

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 32, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 2008

"With you always"



Resurrection
by Solomon RAJ, India

Worship in March

✚ March 2: LENT IV

INTO NEW SIGHT

Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Communion will be a part of our worship time together.

✚ March 9: LENT V

INTO NEW LIFE

Doug vonEhrenkrook will lead a Lenten meditation on spiritual disciplines and be the worship leader. Scripture text is from Jn 11:1-45.

✚ March 16: Palm Sunday

INTO THE DEPTHS

Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Scripture text is from Phil 2:5-11.

✚ March 19: Covenanting Service

Join us for our 32nd annual time of renewing our covenant to Christ, each other, and the church on Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our time of celebrating and covenanting includes an Agape meal, liturgy, communion, and the signing of the covenant. Please bring finger foods and table service. Jerry Truex will be the worship leader.

Easter



March 23: EASTER

WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD

Join us in Resurrection celebration. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader.

March 30: Easter 2

Pat Cameron will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Scripture text is from 1 Pet 1:3-9. Healing prayer will be a part of this worship service.

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April 6: Easter 3

Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Scripture text is from 1 Pet 1:17-21.



Bulletin Board



MARCH CHURCH LIFE

There will be a March Church Life (decision Making) meeting on Sunday, March 30. It will begin at 11:40 and close at 1:00.



MARCH OFFERING

The emphasis for giving during March will be for **Christian Peacemaker Teams**. If you wish to give to the ministries of **CPT**, write a separate check or indicate how much is to be designated on your check to the church.



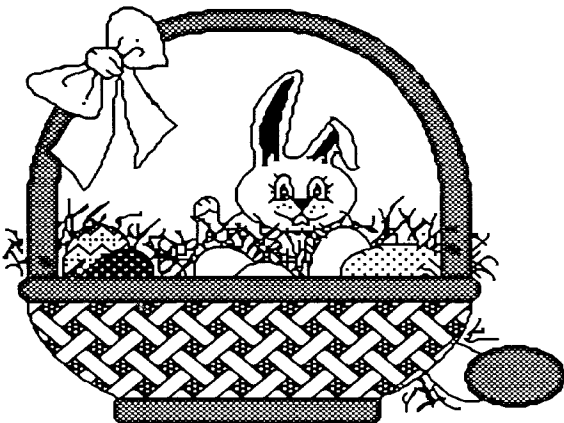
Worship Attendance

February 3:	29
February 10:	35
February 17:	21
February 24:	26



Time Change

On Sunday, March 9, Daylight Savings time begins. So before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8, move your clocks forward one hour.



Servant Groups of Mennonite Church of the Servant

SHALOM Servant Group

This Servant Group will meet on Tuesday, March 4 at 7:30. Following meetings will be decided then. 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 March meeting dates and locations.

FAITH ISSUES Reading Group

The Women's Reading Group meets every other Saturday in March at 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

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Verse of the Month

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a
clean heart, O
God, and put a new
and right spirit
within me.

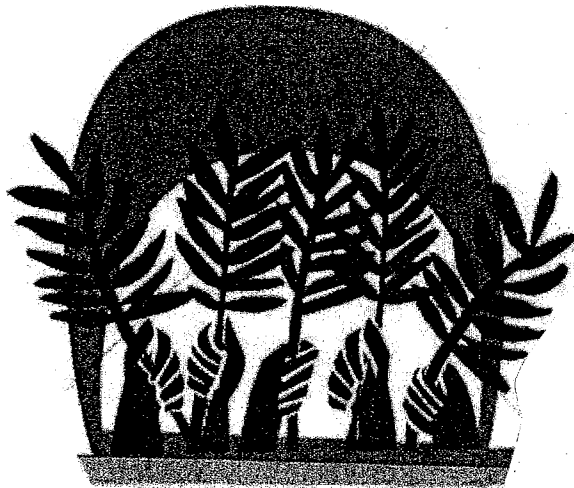
Do not cast me
away from your
presence, and do
not take your holy
spirit from me.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 16, 2008

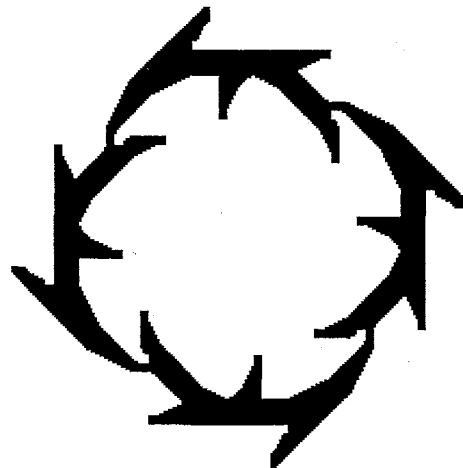
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PALM SUNDAY OR PASSION SUNDAY MARKS THE
BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK--
THE WEEK BEFORE EASTER IN WHICH WE RECALL THE
DRAMATIC DAYS OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF
JESUS

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY IS A DAY OF CONTRASTS. IN
THE FIRST PART WE EXPERIENCE THE JOYOUS
DEMONSTRATION OF LOYALTY TO JESUS, WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.



