



Worship in December, 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.

Wait & Watch

God is on the move

December 5: ADVENT 2 Repent and reconnect!

Prepare the way of the Lord! Straighten crooked paths!

Scripture readings are: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Communion will be a part of our worship service.

December 12: ADVENT 3 Be patient as God works!

We strengthen our hearts in hope, for the Lord's coming is near.

Scripture readings are: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11. Pat Cameron will give the sermon. Steve & Nita Nikkel will be the worship leader.

December 19: ADVENT 4 See the sign!

He is declared to be the Son of God with power.

Scripture readings are: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Cindy Snider will be the worship leader.

December 24: Christmas Eve Jesus the Refugee

Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world?

Our annual Christmas Eve celebration will be on Friday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. A Christmas Eve reader's theatre from Mennonite Central Committee will be presented along with an accompanying power point. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader.

December 26: Christmas 1 Weep and rejoice

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord because of the abundance of God's steadfast love.

Scripture readings are: Psalm 148; Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Healing Prayer will be a part of this worship service.

MISSION FOCUS

December 5 - The "Dream Act"
December 12 - Haiti Update
December 19 - The Sharing Fund & MMA Match

GROWING AS CAREGIVERS

Compassionate, Full of Faith, Skilled, Trustworthy
and Christ-Centered

Mennonite Church of the Servant Caregiving
Workshop
Saturday, February 5th

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will
fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Our group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* is
renewing. If you are interested in joining our group plan--or
to continue your subscription--please contact Jeanette
Stucky before December 15, or simply fill out the sheet in
your mailbox and place in Jeanette's mailbox. You will
begin receiving the 64-page, monthly magazine with the
2011 January issue. The cost is estimated to be either \$37
or \$39 for the year.

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SHARING FUND

We maintain a small Sharing Fund to give aid with
integrity and accountability to participants who have
financial needs. Such money can be considered a
loan or a gift. You'll find the full Sharing Fund policy
online at www.mcswichita.net in the "About Us"
section. Below are some guideline highlights for your
reference:

1. To request financial assistance, MCS participants
should contact the pastor and one shepherd, or two
shepherds. They will assess the need and bring a
suggestion to the Treasurer to authorize the release
of funds.
2. If the amount is more than \$500, the decision
should be processed by the Church Council, and, if
necessary, by the congregation as a whole.
3. Ordinarily the Sharing Fund should not be
accessed more than once yearly by an individual.
4. If there is evidence of ongoing need, Shepherds
will seek MCS members to walk with the requester in
support and accountability. The goal will be for the
requester to attain financial independence and
sustainability.

SMALL GROUPS

Faith Issues Reading Group is a women's reading and discussion group meeting on alternate Saturday afternoons for about 90 minutes. Currently, we are studying *Just a Sister Away* by Renita J Weems. We invite women who want to nurture their faith through intentional, focused discussion on faith issues to join us. Contact Vangie at 263-0204.

Lectio Divina Servant Group: We meet 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8pm at the church. We read scripture lectio divina and also examine our day. Accountability, sharing, singing, prayer is also a part of our group. For more information, contact Nita at 620-217-0249.

NT Greek Reading Group. This group focuses on reading and translating the Greek New Testament. Currently, we are working through Matthew's Gospel. In the last three years we have translated Mark, John, Colossians, Philemon, James, 1 Peter, and 1 John. We go around in a circle. Each person reads a verse in Greek and then translates into English, using "whatever it takes," including computer programs (Bible Works and Logos), interlinears, grammars, hand books, and other helps. In this way, we are able to include both beginners and advanced students. We meet on Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church. Contact Jerry at 263-0204 (jtruex1@cox.net)

Women's Discipleship Group: Bible study, discussion, and prayer. Meets fourth Sunday of the month after church at Cindy Snider's home. Next study will begin in January. Contact Cindy for more information, 832-0050.

