

MENNONITE CHURCH of the SERVANT

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

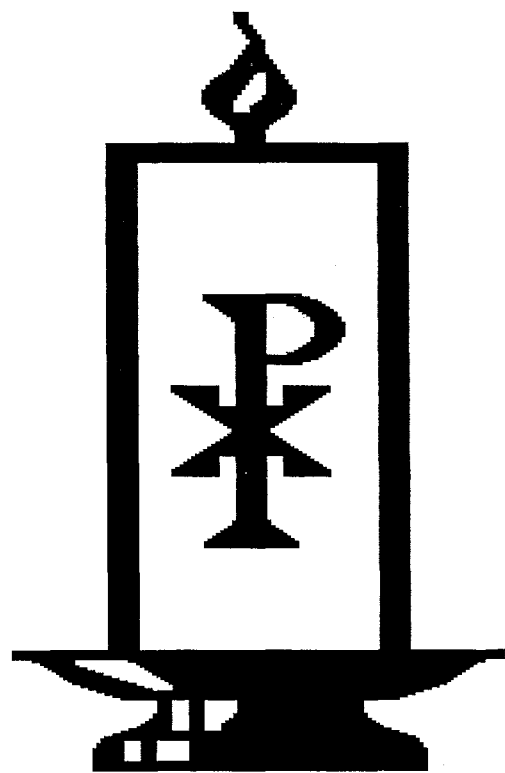
Worship - 10:00 AM

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 2008

So that God may be
glorified in all things



April 13: Easter 4

COME TO HIM, A LIVING STONE...

Scripture text is from I Peter 2:4-9. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader.



April 20 : Easter 5

...BY HIS WOUNDS YOU HAVE BEEN HEALED

Scripture text is from I Peter 2:20b-25. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. M.C. McAdams will be the worship leader.



April 27: Easter 6

**HE WAS PUT TO DEATH IN THE FLESH,
BUT MADE ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT.**

Scripture text is from I Peter 3:15-18. Pat Cameron will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Healing prayer will be a part of this worship service.

.....



May 4: Ascension Sunday

**REJOICE INsofar AS YOU ARE
SHARING CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS...**

Scripture text is from I Peter 4:12-16. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader.

Worship in April



April 6: Easter 3

**HE WAS DESTINED BEFORE THE
FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD---**

Scripture text is from I Peter 1:17-21. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Communion will be a part of this worship service.



Bulletin Board

Servant Groups of Mennonite Church of the Servant



APRIL CHURCH LIFE

There is no Church Life (decision making) meeting scheduled for the month of April.



APRIL OFFERING

The emphasis for giving during April will be for **Mennonite Central Committee (general) / MCC-Relief Sale**. If you wish to give to MCC, write a separate check or indicate how much is to be designated on your check to the church.



Worship Attendance

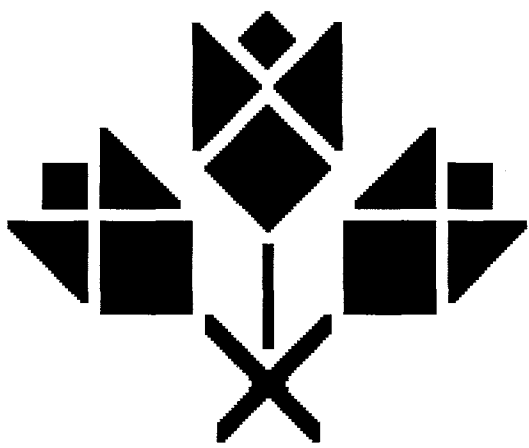
March 2:	29
March 9:	28
March 16:	29
March 23:	33
March 30:	23



BUDGET REPORT

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

February 24:	1,457.27
March 2:	849.00
March 9:	297.00
March 16:	699.00
March 23:	1,384.00
TOTAL	4,686.27



Currently Mennonite Church of the Servant has three Servant Groups (small groups) that meet several times a month for worship, prayer, study and fellowship. Each of these groups are welcoming to anyone seeking spiritual growth in the context of community.

TRANSFORMATION Servant Group

Contact Lois Barrett at 264-3686 for April meeting dates and times.

FAITH ISSUES Reading Group

This group is a women's Bible/Book study group. It meets every other Saturday from 4-5 p.m. at the church (in the youth room). Call Vangie Truex at 263-0204 for April meeting dates.

