



In this issue

Worship in February..... ..	1
Worship Theme..... ..	1
Worship Leaders/Teachers..	1
Mission Focus..... ..	1
Prayer Requests..... ..	1
News..... ..	2
Musings on a Saying of Jesus	3
Spirit Life Update..... ..	3
Childcare..... ..	3
January Attendance..... ..	3
Servant Groups	4
Mothers 4 Mothers..... ..	4
Walk Against Gang Violence	4
Calendar	5

Worship in February

Worship Theme

During the first 3 weeks of Feb., we will be exploring the topic of prayer. This will include looking at misconceptions of prayer and types of prayer. We hope to teach the practice of morning and evening prayer and then encourage each of you to take up this practice during Lent. So...the initiation of Sunday morning prayer times seems rather apropos? (thank you, Cindy!)

Worship Leaders & Teachers

Feb 5—Worship leader, Doug; teaching by Lois; Communion; potluck

Feb 12—Worship leader, Doreene; teaching by Jerry T

Feb 19—Worship leader, Doug; teaching by Jerry T

Feb 22: Ash Wed — Cindy Snider

Feb 26—Worship leader, Vangie; teaching by Pat; healing prayer

Mission Focus

Feb 5—Mennonite Involvement in the National Council and World Council of Churches (Pat)

Feb 12—Kansas Ecumenical Missions (John)

Feb 19—Global Faith in Action (Sam Muyskens)

Feb 26—Immigration Update (Sally)

The emphasis for the February Focus on Missions is ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

Prayer Requests



1. Please pray for our church as we discern our future.

2. Please continue to pray for

Jerry and Lori Acosta and their family. May their ministry be fruitful!

3. Pray for spiritual healing of the neighborhood of the church.

The Practice of Prayer

Please join us to pray for our church, and neighborhood every Sunday at 9:30 am, in the large upstairs room, at the purple covered table.

Call Cindy Snider (832 0050) for more information

Wells Fargo and Immigration

Immigration advocates across the US are calling on citizens to divest their bank accounts and mortgages from Wells Fargo because of its investments in the private prison industry. The private prison industry has lobbied in favor of anti-immigrant laws and enforcement-only policies that separate families and terrorize immigrant communities. Pledge forms to divest or to not invest in Wells Fargo are available by the mailboxes in MCS' worship space.

By Pat Cameron

Letter Writing Event on Immigration Reform

The congregation of St Joseph invites you to join them on Thursday, February 16 at 6 pm at St Mary's Convent, 3700 E Lincoln to write letters to state and federal legislators regarding comprehensive immigration reform. You will receive faith statements from many different denominations, information to assist you in writing letters, as well as sample letters to send or pre-written letters to sign. If you plan to attend, RSVP to meloch@csjoseph.org by February 13.

By Pat Cameron

Facts about Voter ID

What is wrong with having to prove you are a citizen to be able to register to vote? Not everyone has a current government-issued photo ID. For example, survey results show that:

- 18% of American citizens age 65 and above do not have a current government-issued photo ID (approximately 65,000 Kansas seniors)

- 25% of African-American voting-age citizens do not have a proper ID, compared to 18% of white Americans

- nearly 10% of the 40 million Americans with disabilities do not have a current government-issued photo ID.

Legislation that requires a government-issued ID to register to vote disproportionately affects the elderly, young people, racial and ethnic minorities, and the poor.

Source: League of Women Voters of Kansas

By Pat Cameron

Adult Sunday School

A new adult Sunday School is beginning this Sunday, Feb 5, in one of the *upper rooms* at 9:00 am. We begin with a study of *The Naked Anabaptist* by Stuart Murray, available through Amazon in both hard copy and e-reader. Call Pat (262 2644) or Doreene (262 3826) for more info.

By Pat Cameron

Everence

How do you work with a representative from Everence to integrate your faith and finances? Learn more by viewing the animated video on the Advice and Education page at Everence.com

By Sally Huber

Kansas Count

On February 15, Sunflower Community Action will be taking several buses to Topeka to meet with Gov Brownback and Sec of State Kobach. Citizens from all over Kansas will be mobilizing to the capital to restore our democracy and take back our state from ALEC's control. ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) is controlled by corporations with lots of money. (see www.alecexposed.org for more info)

By Sally Huber

Winter Garage Sale

We plan on hosting an authentic garage sale in MC's garage Feb 17 –18. All proceeds will go to the sharing fund. It will be great because there won't be any other garage sales for competition. The garage is located near a busy intersection which should bring visibility. We plan on also selling hot cocoa. Contact Sally or MC for more info.