IN THE SECOND PART OF THE WORSHIP, THE
NARRATIVES OF JESUS' BETRAYAL, ARREST, TRIAL
AND SCOURGE ARE HIGHLIGHTED.



BLESSED BE THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL; HE HAS
COME TO HIS PEOPLE AND SET THEM FREE. HE HAS
RAISED UP FOR US A MIGHTY SAVIOR.

CHRIST, FOR OUR SAKE, BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO
DEATH.

Announcement



SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

As is our custom in Mennonite Church of the Servant, it is time for the sharing of our spiritual pilgrimage from the past year. We do this in preparation for signing the Covenant on Holy Week Wednesday (March 19). The sharing of the pilgrimages will primarily happen through the Servant Group meetings. If you are not a part of a servant group, you are encouraged to join with one for this exercise. Sharing of your spiritual pilgrimage can also happen with a shepherd. Please prepare for this important time in the life of our congregation.



SPIRAL DYNAMICS FORUM

You are invited to learn about and discuss the implications of Spiral Dynamics for yourself, your family, your church and your society. Spiral Dynamics (SD) is a term for how value systems emerge in people, organizations, and cultures. SD addresses the tension within ourselves and our families, churches, ethnic groups and nations. SD offers breakthrough possibilities for spiritual and religious development. Three remaining sessions of this forum, led by Jerry Truex, remain--Sundays, Mar. 2, 9, 16-- from 12 noon to 1:00 at Mennonite Church of the Servant. For more information, contact Jerry Truex, at [316-260-9095](tel:316-260-9095).

CRAFTY LADIES

On Saturday, March 15, at 10 a.m., ladies are invited to a time of creating with crafts in the youth room. Contact Doreene Esau-Rutherford at 256-3848 for further information.



2008 MENNONITE RELIEF SALE

The 2008 Mennonite Relief Sale is to be held on the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, KS, Friday evening, April 11, and all day Saturday, April 12. Admission and parking are free. Everyone is welcome. The Relief Sale is sponsored by the Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches of Kansas, for the benefit of relief and community development programs of Mennonite Central Committee. Feature events: quilt auction and general auction with hobby items, furniture, tools and collections; Children's activities, German buffet, chicken barbecue, ethnic foods, cheeses, hams sausage, baked goods, crafts, plants and T-shirts. Special activities associated with the sale include building a House Against Hunger, Fellowship Meals, Run for Relief and Golf Tournament. For more information contact [620/655-7406](tel:620-655-7406) or www.kansas.mccsale.org.

NEWS AND NOTES

MOTHER 4 MOTHER

Mother 4 Mothers had a wonderful Valentine meeting. Many members said it was one of the best. The theme was "Your Favorite Love Story." The mothers met in the foyer, while the Achievers 4-H Club kept the kids busy in the Fellowship Hall and Carolyn kept the babies busy in the nursery. The kids loved decorating cookies. They made valentines for their families, and they practiced their skill with numbers and fair play with valentine BINGO. The Moms decided to open each meeting by reciting the following prayer together.

Dear God,

You know how much I love my family.

Help me remember that when I express my love to them, I am also loving you.

Remind me to live my life in love's service.

Please bring me back when I stray out of your "royal way."

I love you, God, my creator.

Give me strength to love You more.

Amen.

Then each one took a turn telling their favorite love story. One story told about a 4 year old child in foster care. As her Mommy was leaving after a visit she said, "Don't worry, Mommy, I prayed and Jesus said we'll be back together soon." One story talked about being sent home from the hospital to rest because their premature newborn child probably wouldn't live. Instead of resting she invited friends over to pray and then went back to the hospital. She stuck her hand down into the Isolette, a tiny hand grabbed her finger and hung on. That child is 33 years old with her own children. Another story told about the friendship she and her boyfriend enjoyed for many years. They finally got married, he died 18 hours later. By the time all 15 Moms had a chance to tell their story, everyone was crying. We challenged each other to write our stories and create a book to encourage others. Everyone received a goody bag of cosmetics and hair care products, compliments of Beauty First, Dress for Success, and Mary. Moms were encouraged to take advantage of the free dental health care in March sponsored by the Sedgwick County Health Coalition. A "Teen Intervention Program" was announced to the Moms. It is for kids ages 10-18 and teaches about making good decisions and resisting peer pressure. All Moms were encouraged to discuss this opportunity with their kids. In March we have the opportunity to take the Food Handlers course from the Health Department, and the hear the "Voices of Easter", a readers theater from 1st Presbyterian Church. In April we have free circus tickets.

Sally Huber

EASTER 2008 THEME

During the Sundays of Easter, March 30 through May 4, the scripture text for worship will be taken from the book of 1 Peter.