SHALOM Servant Group

This Servant Group generally meets on Tuesday evenings several times a month starting at 7:30 P.M. Its focus is on the peace journey-- both inward and outward. Contact Pat Cameron at 262-2644 for April meeting dates and location.
.....88

April, 2008 Calendar

Week of March 30 - April 5

Wed., April 2, Shalom Servant Group

Week of April 6 - April 12

- Sun., April 6, Worship Gathering; 10 a.m.
Potluck Meal; 11:45 a.m.
- Wed., April 9, Happy Birthday, Pat Cameron
Happy Birthday, MC McAdams
- Fri., April 11, MCC Sale, Hutchinson
- Sat., April 12, MCC Sale, Hutchinson

Week of April 13 - April 19

- Sun., April 13, Worship Gathering; 10 a.m.
- Tues., April 15, Income Tax Filing due
Shalom Servant Group; 7:30 pm
- Wed., April 16, Happy Birthday, Cody Rutherford
- Sat., April 19, Passover Begins

Week of April 20 - April 26

- Sun., April 20, Worship Gathering; 10 am
- Mon., April 21, Worship Committee; 7:30 pm
- Tues., April 22, EARTH DAY
- Wed., April 23, Happy Birthday, Jeanette Stucky
- Sat., April 26, Happy Birthday, Alex Rutherford

Week of April 27 - May 3

- Sun., April 27, Worship Gathering; 10 am
Happy Birthday, Warren Thanmithak

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

is a member congregation of
Mennonite Church USA
<http://www.mcswichita.net>

Pastor
Jerry Truex
jtruex1@cox.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

Verse of the Month

1 Peter 2:9

**But you are a chosen race, a
royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that
you may proclaim the mighty
acts of him who called you out
of darkness into his marvelous
light.**

Earth Day

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

*I sing the mighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wonders that ordained
the sun to rule the day.*

*The moon shines full at God's
command and all the stars obey*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures with a word
and then pronounced them good.*

*Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky!*

*There's not a plant or flow'r below,
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne.
While all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
there is not a place that we can flee
but God is present there.*



*I sing the mighty power of God
Hymnal, A Worship Book-- #46*

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.

My Adventure

I went to the State Capitol in Topeka with the Kansas Faith Alliance for Health Reform on Wednesday, March 12. It was quite an adventure. The mission is to advocate collectively, as a people of faith, for health care systems guided by ethically acceptable policies. There were about 50 people from all over the state, approximately one third were Mennonite. Dorothy Nickel Friesen wanted Mennonites to be well represented in this group. She got her wish.

Health care reform ties into our congregation in many ways. Many of us have our own health care issues. The MMA focus for this year is to be healthy. MMA grants help us pay for many under insured members' medical bills. My work with Mothers 4 Mothers often included advocating for health care for children and their families. My work with disabled and mentally ill clients included health care advocacy. Even my former Voluntary Service position attempted to provide home health services for those who were slipping between the cracks. They say we should have our own stories ready to share. I have lots of hem because of my advocacy.

That's five reasons why it was so exciting for me. But the main reasons we should all be involved, identified by the Western District Health and Wellness Task Force are Amos 5:24, Matthew 25:40 and I Corinthians 6:19-20.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority voted on 21 options at their Board meeting. All of them are important, but that is too many for us to work with. So the Kansas Faith Alliance for Health Reform chose three to focus on. We support the following measure:

- 1) Expansion of insurance coverage for young adults, employees of small businesses and any adults whose household incomes are at or below 100% of the poverty guidelines.
- 2) All proposals related to tobacco use prevention and control including the tax on tobacco products.
- 3) Aggressive marketing of HealthWave, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, but also an expansion of this program for children

in families with incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty level.

We spent the morning learning about health care issues and how to advocate for them. Then we went to visit our local legislators. We sat in on the Health Policy subcommittee hearing. We also sat in on the Immigration subcommittee, the discussion was a lot more interesting.

My team consisted of five women from Wichita. One from Interfaith Ministries, one from the Medical Services Bureau, a Parish nurse, Brenda Glanzer Lilliston and me. We visited Senator Susan Wagle which was a disappointment. Representative Miles Dillmore was cordial and supports everything that is preventative and diagnostic except the tobacco cessation proposals. Representative Delia Garcia was wonderful. She's passionate about health care for everyone on Kansas. We had to wait for Senator Donald Betts to finish in the Senate. I was impressed by his involvement with the ARC of Sedgwick County and local church youth groups. He was very helpful and informative. He took us to visit Senator Anthony Hensley and Senator David Haley. They aren't from Wichita but they're both working hard for health care reform. Senator Haley asked us to come back and work some more. Other teams visited other legislators. Most had positive results.

When the time comes for us to go back to Topeka or host local meetings for the Kansas Faith Alliance for Health Reform will you be able to help? Will you be able to share your story? Let me know which issues are important to you, please.