By Sally Huber

Musing on a Saying of Jesus

“For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

This saying of Jesus is found in at least 4 places in the Gospels. In Mt 13:12, it is the response to the disciples as to why Jesus speaks in parables. In Mt 25:29, this saying is part of the explanation to the parable of the talents, where some are given more, others less; those with more gain more and the one with the least, hides his talent and earns nothing. In Mk 4:25, it's part of the explanation to the parable of a lamp on a stand. In Lk 19:26, it occurs as part of the explanation to the parable of the minas, where, similar to the parable of the talents, the servants are given varying amounts of 'minas' and those with more make a profit and the one with a small amount earns nothing and is punished.

For many years, I have found this saying troublesome: it's similar to the reality that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. It's a reality that I don't like and didn't think Jesus did either but rather, I think he would have wanted a more egalitarian society. So, I thought that perhaps Jesus had a spiritual meaning behind these words that I just didn't 'get.'

More recently, though, I think that often Jesus' sayings were truisms; astute observations of life as it really is. So...what if he meant that those who are *thankful* gain more? Gratitude enlarges our territory! When we are grateful for our home, it becomes more of a mansion. When we eat a meal of beans and rice with a thankful heart, it becomes a feast. When we thank God, our happiness increases. In gratitude, we 'double' our talents; the gifts that God has given us. Life is fuller, richer, more joyous with gratitude. This appears to be corroborated in the parable of the talents, where the Master says to each of the servants that gained interest: "enter into the *joy* of your master."

By *Vangie Truex*



Spirit Life

Jan 4, Sally, Jerry, and I returned to Great Bend for another enriching weekend of Spirit Life. This time, we focused on Carmelite spirituality, which included hearing the story and teachings of Spanish born Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross.

I found St Teresa's images of four degrees of prayer intriguing. The first degree is imaged as a person drawing water from a well, working hard, using vocal prayer and discursive meditation. For the second degree of prayer, Teresa uses the image of watering with a waterwheel; the person doesn't need to work as hard and the prayer of quiet grace is revealed directly to the soul. In the third degree of prayer, the image is one of using an irrigation system to water; God is doing the work and the soul is at ease and takes pleasure in the results. The fourth degree of prayer is imaged as falling rain; there is no labor, all senses are occupied, the experience is entirely mystical, a prayer of union. Not sure I understand it all, but it piqued my interest.

St Teresa's The Interior Castle is probably her most famous writing, but this weekend I was introduced to a short prayer of hers, known as St Teresa's Bookmark, which is very similar to a song that we have sung before:

Let nothing disturb you,	Nada te turbe,
Let nothing frighten you,	Nada te espante;
All things are passing away:	Todo se pasa,
God never changes.	Dios no se muda.
Patience obtains all things.	La pacientia todo lo alcanza.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;	Quien a Dios tiene
God alone suffices.	Nada la falta: Solo Dios basta.

By *Vangie Truex*

Childcare for February

- Feb 5—Alex/Geneva
- Feb 12—Jenny/Geneva
- Feb 19—Alex/Doreene
- Feb 26—Jenny/Sally



January Attendance

Jan 1	23
Jan 8	29
Jan 15	29
Jan 22	36
Jan 29	28

Servant Groups



A servant group is an intentional face-to-face group of 3 to 12 people who

meet at a regular time (often twice a month) to grow in Christ and actualize God's reign. We have seven groups.

NT Greek Reading Group. This group focuses on reading and translating the Greek New Testament. Currently, we are working through Luke's Gospel. Each person reads a verse in Greek and then translates into English, using "whatever it takes," including computer programs (Bible Works and Logos), interlinear Bibles, and other helps. We meet on Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at LAMC. Contact Jerry (263-0204).

Psychosynthesis Study Group. Currently, we're reading *Psychosynthesis*, by Will Partfitt and *Natural Spirituality* by Joyce Hudson. We discuss the books and

talk about the spiritual exercises we practice. We meet on the 2nd the 4th Wednesday of each month. Contact Cindy (832-0050) or Jerry (263-0204).

Servant Group: We meet for worship, study, sharing, prayer, and focus on its "outward" mission as well as bringing a religious perspective to immigration issues. This group plans to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m. They are currently studying the book: *Christians on the Border* by Daniel Carroll. For more information, contact Pat (371-8274).

Ladies Reading Group. This is a women's reading and discussion group that meets on alternate Saturday afternoons for about 90 minutes. Currently, we are studying *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We invite women who want to nurture their faith through intentional, focused discussion on faith issues to join us. Contact Vangie (263-0204).