Psychosynthesis Study Group. This group meets on the 2nd the 4th Wednesday of each month. We are currently reading two books, one by Will Parfitt entitled, *Psychosynthesis*, and the other by Joyce Hudson entitled, *Natural Spirituality*. At the meetings, we discuss the books and talk about the spiritual exercises we practiced. Between meeting we practice the various exercises from dream journaling to meditation to guided imagery. Contact Cindy Snider at 832-0050 or Jerry Truex at 263-0204.

You're Invited to Join a New Servant Group. If you are not currently in a home fellowship or servant group and want to join one, Pat and Lois invite you to Lois' home (1508 Fairview), Monday, Dec. 13 at 7:00 pm to talk forming a new group. Pat and Lois will have some suggestions, but bring your ideas also. Here are some questions to consider: What do you want the purpose or focus of the group to be? What do you want to do at meetings (e.g., discussion, prayer, worship, fellowship, service, Bible study)? How often do you want to meet? How long will the group last? If you have questions, contact Lois (264-3686) or Pat (262-2644).

Church member information

GREETERS NEEDED:

Please consider being a greeter. January-March some of our regular greeters will be taking a sabbatical. This church "job" description asks that you be at least ten minutes early to church, make sure the guest book is ready to sign, and stand at the doors and welcome guests and regulars to our Sunday worship. Please contact Geneva if you are interested in trying it for the three months (two times a month) and/or if you would like to greet on a regular basis.

Plant Waterer Needed

Our current plant waterer needs some time off. She just does it once a week, Sunday mornings. If anyone would like to take over this task, contact Geneva.

Primary Sunday School

There will be no primary Sunday school on Sundays December 26 and January 2.

Middle Sunday School

There will be no Middle Sunday School Dec. 5 and 26.

Potluck

The monthly potluck is on Sunday, December 5. Bring something to share. If you are able, bring your own place setting.

Wassail

The annual Wassail is on Saturday, December 4, from 7-9 p.m. Bring snack food to share. Wassail and other hot drinks will be provided. After the wassail, snacks and sharing there will be a time of singing Christmas songs and carols. Invite friends and family to come join in the festive evening.

The Bigger Church News

The Story of the Alternative Gift International Market

The Alternative Gifts International market is an experience of faith. It feels like Christmas. It has the smells and sounds and sights of Christmas. Food and live music was available all day long. The Christmas shopping was great. And it's all tax free. The profit all goes to missions somewhere around the world. This is our opportunity to escape the commercialism and materialism of the worlds Christmas. That's an opportunity that all of us Christians need.

Several churches and schools, a sorority, a cub scout pack, a group of Foreign Exchange students, a clinic and several other groups; all come together to raise money to help missions projects and non profits to celebrate Christmas and have fun.

This years theme is "I Can Change the World With My Own Two Hands". This is our opportunity to do something about world hunger, improve education, gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and medical services, environmental sustainability and collaboration. Actually everyone involved used their two hands, but it took the cooperation of all of us to make the market a success.

There were 41 tables of crafts and handmade ornaments to support international missions. Several of them are MCC projects. The AGI umbrella covers mission projects from many denominations. There were 6 local missions represented. Mothers 4 Mothers was privileged to be one of them this year. This is our fourth year of participation.

We had two tables this year. Table 13 supported "Mejures de Maiz" Empowering Women from Chiapas Mexico through Literacy and Leadership Training. We sold bookmarkers to represent the privilege to read.

Table 47 supported M4M. We sold pins by "Lucinda". We made a very nice profit. Not only because of her beautiful creations but because of her inspiring story of giving back to the community. I remember reading about her in McCalls Magazine back in the "60's". I remember reading about Mother 2 Mother in a church magazine in the "60's" also. We've both been around awhile. We doubled our money. We made enough money to replace what we took out of our fragile treasury to order the pins. That's a real act of faith for us. We made almost enough for our activities next year.

Belinda spent many hours on this project. Several mothers and their families helped. This was our chance to shine. It help solidify our team. And gave us an opportunity to give back.

