

MENNONITE CHURCH of the SERVANT

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

Sunday School - 9:00 AM
Worship - 10:00 AM

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 5

MAY, 2008

Come, Spirit of God

Worship in May



May 4: Ascension Sunday

**THE SPIRIT OF GLORY WHICH IS THE SPIRIT OF
GOD IS RESTING ON YOU.**

Scripture text is from I Peter 4:12-16. Lois Barrett will give the teaching. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader. Communion will be a part of this worship service.



May 11: PENTECOST

Act in me O Holy Spirit that my works may be holy.

This worship gathering will be held at Camp Mennoscah as part of MCS's Spring Retreat. Jenny Hardin will lead the 3rd session on Spiritual practice at 9:30 A.M. A short worship service will precede this time at 9:00. This time together will end at 10:30 A.M. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader.

May 18:

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy.

Jerry Truex will give the teaching. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader.



May 25:

Guard me then O Holy Spirit that I always may be holy.

Jerry Truex will give the teaching. MC McAdams will be the worship leader. Healing Prayer will be a part of this worship service.



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Bulletin Board



MAY CHURCH LIFE:

Church Life (decision making) meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18. It will begin at 11:40 and end at 1:00.



MAY OFFERING:

The offering focus for the month of May will be for the **Western District Conference**. If you wish to give to the work of WDC, write a separate check or indicate how much is to be designated on your check to the church.



Worship Attendance

April 6:	34
April 13:	25
April 20:	26
April 27:	30



BUDGET REPORT



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

March 30:	489.20
April 6:	239.00
April 13:	175.00
April 20:	941.60



WICHITA RIVER FEST MAY 9-18



Servant Groups of Mennonite Church of the Servant

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 May 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 May 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 May meeting dates and location.



Mennonite Church of the Servant Wichita, KS

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

Pastor

Jerry Truex
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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

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Acts 1:8

Memory verse for May

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Song of the Month

If you believe and I believe

If you believe and I believe
and we together pray,
the Holy Spirit must come
down and set God's people
free,
and set God's people free,
and set God's people free;
the Holy Spirit must come
down and set God's people
free.

Sunday, May 11, 2008

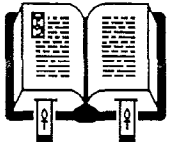
PENTECOST

PENTECOST is celebrated 50 days after Easter. It celebrates the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles in the Book of Acts.

We are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then tongues of fire appeared, and sat on each one of the Apostles. They were filled with the Holy Spirit.



Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come
and abide in us; cleanse us from every impurity
and save our souls, O Good One.



from the PASTOR

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

Is It Safe to Read the Bible Again?
The Four Senses of Scripture

Swimming with sharks

Growing up in California, I spent many hours swimming at the beach. On occasion, the siren would sound calling swimmers out of the water. Then, after a period of time, the siren would sound again indicating it was safe to go back in the water. Similarly, this article is a siren indicating it is safe to go back in the Bible again.

We've been intimidated into not reading the Bible. Our imagination tells us that there are shark-like "Bible-experts" who want to devour us for not using their favorite critical methods. Our experience may tell us there is too much confusion or even conflict over what the Bible means. Our pragmatism, driven by limited time and energy, tells us we don't have what it takes to read the Bible and make sense of it. If you have been staying away from the Bible for these reasons, I encourage you to go back in the Bible again. Here's why.

Scripture as sacred resource

The most important reason is that the Bible is an oceanic resource for your life. The Bible is shallow enough for beginners to wade in and deep enough for experts to drown in. Put in another way, the Bible can never be exhausted of meaning whether you have prior knowledge and skills or not. That is to say, there are many senses of Scripture, which can accommodate many kinds of people and whatever level they are at.

Four senses of Scripture

For thousands of years, Christians have recognized that there are at least "four senses" of Scripture: the literal, the allegorical, the moral, and the mystical. Each sense builds on the previous level.

The literal sense refers to the historical message of the passage "back-then-and-there." It's the plain meaning of the text. For example, if the text describes Jesus casting out a demon, then the text is about Jesus having the power and

authority to dispel evil. True, your understanding can be enhanced by experts, but with or without expert commentary, you can get a general idea of the literal sense of almost any passage in the Bible.

The allegorical sense refers to finding personal significance in the passage you have chosen. As you read the text for its plain meaning (literal sense), it slowly dawns on you that the passage is about you, about your life, and about the characters in your own drama (allegorical sense). Your life is mirrored in the text. It can get personal. You are here, alone, with God. No Bible expert or friend can help with this level of reading. For example, when you read that Christ drove out a demon (the literal sense), you may recognize Christ is also trying to drive out demons in your life (allegorical sense). Because the allegorical sense is so personal, different people can derive different "meanings" (or "significance") from the text.

