



## In this issue

<b>Worship Theme.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Worship Leaders/ Teachers.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>July Attendance.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Women’s Discipleship Group.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Servant Groups.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A Caring Thought.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Camp Mennoscah Retreat Survey.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Prayer Requests.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Geneva and Lisa.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Forgiveness.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Calendar .....</b>	<b>4</b>

## Worship in August

### Worship Theme

In August, we begin a series of review of Anabaptist books. We begin with *Covenant of Peace: The Missing Peace in New Testament Theology and Ethics* by Willard M. Swartley.

Here is a description per Amazon:

One would think that *peace*, a term that occurs as many as one hundred times in the New Testament, would enjoy a prominent place in theology and ethics textbooks. Yet it is surprisingly absent. Willard Swartley's *Covenant of Peace* remedies this deficiency, restoring to New Testament theology and ethics the peace that many works have missed.

In this comprehensive yet accessible book Swartley explicates virtually all of the New Testament, relating peace -- and the associated emphases of love for enemies and reconciliation -- to core theological themes such as salvation, christology, and the reign of God. No other work in English makes such a contribution.

Swartley concludes by considering specific practices that lead to peacemaking and their place in our contemporary world. Retrieving a historically neglected element in the Christian message, *Covenant of Peace* confronts readers anew with the compelling New Testament witness to peace.

### Worship Leaders & Teachers

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

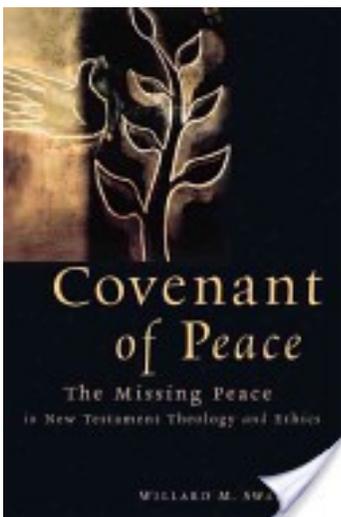
**Aug 12**—Worship leader, Doreene; teaching by Jerry T

**Aug 19**—Worship leader, Doug; teaching by Pat

**Aug 26**—Worship leader, Vangie; teaching by Jerry T; healing prayer

### July Attendance

July 1	20
July 8	15
July 15	21
July 22	15
July 29	



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## The Women's Discipleship Group

The Women's Discipleship Group is currently studying *Breaking Free* by Beth Moore. This is Beth's message about freedom in Christ. We are currently on lesson 5, *Binding up the Broken-Hearted*. I really love this series because Beth is the most interesting person I've heard. She makes me feel good. It makes me feel warm inside knowing that I am being broken free from addictions.

By Jennifer Hurd

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## Servant Groups

Immigration Servant Group: Lois (264 3686) or Pat (262 2644)

Women's Discipleship Group: Cindy (832 0050)

NT Greek Reading Group: Jerry (263 0204)

Ladies Reading Group: Vangie (263 0204)

Hospitality Group: Geneva (262 2644) or Do-reene (265 3848)

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## A Caring Thought

There is no greater pleasure  
Than to help a friend in need,  
A simple act of kindness  
A smile, a word, a deed.

A little comfort given  
To those who are alone,  
A little thought for others  
To their needs and not our own.

*By Dolores Karides  
Submitted by Jennifer Hurd*

*Blessed are the merciful:  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
Matthew 5:7*

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## Camp Mennoscah Retreat Survey

Thirteen people completed the retreat survey. Here are the responses:

1. The 2012 MCS Retreat met my expectations: 8 agreed, 4 strongly agreed, one slightly agreed.
2. The activities planned were relevant to the spiritual and social development of MCS participants: 4 agreed, 9 strongly agreed.
3. The meals were substantial, nutritious and satisfying: 3 agreed, 10 strongly agreed.
4. The Camp Mennoscah Retreat Lodge met my expectations: 5 agreed, 8 strongly agreed.
5. I feel more apt to "share the good news of the gospel: with others now: 3 remained neutral, 4 agreed, 6 strongly agreed.
6. I am more confident that MCS has attributes worth sharing with others: 2 slightly agreed, 3 agreed, and 8 strongly agreed.

As can be seen, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Here's one such comment: "The kids had a great time and look forward to it each year. Lizard hunting is a high!" So...looking forward to the retreat next year!

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## 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 and ministry. Pray that their Sunday morning services will be well attended. Pray that those that attend the Wed and Sun services will grow in faith.
3. Continue to pray for healing for Belinda.
4. Pray for spiritual healing of the neighborhood of the church.
5. Pray for those traveling, for their safety and enjoyment.

## Geneva and Lisa

While Lisa's Mom and I were talking on the phone last night, I could hear Lisa in the background yelling "Geneva, Geneva, I want to talk to Geneva". Mom told her to be quiet, "it's not Geneva on the phone, it's Sally". So Lisa said "I want to talk to Sally". This is how the phone conversation went:

She said "I need to talk to Geneva".