Sally Huber

***But let justice roll
down like waters,
and righteousness
like an everflowing
stream.***

Amos 5:24



from the PASTOR

*A word to the congregation of
Mennonite Church of the Servant
from Pastor Jerry Truex*

Transformation Bible Reading

ESSENTIAL BIBLE READING

I am often asked, "What are the essential books of the Bible that every Christian should read?" At minimum, I believe healthy Christian spirituality require acquaintance with about 97 "chapters" or pages of scripture. This includes the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7), Mark's Gospel (or another Gospel), Philippians (or another letter in the NT), the Book of Genesis, and the Book of Exodus 1-24. I recommend reading the books in the order just laid out. This covers the life and teaching of Jesus in a nutshell, insights from Paul's encounter with the Risen Christ, and the foundational narratives of creation and the emergence of God's people.

TRANSFORMATIONAL BIBLE READING

Another question I'm often asked is, "Are there any methods you would recommend for reading the Bible?" There are different methods for different objectives. If healthy Christian spirituality is the objective there are at least two approaches to cultivate: Read to be *informed* (what the Word says) and to be *formed* (what the Word/Spirit does to us). That is, we should read for *information* and *transformation*. Both are important. Reading for information shapes our cognitive mindset or worldview which, in turn, can influence our behavior, motives, emotions, and relationships. In contrast, reading for transformation aims at purifying our souls, developing our Authentic Self, and preparing us for union with God.

Reading for transformation must include the time-tested method of *Lectio Divina* (LEK-tsee-oh; di-VEEN-ah). It is Latin for "divine reading." There are many styles or types of divine reading, but all of them involve a slow, meditative, and prayerful reading of the Bible. Here is how I practice it. I find a quiet time of the day or place without distractions. For me, this is usually late in the evening after everyone has gone to bed. I set aside 20-60 minutes and select a passage of scripture, ranging from 2-3 verses to a couple of paragraphs. I move through four steps.

The first step is reading. I read a passage slowly and usually several times. Sometimes I read aloud. I repeat words and phrases that catch my attention. AS I read, allow critical thinking to fall into the background.

The second step is meditation. I allow myself to become absorbed in the passage, until there is nothing except the Word and me. I become so immersed that the words I read are as *if* I were composing them myself. I let my imagination enliven the text (Heb 4:12; Col 3:16). As I read, I sometimes imagine what I might see, touch, hear smell, or feel. More often, I simply experience nebulous visualizations or a day-dream like absorption. Sometimes I experience deep relaxation and even a sense of floating.

The third step is prayer. I allow my feelings and thoughts to surface and, without words, I talk to God about what I am reading and experiencing. Words seem useless or too limiting at this point. Usually I feel some euphoria, believing that I am in fact encountering God. But there are other times when thoughts or emotions arise that are painful and difficult to admit even to myself. Here I think it is possible to unload some of these feelings and thoughts to God-- shadow elements and emotional garbage-- difficult to experience and express in ordinary states of consciousness.

The fourth step is contemplation. After communing with God in prayer, I feel compelled to "shut up," and let the Creator and Sustainer of the universe have a word. I listen. I submit. I place myself wide open to whatever God would want me to hear. I wait. Sometimes there is an impression or insight, a reassurance or hope. I notice it and return to listening for God. Here there is an overwhelming sense of love and an oceanic sense of oneness with all that is (Col 2:9-10; Jn 17:22).

If you have not practiced *Lectio* before, I suggest 20 minutes a day for at least 30 days. In your practice find what is comfortable for you. Go with what works. In my own practice, I have experienced greater awareness of God, some inner cleansing of emotional garbage, and definitely greater love and appreciation for myself and others. As St. John of the Cross wrote: "Seek in reading, and you will find in meditation; Knock in prayer and it will be opened to you in contemplation."

For more, see Michael Casey, *Sacred Reading: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina*. (Triumph, 1996) and Guigo, *The Ladder of Monks & Twelve Meditations* (Eds. E. Colledge and J. Walsh, Cistercian Publications, 1981).

ANNOUNCING



FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK

On the first Sunday of this month, April 6, MCS will gather for a potluck meal after our worship. Chili will be served. Bring a salad or dessert to compliment the meal.

WIND ENSEMBLE PRESENTATION

Hesston College Wind Ensemble and Bel Canto Singers will present a concert at 7 pm, Sunday April 6 at Hesston Mennonite Church. The concert is free and open to the public.



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 or <www.kansas.mccsale.org>.

HISPANIC CHURCH INAUGURAL

An Hispanic Mennonite Church in Newton is forming. An inauguration service will take place on Sunday, April 13, at 6 pm at Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton. Gilberto Flores, Director of Denominational Ministry & Missional Church for Mennonite Church USA will give the sermon. The church's meeting place is 510 SE 2nd Street in Newton. Their worship service is every Sunday at 11 am.