The moral sense refers to how the passage shapes your values and behaviors. For example, if come to believe that Christ is driving out demons in your life (allegorical sense), then you might also realize you must act on that by adjusting your attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors (moral sense). When you embrace the moral sense, you become a "doer of the word and not a hearer only" (James 1:22-25). Again, this is personal-- sometimes liberating, sometimes painful-- and Bible experts are no help here. What is helpful is a community of friends trying to enact the Word in their own lives too! They can offer encouraging, and sometimes cautionary, words.

The mystical sense points to spiritual realities that transcend earthly existence and lift up desire for God. Here you encounter God. As you read, you transcend the pettiness of your own life and embrace the world from a transcendent, eternal perspective. Again, it's you and God in an act of sanctified imagination. To follow our example, the text is no longer about Christ casting out a demon (literal), nor about Christ casting out your demons (allegorical), nor about the Word (moral), but about God's eternal redemptive purposes for all human kind (mystical).

The next time you read the Bible, try reading at the four levels. I find short episodes in the Gospels the best place to begin. See, for example, Jesus casting out the demon (Mk 1:21-28), Jesus healing the blind man (Mk 8:22-26), or the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37). Remember, the Bible is about you!

Jerry Truex

ANNOUNCING

IN THE NEWS



MCS SPRING RETREAT

Mennonite Church of the Servant's annual Spring retreat will be the weekend of May 10-11 in the Conference Center at Camp Mennoscah. The retreat theme is "Embracing the Spiritual Path". Three workshops will offer spiritual, psychological, and experiential exercises.

Our guest resource leader is Jenny Hardin, a licensed social worker and is employed by Employee Assistance Consultants in Wichita.. Jenny provides counseling, coaching, mission and vision retreats, and training services. Jenny reads and enjoys the subjects of personal development, life transitions, authentic living, and Spirituality. See Jenny's website at <www.jennyhardin.com>.

The retreat will start with coffee and donuts on Saturday at 8:30 A.M. The Saturday morning session will begin at 10:00, and the afternoon session at 3:30. The final session will be at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday morning, preceded by worship at 9:00. The retreat will end at 11:30 A.M.



WORSHIP NOTICE

There will be no worship service held at our worship site at 1650 Fairview on Sunday, May 11. Please join us for worship at Camp Mennoscah at 9:00 A.M. as part of our Spring Retreat.. Camp Mennoscah is located 30 miles west of Wichita. To locate the camp, go west from Wichita on US 54 (Kellogg) to K-17. From this junction go south (K430) to the hamlet of Murdock. Continue south around three curves (about two more miles), then west to camp entrance.



ANNUAL WDC/SCC DELEGATE SESSION

The annual WDC/SCC delegate session, June 27-28 in Hesston, Kansas, will offer several opportunities for good fellowship and inspiration. On Friday evening, hear Clarence Rempel, Pastor of First Mennonite church in Newton speak on Acts 4:31-35 text. Music, stories and other sharing will provide a memorable worship experience, to be followed by a fellowship time. Music coordinators for the weekend are Tom & Lois Harder and Chris Shaw. Persons not serving as congregational delegates are also strongly encouraged to attend.



CLEAN UP EFFORTS

On Saturday morning, April 26, several from Fairview Christian and Mennonite Church of the Servant turned out to labor to spruce up the church property. Thank you for your participation.

GOOD NEWS!

The Western District Conference Vision 2012 funding campaign reached the \$1 million mark (contributions and intentions) on April 22. We give thanks for the generosity of prayer and donations to further the ministry of WDC. Your continued support is appreciated.



MMA HEALTH RESOURCES

Body Talk debuted in MMA's Living Stewardship study series this year. More than a how-to-guide to improving your health, *Body Talk* encourages readers to practice the stewardship of health. The book challenges people to listen not only to medical experts, but also to God and the Holy Spirit's voice in their lives.

Healthy Bodies, Grateful Hearts; new MMA resource for health in congregations. A blog style newsletter written by MMA's stewardship of health manager, Ingrid Friesen Moser, to equip, support, and educate those working in congregational health ministry. (www.mma-online.org)

MOTHERS 4 MOTHERS

We met on April 12 with 15 families attending. Community Police Officer Sara Voyles presented the program. She was wonderful. She stayed an extra hour to answer questions. There were many questions including family violence, child abuse, discipline, teen age rebellion, neighborhood issues, and internet safety. This was her second visit and we hope to have her come back again. The most important thing she told us was that if you stand up straight, hold your head up, speak confidently, and keep an eye on your surroundings; it's unlikely that anyone will bother you. Another important message was that children who are disciplined and know what is expected of them will feel love and secure. They'll be much less likely to act up when they get older. We enjoyed the free tickets to the Shriner's Circus also. Circus' don't change much, but they provide a great family activity. Coming in May we will hold a belated Mother's Day Tea and a family cook out at the park. Coming in June-- the Stone Soup Fund Raiser and Mr. Reynolds, a liaison for parents with Youthville.

