will also be openings for volunteers in the new year.



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

The Christmas season begins on Monday, December 24. That evening, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we will join in worship celebration for "God is with us." Bring Christmas goodies to share after our worship time on the evening of the 24th.



# IN THE NEWS



## THE MENNONITE SUBSCRIPTION

Time is running out to renew or submit a new subscription to *The Mennonite*. You will receive the 32-page *The Mennonite* twice-per-month. If you are interested in joining our group plan--or continue your subscription--please contact Jeanette Stucky by December 15, or simply fill out the sheet in your mailbox and place in Jeanette's mailbox.

## FAIRVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKFAST

Thank you to all the members who helped cut toothbrushes apart for the Fairview Neighborhood Breakfast and Homeless project. They will be put to good use. I still have lots of baby wipes to be divided and repackaged. There are other jobs we need help with also. It only costs a little time. Talent and money are optional.

Sally Huber.

## MOTHERS 4 MOTHERS

Mothers 4 Mothers participated in the Wichita Area Alternate Christmas Market in November. We created felt heart ornaments. They were sold to benefit a school in the Congo that serves children with polio and related disabilities. Many other groups also had booths selling handmade ornaments for global and local missions. The sale totals aren't in yet because catalogue and internet sales are still going on. We still have some hearts for sale. The left over hearts will be used at our Christmas dinner. We learned some new sewing skills and public relations and teamwork by taking turns staffing the booth. The most important thing we learned is to be concerned for suffering people all over the world. We had a huge turnout for the second meeting in November. We made centerpieces for the Christmas dinner and planned the Christmas celebration. We made Christmas crafts to take home. The Christmas dinner will be on December 8 at 5:30 p.m. The theme will be "All hearts rejoice at Christmas." You are all welcome to be our guests. We need help with this celebration. It's going to be potluck, but we'll need more food. Especially cookies for the kids. We already have three turkeys and the potatoes. We'll need volunteers to help serve the food and clean up, tell a story to the kids, as well as lead them in playing games and singing carols. Several table hosts are needed to eat with the families. It seems like the first meeting in January always gets canceled because of the weather, so we are skipping ahead to the second meeting. It will be movies and popcorn.

Sally Huber



## FROM THE PAST

From December '87's MCS Newsletter.

- Churches United for Peacemaking is inviting everyone to join in prayer for the summit talks between Reagan and Gorbachev.
- "Challah" (pronounced Kha-lah) is the official name for the new house church focusing on prayer and mutual caring. "Challah" is the Hebrew word for prayer.
- Steve Ediger has completed work in the attic (Aley House): the window trim in the turret, constructed doors for the storage areas behind the bookshelves, and finished the south gable.
- The budget contributions for October totaled \$932.50 and the budget contributions for the first three weeks of November totaled \$1532.50.
- On New Year's Eve come to worship and prayer at 8:00 p.m., third floor, Aley House. A party will follow at the Zehr's house.

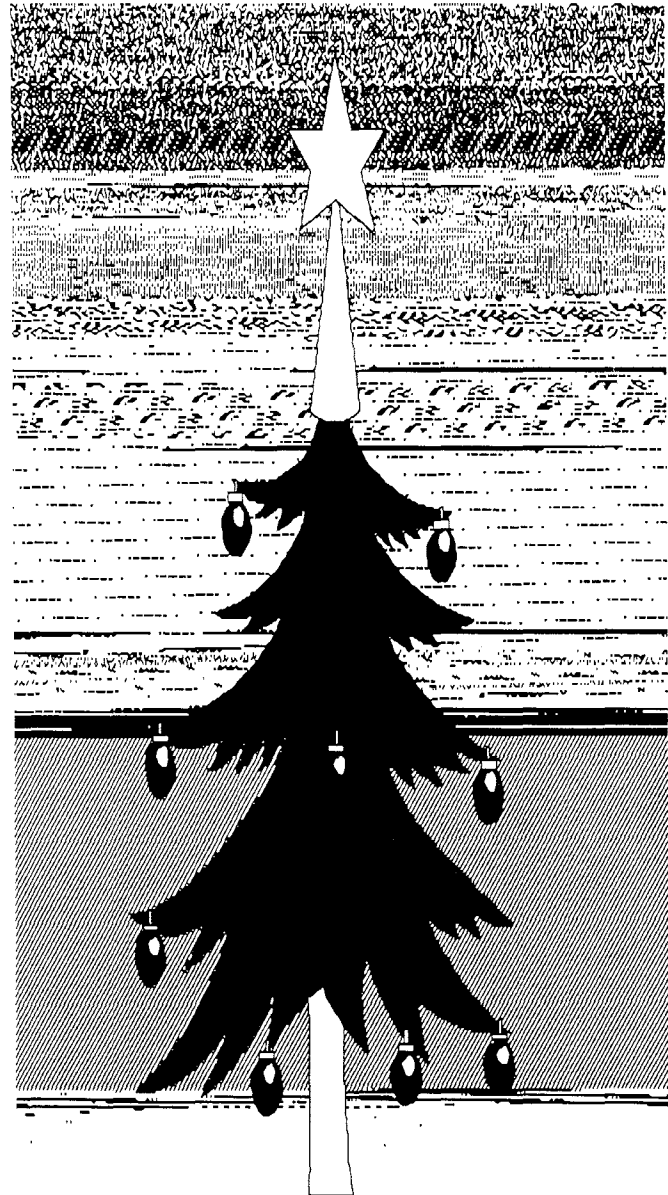


## CALENDAR

Jan. 21  
Jan. 27  
Feb. 6  
Feb. 10

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
World Fellowship Sunday  
Ash Wednesday  
1st Sunday of Lent

# Christmas Peace to You & Yours



# December 2007

## MENNONITE CHURCH of the SERVANT

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

						1
2 10:00 AM Advent 1 Worship Cindy Snider Book Signing	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 AM Advent 2 Worship	10 7:30 PM Worship Committee	11 7:30 AM Shalom Servant Group	12	13 7:30 PM Church Council	14	15 7:00 PM Wassail
16 10:00 AM Advent 3 Worship	17 Happy Birthday, Teresa Turner	18	19	20	21	22 Winter Begins
23 10:00 AM Advent 4 Worship	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service Happy Birthday, Robert Rutherford	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 AM Christmas 1 Worship Healing Prayer	31 Goodbye 2007					