"Sorry, Geneva isn't here".

"Where is she".

"At her home".

"Can you go get her and bring her to the phone?"

"Not tonight, how about if I ask her to call you tomorrow?"

Then Lisa's tone got very serious and she said "You tell Geneva that it's very important for her to come and get me for church on my birthday. I want to go to Sunday school and learn about Jesus on my birthday. And I miss all my friends at the church. I want to spend my birthday with them. And you can take me to Wendy's for lunch. Geneva has to come get me for Sunday school on my birthday".

Then she finally had to stop and catch her breath. And I was about to cry. She had such a loving birthday wish.

"North Carolina is a little bit to far away to come get you".

"That would be a really cool birthday".

"How about if I send you a card and a present."

"O boy, that would be cool. Tell Geneva to send me a card, too. And tell Eilysh and her brothers to send one, too. And those other ladies, too. And you send me one too, Grandma Sally."

"I promise I'll send you a card".

"Yea" and she dropped the phone and ran off.

While Mom and I finished the conversation, I could here her yelling at the other kids. "They're going to send me a card. Geneva's going to send me a card on my birthday.'

Therefore, we must send her some birthday cards. Frilly pink ones that say "7 years old." We can collect them and mail them all together. And then send cards to the other kids that say, we're thinking of them also. Lisa reads well beyond her grade level in both English and Spanish. But she hasn't mastered cursive writing yet. So please print the messages in the cards for her.

I was impressed by how grown up her birthday wish is. She didn't ask for candy (like she usually does) or a toy, just to be with her friends on her birthday. These are the friends that love like one of the family. the friends that she associated with learning about Jesus.

Hopefully the seed we planted as a church and the many seeds planted by Geneva and Eilysh will keep on growing and keep her connected to a church. Even if it has to be in North Carolina. Hopefully it will stay strong especially in her teen years when all humans think they need to question their faith.

Our church did a good job making Lisa and her family feel loved and accepted here. We'll be able to continue this sharing with any more kids and families who come as our church grows.

Thank you  
Sally

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## Forgiveness

### Colossians 3:13-14

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Forgiveness as a peculiar practice of the Christian community. When someone has hurt us or wronged us, the Bible calls us to forgive. It is not easy for most of us; it takes *practice!* What can we know about forgiveness?

Forgiveness is countercultural. Most people in the cultures around us seek revenge rather than practicing forgiveness. They are stuck in the way of living: "an eye for an eye." They think there is no "closure" until the wrongdoer has been paid back.

Forgiveness is different from reconciliation. Forgiveness can be unilateral; reconciliation means that right relationship has been restored between the people involved.

Sin is not private. Forgiveness is a communal practice. In Matthew 18:15-20 and John 20:23, the church is involved in binding and loosing sin. For the church to bind sin is to say that the wrongdoer has not yet repented and begun to act in the right way; to loose the person from sin is to say that the person is released from that sin.

Forgiveness is related to sins we commit and sins that others (both friends and enemies) commit against us. We need forgiveness and we offer forgiveness. Both forgiving and being forgiven give us spiritual freedom.

God's forgiving us and our forgiving others are tied together. In the Lord's Prayer and in the passage from Colossians (see above), forgiving and being forgiven go hand in hand. Somehow we cannot experience God's forgiveness fully until we are forgiving others.

William Willimon and Stanley Hauerwas in their book on the Lord's Prayer, *Lord, Teach Us*, write:

In commanding us to forgive others, Jesus is not saying that the injustice we have suffered is inconsequential. The sin we commit causes pain. The sins committed against us cause pain. Rather, Jesus is refusing to let sin have the last word in our story. In commanding us to forgive, Jesus is not producing a race of doormats, a new set of victims, who, having been slapped on the right cheek, offer the left as well so that they may be twice victimized. Jesus has no interest in producing victims; the world produces enough. Rather, in commanding us to forgive, Jesus is inviting us to take charge, to turn the world around, to throw a monkey wrench in the internal wheel of retribution and vengeance. We don't have silently to suffer the hurt, lick our wounds, lying in wait for the day when we shall at last be able to return the blow that was dealt to us. We can take charge, turn things around, be victors rather than victims. We can forgive.

*By Lois Barrett*




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New Banner with themes of change and transformation, darkness to light, and green for 'ordinary time.'

*By Vangie Truex*

# MCS August 2012

Verse of the Month:

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Song of the month:

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[www.mcswichita.net/calendar.htm](http://www.mcswichita.net/calendar.htm)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	6 <i>Happy Birthday, Jerry Acosta</i>	7 <i>Happy Birthday, Joshua Acosta</i>	8	9	10	11
12 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Happy Birthday, Erna Jeffries</i>	25
26 9:30 am: Prayer 10:00 am: Wor- ship 11:40 am: Church Life <i>Happy Birthday, Belinda Cheney</i>	27	28	29	30	31	



## 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

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