We had lots of help. Jerry loaned us pictures and expertise. Fred helped design the displays. Kelly's crew helped clean up. And my coworkers at night helped tie on the little ribbons. This is our faith network at work.

We were validated by women who recognized us as the group that meets at Fairview Church, where they feed the homeless. One woman recognized me as Geneva's friend. Then she bought a pin in honor of her friendship with Geneva. Being known by the friends you keep is good. Many bought pins in honor of their loved ones.

In the last 3 years Wichita AGI has raised \$72,000 for international missions. This year we raised \$16,000, not counting 10,000 Villages, Peace Corp and a few others. They did their own accounting.

There were 2 honored guests. Terry came to Wichita 10 years ago. He lived under the same bridges that some of our guys call home. Today he has a high school diploma, a job an a home. In the spirit of giving back to those who helped him, like Lucinda did, he manes table 3. This table sold fruit and vegetable magnets to raise money for programs that feed and shelter the homeless in the US and Canada. Harriet developed the original AGI in her adult Sunday school class in 1986.

Next year we'll start organizing in June for a bigger and better celebration. You are all invited to sponsor a table and join in the festivities. Use your own two hands and our faith network to make a difference.

Everence

Everence is the new MMA. It helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches. Stay tuned, next month we'll hear the exciting news about Everence membership, background and stewardship at work.

Member's Musings

Devotional Reflections

Matthew 23:29-31

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites you build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, "If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with time in shedding the blood of the prophets." **So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets.**

In part of my devotional life, I pray for my enemies. One set of enemies I pray for are those who hate me because of my race or nationality. I pray they would be healed of the betrayals, the official harassment, the legal and illegal oppression in their lives by my government and people who looked like me. I pray that I would not take advantage of my race and nationality to hurt them.

Recently I've begun to change my prayer.

I want to listen to Matt 23:31. I do not want to be like the Pharisees who still claimed a relationship with those who opposed God's rule on earth. I do not want to claim, as my government, the one that did not welcome the foreigner or the different. I especially don't want to identify with the government that hated the foreigner and hurt the different. I want to be of the race of the children of God who healed the wounded. I want to claim citizenship in the Kingdom of God that welcomes all. I need to transform my mind so I confront the government as an alien, a foreigner, a temporary resident on my way to my true home.

So I now I pray for those who hate me because of how I look and where I live. I pray they may be healed of their wounds acquired on their journey here and received while living here. I pray that I may not add to their pain or block their true advancement. I pray I may look more like Jesus and act more like a citizen of the Kingdom of God. Then I listen to see if there is anything God is calling me to do.

Thanks for letting me share.

Kelly Hayes

ANGEL OF JESUS

When my friend Clemente/Lewis comes over to play, his favorite thing to do is watch the trucks at Quick Trip from the window. When they pull in he'll say "Look, big one" or "Red truck" or whatever color it is. He likes to point to things like a chair or a tricycle, tell me the names, and nod until I tell him that's the correct word to use. Then he's happy. Yesterday he pointed to the ceramic angel that has been standing on my bookcase for many years. He said "Angel" and nodded. I told him "Yes, Christmas angel". He repeated it. Then we turned on the fiber-optic lights. It makes the angel glow and twinkle in all kinds of lovely changing colors. He said "Wow, Angel of Jesus". He reached up and touched it reverently with his finger and ran off to play. This is a beautiful example of a little child recognizing Jesus love around them. Many times we aren't privileged to witness it like this. Like the example in Mark 10: 13-15, children experience Jesus often. Hopefully it says something about our witness as adults, also.
Sally

THE PLAYGROUND

Remember the olden days, around 1997 or so. Nancy was an Americore volunteer. When she invited us to help with her project. The project was helping another church build a wooden climbing thing and swings. They were planning to open a neighborhood preschool and child care center. Today that building is owned by a church called Isis. They have two wonderful city wide youth programs, Real Men, Inc and Urban Young Life. The playground is still very popular with the neighborhood kids. The nearest park frequently has pit bulls and people who aren't nice to kids running loose in it. So the church opened up the playground to the neighborhood. So Nancy's gift and our witness still continue to be a blessing, even though we don't realize it. Like the gift that keeps on giving or the flour that kept replenishing itself in I Kings 17:11-16.
Sally

HOW DO WE MINISTER TO THE SON OF MAN?