Women's Discipleship Group.

This is a women's group focusing Bible Study, discussion, and prayer. We meet on the 4th Sunday of every month after church at Cindy's home. Contact Cindy (832-0050; cgswriter@aol.com).

Immigration Servant Group.

This servant group, focusing on Christian responses to immigration, meets every other Thursday at 7:30 pm. Our next meeting in Thursday, Feb 9, at Lois Barrett's home. For more info, contact Lois at 264 3686 or Pat at 262 2644

Hospitality Group. Although we are not technically a servant group, our purpose is to serve people by making people feel at home at MCS. We are responsible for greeting people on Sunday morning, organizing "coffee time," inviting newcomers, organizing potlucks, and providing meals on special occasions. Contact Geneva (262-2544), Doreene (265-3848), or Vangie (263-0204).



Mothers 4 Mothers

The face of Mothers 4 Mothers is changing again. Keeping up with the needs of mothers in our society is not easy. We missed the January Reflection meeting. The next Reflection Meeting will be on February 10. The Reflection meetings are the most important meetings. We have Circus tickets for our group on February 11. Hopefully we'll keep on growing.

By Sally Huber

Walk Against Gang Violence

The 2012 Third Annual Walk Against Gang Violence will be held April 11, beginning at the McAdams Park. This walk brings together communities for awareness, education and prevention, addressing issues that can cause violence against citizens and that diminish the quality of life in our neighborhoods. It's a cooperative effort of the Wichita Police Department, Ministerial League, and Safe Streets. Note that it's a walk against violence, not against gangs; gangs are family to some people and families aren't bad — but the violence that gangs perpetuate are bad. I encourage us to get involved and carry a banner, distribute peace literature, and invite people to our church. After all, we are a Peace Church!

By Sally Huber

MCS February 2012

www.mcswichita.net/calendar.htm

Verse of the Month:
 - Philippians 4:6

Song of the month:
 - Through our fragmentary prayers (WB 347)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:30 ;m: Worship Committee at Truex's	3 <i>Spirit Life in Great Bend</i>	4
5 9:00 am: Adult SS 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Worship 11:40 am: Potluck <i>5:00 pm: Souper Bowl at Pat and Geneva's</i>	6 <i>Happy Birthday, Nancy Hurd</i>	7	8 NT Greek at 1:30	9 7:30 pm: Immigration Servant Group at Lois Barrett's home	10 <i>Happy Birthday, Tavyn McAdams</i>	11 4 pm: Ladies Reading Group <i>Happy Birthday, Karissa Truex</i>
12 9:00 am: Adult SS 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Worship	13	14	15 NT Greek at 1:30 <i>Happy Birthday, Genera Hersberger</i>	16 6:00 pm: Letter-Writing Event on Immigration Reform at St Mary's Convent 7:00 pm Church Planting Support Group at Hope	17 <i>Garage Sale at MC's home</i>	18
19 9:00 am: Adult SS 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Worship 11:40 am: Church Life	20	21	22 NT Greek at 1:30 <i>7 pm: Ash Wed Service</i>	23	24	25
26 9:00 am: Adult SS 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Worship	27	28 7:00—9:00 pm: PBS video viewing of <i>Beyond our Differences</i> sponsored by Global Faith in Action	29 NT Greek at 1:30			

Philippians 4:6
 Do not worry about anything,
 but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
 let your requests be made known to God.



Mennonite Church Of the Servant

Our mission is to welcome all people into a community covenanted to follow the way of Jesus Christ through

- Committing ourselves to radical and biblical spirituality
- Living in relational and accountable community
- Seeking Christ's peace within and in the world

Pastor Jerry Truex
260 9095 (office)
253 4673 (cell)
jtruex1@cox.net

Shepherds Lois Barrett: 264 3686
Pat Cameron: 262 2644
Bridget Siedler: 871 6771

Minister Sally Huber
871 8306
justsally@juno.com

Moderator John Stoesz
jstoesz@mcc.org

Treasurer Jeanette Stucky
jrstucky@cpacenter.kscoxmail.com

Trustees John Stoesz
Steve Nikkel

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Editor Vangie Truex
vtruex@cox.net

Address 1650 North Fairview
Wichita, Kansas 67203

Phone 316-260-9095

Email jtruex1@cox.net

Website www.mcswichita.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.mcswichita.net

Mennonite Church of the Servant
1650 N. Fairview, Wichita, KS 67203