



Worship during May, 2010

**Mennonite Church of the Servant's Sunday morning
worship gathering begins at 10:00 a.m. in the
Fellowship Hall of the Fairview Christian Church
facility, 1650 N. Fairview, Wichita, KS.**

Living Faithfully in **CHRIST** **LIKE WAYS**

Easter 5; May 2 Dueling Pledges: Three Leaches Cake

The promise and peril of living as faithful Christians in America

Teaching theme will be on exploring our identity as Mennonites living faithfully in Christ like ways in our wealthy and powerful nation. Lois Barrett will lead the short play and discussion questions from Luke 10:25-37. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. We will celebrate communion as a part of this worship.

Easter 6; May 9 Dueling Pledges: I Luv Stuff

Spring Retreat

Our worship service will be held at Camp Mennoscah as part of our annual Spring Retreat. Teaching theme will be on exploring our identity as Mennonites living faithfully in Christ like ways in our wealthy and powerful nation. Jerry Truex will lead the short play and discussion questions from Luke 12:13-34. Cindy Snider will be the worship leader. Please see MCS retreat information and direction to Camp Mennoscah elsewhere in this newsletter.

Easter 7; May 16 Dueling Pledges: The Lord's Prayer
Revisited

The promise and peril of living as faithful Christians in America

Teaching theme will be on exploring our identity as Mennonites living faithfully in Christ like ways in our wealthy and powerful nation. Jerry Truex will lead the short play and discussion questions from Matthew 6:5-15. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader.

PENTECOST; May 23 **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Our worship will celebrate Pentecost, or the coming of the Holy Spirit to God's people—the Church. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Healing Prayer will be a part of this worship service.

Trinity Sunday, May 30 **Creator-Redeemer-Sustainer**

This Sunday will start a teaching series on "Following Jesus in a world that is not." The attitudes of the culture will be contrasted to that of the way of Jesus. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Pat Cameron will be the worship leader.

Verse of the Month – Matthew 6:33

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Women's Bible Study Group

A Bible study for women on the "Psalms of Ascent" (Psalms 120-134) will continue monthly through September. The group meets once a month after church at Cindy Snider's home for a light lunch, 50-minute DVD, discussion, and prayer. Contact Cindy for more information.

Transformation Servant Group will meet from 7:00 to 9:00, Sunday evenings. Our Servant Group is using *Take Our Moments and Our Days; an Anabaptist Prayer Book* for worship. Contact Lois if you would like to order a copy. Our name comes from Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect."

RETREAT MAY 8-9

Mark your calendar for the annual Mennonite Church of the Servant retreat, from 9:00 a.m. Saturday May 8 through noon on Sunday at Camp Mennoscha. The theme of the retreat will continue the worship theme from April 18 until Pentecost: "Dueling Pledges." This year, there will be more of an emphasis on free time and recreation for all generations. More details about schedule and costs are on the flier which will be in your boxes and on top of the credenza.

MMA

MMA helps people and groups integrate their finances with faith values through its insurance and financial services. Rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, MMA also offers practical stewardship education and tools to individuals, congregations, organizations, and businesses.

Things you should tell your Legislator ASAP

1. State funding cuts result in people with disabilities losing services, which help them live independently in the community. Please don't cut any additional funding for the fiscal year 2011.
2. Organizations like Starkey receive \$8 an hour for their workers from the state. Now, the modestly paid employees worry about job security in the wake of additional state budget cuts. Preserve disability funding for the coming year.
3. The state made a promise in 1995 with the DD Reform Law to serve people with disabilities in their home communities. Help keep that promise by making community disability services a priority in Kansas.
4. When people with disabilities receive supports in their home communities, they thrive. Kansas legislators recognized that institutions are not the best place for citizens with disabilities. Support community services with consistent state funds.

M4M

M4M had several meetings this month. We all enjoyed the circus. We had 2 Reflection meetings. At Reflection meetings we make plans for the future, discuss the issues and needs that mothers deal with all the time and we pray for each other. We have a long list of prayers this month. Next month we have a special speaker. A counselor will be coming to teach how families can work together to handle stressful situations and still love each other.

WHAT IF . . .



"Do you have Blue Cross?"

The broken immigration system has left whole communities devastated and created fear and pain for immigrant families. Leaders will come together to pray for healing and reconciliation, to highlight God’s call to “welcome the stranger among us,” and to call for a just immigration policies that honor the humanity of all people.

Date: Saturday May 1st

Time: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: 2300 N. Broadway Wichita KS

Join us as we march and pray for:

- 1. Humane and Just Immigration Reform**
- 2. Stop deportations that hurt our communities and tear families apart.**
- 3. Worker Rights and good jobs for all.**

For more information, call SCA-Comunidad Latina en Accion with Emira Palacios at 264-9972 ext. 27, Hispanic Ministries with Pastor Sergio Tristan at 263-1800 Wear a white t-shirt!