Michael Stuart Cole

Scripture resources: Matt.25:31-46; Matt.16:24-28; 2Cor.8:21; 2Cor.9:6,7; Is.6:13

Additional scripture resources: Deut.10:17-19; Ps.9:17,18; Ps.12:3-5; Ps.37:21; Ps.82:1-5; Prov.19:17; Prov.31:8,9; 1Tim.6:6-10; 1Tim.6:17-19; Titus3:14; 1John3:16-18 (All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.)

The parable of Jesus from Matthew 25:31-46 helps to clarify the principle of giving. If you read it you may realize that both the sheep and the goats give to the needy. Yet the sheep on the right hand of the Son of Man inherit the kingdom while the goats on His left hand are sent to the everlasting fire. Part of the key to understanding why is found in Matthew 16:25 which reads, "*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*" In a few verses from 2 Corinthians we find another part of the key. 2 Cor.8:21... "*providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*" A few verses later in 2 Cor.9:6,7 we find this... "⁶*But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* ⁷*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*" We are called to be thoughtfully considerate toward others, to love them as Jesus loved us; to minister to their needs in ways that are heroic and lasting. For the Son of Man and His angels dwell with the needy and also with us, which brings us to the other side of the coin...

The Holy Spirit works as a seed for every believer (something to have a little faith in), perhaps as the "holy seed" from Isaiah 6:13. The Christian soul is sort of analogous to a potted plant. The potting soil, with all its riches-ness is the soul. The Holy Spirit, with the Son of Man is the holy seed which must be watered in humility by our love for God and for others. With the water of humble love breaking down our souls, the nutrients of our souls can trickle down in love to feed the Son of Man, our good foundation. When we give Him our troubles, our attitudes, our affections, our joys and pains, our insanities and perversions, our lies, our truths, our thoughts, our abuses, our anger, our hate...He knows all our secrets...when we give Him all we have, both bad and good, always remembering the poor as we go—the soul becomes food for the beautiful plant to grow up in and with our souls in the marriage between Christ and you. He must know us as becoming one, as the seed and soil become one new plant and as the bride and groom become one flesh. He must feed us. We must feed Him our souls without reservation. If the holy seed does not germinate in us, or if we make Him to become a dry twig, there is no connection between seed and soil, between Spirit and soul. We must be sure He knows us at the end. You are His only garment. He is your only garment. If He has only been a *burden* to our souls at the end, we will not be connected to Him in love, even as the *charitable* goats of which He spoke in Matthew 25. If our soul has only been a prison for Him, He will be freed from us at the end. Am I right?

If any wish to give good gifts to the homeless who may still be staying outside, they can certainly use two pair of knee-high socks per person, also, hooded sweatshirts and sweat-pants. They may also need warm coats. The probably need sleeping bags rated to 30 below. And if you can provide shoes, they will likely need all-weather boots. Thermal underwear would also be a plus.

DECEMBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 <i>7pm Wassil</i>
5 POTLUCK Greeter: Doreene Childcare: Alex & Doreene	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Greeter: <i>Nancy & Jen</i> Childcare: Jen & Geneva	13	14	15	16	17 <i>Happy B'Day Theresa T.</i>	18
19 Greeter: Doreene Childcare: Alex & Sally Church Life	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Happy B'Day Robert ER.</i>	25 Christ is born!!!! <i>Happy B'Day Christian C.</i>
26 Greeter: <i>Nancy & Jen</i> Childcare: Jen & MC	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Happy B'Day George W.</i>	