MCS SPRING RETREAT

Plan now to attend Mennonite Church of the Servant's retreat held on the Saturday and Sunday of May 10-11, 2008 at Camp Mennoscah in the conference retreat center. Jenny Hardin will serve as our resource person. Look for the registration forms that will be forthcoming.



IN THE NEWS

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.



CHILDREN'S COOKBOOK

Simply in Season, Children's Cookbook helps children make the connection between what they eat, where it comes from and when its in season. Colorful photos make it entertaining for children to think and cook in season, while learning to be thankful. Talk to Sally Huber if you are interested in buying or borrowing the cookbook.

DINNER TICKETS

Sally Huber has tickets for the Wichita West Lions Club "Ham and Bean Dinner and Stew Feed" for Saturday, April 12, 11 am to 2 pm. The tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children 10 and under. She also has \$1 tickets for the raffle. A hand carved wooden lion wall plaque and a hand quilted "Welcome Friend" wall hanging are the raffle prizes. Remember that the Wichita West Lions help support Mothers 4 Mothers, Starkey, The ARC of Sedgwick County, Episcopal Social Services and many other organizations.

MOTHERS 4 MOTHERS

Eleven mothers and their kids came to hear the "Voices of Easter". It inspired all of us. We discovered that we have five pregnant mothers. Five babies are due between May and October this year. That's a lot of babies, more than we have had for several years. Feel free to share diapers and blankets, etc. with us this year. We are running low on art supplies, especially construction paper and markers. This summer the kids will probably play outside more, so supplies and toys for outside activities would be welcomed. The mothers voted not to attend an overnight family camp, so we'll have day camp again. It would be wonderful if any of you would sponsor a child for Camp Mennoscah. Or you could offer to help them get to VBS. In April, by popular demand, Community Police Officer Sara Voyles will be back. She does a wonderful job of answering questions about the law and teaching us all how to be safe. We have tickets for everyone to the Shriner's Circus. No transportation to the circus is available. May is traditionally the month for the Mother's Day Tea and Volunteer Recognition. June is family cookout and playing in the park month. Our fund raiser "Stone Soup Celebration" will be June 15. Feel free to join us for all these events. And pray for us. We need you.

Sally Huber

PASTORS ONLINE

Pastors Online are talking about the most interesting things. Read all about the stewardship issues pastors are dealing with in their personal lives-- and congregational lives in Teleios, MMA's online newsletter for pastors at <www.mma-online.org>

MENNONITE CREDIT UNION

Our partnership with Mennonite Financial Federal Credit Union will provide an even more complete range of services to help integrate faith and finances. Visit them online at <www.mennonitefinancial.com>



FUTURE CALENDAR DATES

May	1	--Holocaust Remembrance Day
May	4	--Ascension Sunday
May	10-11	--MCS Spring Retreat
May	11	--Mother's Day
May	11	--Pentecost
May	26	--Memorial Day

? DID YOU KNOW

There are faith-based individuals who consider themselves Evangelicals that hope to reverse the perception that all evangelicals are conservative Republicans.

- Recent surveys have found that younger evangelicals are less tied to the GOP than their parents have been, even while remaining deeply opposed to abortion.
- There is an evangelical portion that wishes to link religious faith with social action.
- Among the areas these evangelicals wish to explore are access to health care, immigration, global warming and the war in Iraq.
- Their message is that evangelicals aren't going to be in the pocket of any party anymore, and they're going to evaluate all candidates by their own moral compass.
- They take a non-partisan stance. It is about faith and about issues, not about a particular presidential candidate.
- They are especially concerned about environmental protection, leading to reassessment on their views on the issue.
- Detractors say that the effort is an attempt to try to reach out to the values voters and take them away from the pro-life candidates.
- The response to this has been to voice the thought that the evangelical label has been taken captive by a very narrow political program. How did this narrow agenda become our agenda?

The Wichita Eagle, April 5, 2008



FROM THE PAST

From April 1988's MCS Newsletter

- April 16-17 retreat theme is "Gifts Differing: Learning to know ourselves and each other through the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator".
- Auditions for *Alice in Blunderland*, a musical about nuclear war issues produced by Churches United for Peacemaking, are scheduled for April 22-23.
- Mennonite Housing was the only resource available to meet the home repair needs of the nearly 800 families served in 1987.
- New address for Doug, Cathy, and Kristine Everingham will be 5125 East 10th Street.
- The issues night for May will be on "Investments and Savings." This is a continuation of the series on financial accountability in the church.



Look at the birds of the air...

Consider the lilies of the field...

Do not worry but strive first
for the kingdom of God.

Matthew 6