MMA

This report summarizes the amount of MMA Sharing Funds we used in 2007, and the amount available to us in 2008. The amount is based on congregational and advocate activity last year. We had one Community Outreach Grant for \$250. The money was raised at Kelly's pancake celebration. It was intended for Mothers 4 Mothers, but ended up at InterFaith instead. MMA matched \$250. We had five Emergency Grants totaling \$748.89. These are matching grants for money used from our sharing fund to assist church members in need. We had one Continuing Education Grant turned down because we didn't get the papers in on time. This money would have been for Jerry to attend conferences and buy books. We'll do better next time. Our total for 2007 is \$998.89, which makes us eligible for \$6500 in 2008 if we need it. In the last five years we have received \$4726.39 in MMA grants. In our congregation we have 16 MMA members and 22 church members-- that's 73% participation in MMA.

Sally Huber

MORE ABOUT MMA

Efforts to engage the Boomers and Generation Y began and will continue with two web sites designed for them. www.mmaYnow.com is a conversation and community web site for Generation Y (those born in the 80's and 90's). Baby Boomers can visit MMA's information site just for them at www.yourenough.com for videos, stories, retirement calculators and more.

Sally Huber



FROM THE PAST

From March 1988's MCS Newsletter

- The MCS retreat will introduce us to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator as a tool for helping us understand ourselves and our differences.
- Mark Grasse is the shepherd from Mission House Church. He was attracted to MCS because of the social contacts available and the opportunity for involvement.
- We will be hosting the Kansas-Oklahoma District of the South Central Conference at our building on Saturday, March 26.
- Tom Mierau will be presenting a special education classroom management workshop on March 25 at the state middle school conference.
- Paul Zehr was accepted in the 1988 Watercolor Exhibition at the Wichita Art Museum.

? DID YOU KNOW

For the first time, a large-scale study has quantified there is a constant membership turnover among most American faiths. The report, released by Pew Forum on Religion & Public life indicates that not only do Americans change jobs, change where they live, and change spouses, but they change religions too. According to Pew:

- 28% of American adults have left the faith of their childhood for another one or no religion at all.
- If this includes those who switched from one Protestant denomination to another the result is 44%.
- One in four adults ages 18 to 29 claim no affiliation with a religious institution.
- The majority of the unaffiliated-- 12% of the overall population-- describe their religion as "nothing in particular."
- The United States is 78% Christian and about to lose its status as a majority Protestant nation.
- Since 1972, of those raised Catholic, a third have left the church.
- Ex-Catholics are almost as numerous as America's second biggest religious group-- Southern Baptists.
- Catholicism has made up for the losses by adding converts and by the influx of new immigrants-- mostly Hispanic.
- Although evangelical churches strive to win new Christian believers from the "unchurched", the survey found most converts to evangelical churches were raised Protestant.
- About two-thirds of the people who were raised Jehovah's Witnesses no longer are. Yet the group attracts about the same number of converts.
- The biggest "winner" in terms of number gained versus numbers lost was the "unaffiliated" category, but even this group lost 50% of its original membership to one church or another.
- What the report indicates is that the market place is highly competitive and no one can sit on their laurels.
- The report also suggests that there is an institutional loosening of ties, with less individual commitment to a given faith or denomination.

Print Story: America's Unfaithful Faithful
on Yahoo News



FUTURE CALENDAR ITEMS

- | | | |
|-------|-------|------------------------------|
| April | 11-12 | --MCC Sale |
| April | 15 | --Income Tax Day |
| April | 19 | --Passover begins at sundown |
| April | 22 | --Earth Day |
| May | 1 | --Holocaust Remembrance Day |
| May | 10-11 | --MCS Spring Retreat |
| May | 11 | --Mother's Day |

March 2008

MENNONITE CHURCH of the SERVANT

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 10:00 AM Lent IV Worship 12:00 PM Spiral Dynamics Forum Communion	3	4 7:30 PM Shalom Servant Group	5	6	7	8 Clocks forward 1 hr. Daylight Savings Time starts tonight
9 10:00 AM Lent V Worship 12:00 PM Spiral Dynamics Forum	10 7:30 PM Worship Committee	11	12	13	14	15 10:00 AM Crafty Ladies
16 10:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship 12:00 PM Spiral Dynamics Forum	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 7:00 PM Task Force	19 6:30 PM COVENANTING SERVICE	20 Happy Birthday, Isabel Thanmithak Spring Begins	21 Good Friday	22 Happy Birthday, Cindy Snider Happy Birthday, Sally Huber
23 10:00 AM EASTER Worship Celebration	24	25	26 7:30 PM Church Council	27	28	29
30 10:00 AM Easter 2 Worship 11:40 AM Church Life Healing Prayer	31	Jerry and Vangie Truex 1523 Fairview Wichita, KS 67203				