Sports team names have a variety of origins. They come from history (Spartans, Mountaineers), nature (Cardinals, Terrapins), and even colors (Orange, Reds). One even comes from the mollusk family.

In the 1980s, the University of California at Santa Cruz was just starting to get involved in competitive sports. UCSC had a bit of disdain for the overemphasis some big-time schools place on athletics, so the student body sought a team name that would reflect a somewhat different approach. They decided on the Banana Slug, a yellow, slimy, slow, shell-less mollusk. It was a clever way for UCSC to give a balanced perspective on the relative worth of sports.

I have always loved sports, but I know that they can easily become more important than they should be. What matters most in life is what Jesus said is most vital—loving God with all of our hearts and loving our neighbors as ourselves ([Matt. 22:37-39](#)). Micah listed God’s requirements this way: “do justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly with your God” (6:8). For believers in Jesus, it is vital that nothing else takes top priority over God’s expectations for us.

What matters most to you? The Spartans? The Red Sox? Or loving God in thought, word, and action?

Lord, what matters most to You today?
What can direct us in each thing we do?
Could it be to let nothing at all
Interfere with our deep love for You? —Branon

Read: [Micah 6:1-8](#)

What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? —[Micah 6:8](#)

Beware of spending too much time on matters of too little importance.

You are the Parable!

By Pastor Jerry Truex

One third of Jesus' teaching was in parables and for good reason. Listening to parables can evoke everything from glee to confusion to indifference. In contrast, hearing a parable is a transformative event. To hear Jesus' parables as events, here are four things to consider.

1. Extended Metaphors. To hear parables it is helpful to know they are *metaphors*. A metaphor *speaks of one thing in terms appropriate of another*.

For example, at one point in the *Trojan War*, Homer wrote, "The lion rushed forward." Everyone knew Achilles had just come onto the battlefield. Homer spoke of one thing (Achilles) in the terms appropriate to another (a lion). That's metaphor.

Jesus' parables are extended metaphors. They speak of God's encounter with us in language seemingly about something else (leaven, buildings, seeds, wine skins, etc.). Notice these two levels of meaning—the literal and figurative—in the Parable of the Leaven:

Matt 13:33. He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." (NRSV)

2. Drawn from Common Life. To hear parables you need to know they are *based on nature or common life* from Galilee during the first century. They involve journeys, observations about nature, and surprise discoveries. Their commonness made them *accessible* to the people of Jesus' time but, ironically, somewhat *inaccessible* today because of the difference in time, culture, and place. Still, the commonness of parables suggests that God encounters people in ordinary activities of everyday life.

For example, in order to catch the humor and impact the Parable of the Two Builders, we need to know a little about how foundations were built in ancient Palestine (Luke 6:47-49).

3. Arrestingly quirky. To hear parables you must be willing to be arrested. Parables arrest the hearer by their vividness or strangeness. They are quirky stories. The more you think about a parable the stranger it becomes. If we allow a parable to seize us and we do our time, when we are released, we leave a changed person.

For example, the Parable of the Treasure is a quirky parable. The more you visualize what it is saying, the stranger it gets!

Matt. 13:44. "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (NRSV)

4. Events. To hear parables it is helpful to know they are events. They tease our minds. They call into question our assumptions. They challenge the robotic ways we live. But they leave sufficient doubt about their precise application. In a word, they cannot be reduced to a moral or single idea. More than tell us something, parables do something to us. When you hear a parable, it "happens" to you.

Consider the "event-ness" of Nathan's parable to King David when he confronted David about his affair with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:1-7). Nathan told David about a rich man who stole and slaughtered the beloved ewe lamb of a poor man. When David heard, he became furious and demanded the man be punished. Then Nathan announced to David, "You are the man!"

Summary. Remember parables are extended metaphors that talk about how God encounters you in everyday life. Allow the parable to seize you. Ponder it. Let it "happen" to you as an event. Come away changed, not with a summary statement, but knowing "you are the parable!"

MAY 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Sunday School for the <i>older kids</i> is every Sunday except for the 30 th .	Sunday School for <i>pre-k</i> is <u>only on the 16th</u> .	Sunday School will resume in the fall.				1
2 Potluck & Communion Greeter: Doreene Childcare: Karissa	3	4	5	6	7 Happy B'Day Jennifer Hurd	8 Retreat Happy B'Day Latyvianna Cheaney
9 Retreat Service at Camp Menn.	10	11	12	13 Church Council meeting at 7:30 pm	14	15
16 Church Life meeting at 11:45 am Greeter: Vangie Childcare: Karissa	17	18 Anabaptist Pastors' meeting at MCS at 11:45 am	19	20 Worship committee meeting at 7:30 pm	21	22
23 Pentecost Greeter: Doreene Childcare: Alex/Dori	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Greeter: Nancy & Jen Childcare: Jenny/Sally	31					