



Worship in September, 2009

**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.**

# **Turning, ever turning toward the true and faithful One.**

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**September 6:**                    ***The Purgative Way***

Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Communion will be a part of our worship service. A BBQ potluck meal will be held after our worship time together.

**September 13:**                    ***The Purgative Way***

Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader.

**September 20:**                    ***The Purgative Way***

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

**September 27:**                    ***The Purgative Way***

Pat Cameron will give the sermon. Lois Barrett will be the worship leader. Healing Prayer will be a part of this worship service.

**Transformation Servant Group** will meet from 7:00 to 9:00, Sunday evenings, September 6 and 20. 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."

**Shalom Servant Group.** We focus on inner and outer peace by nurturing personal and social harmony with oneself, society, and God. Currently, we are watching a DVD series on Paul the Apostle called, *Eclipsing Empire*, hosted by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. Previously, we have read *Essential Spirituality* by Roger Walsh, *Peace* by Walter Brueggemann, and *Choosing Against War* by John D. Roth. We meet every two weeks for about 90 minutes. We include a time for sharing, prayer, and discussion. Contact Pat at 262-2644 or Jerry at 263-0204.

**Crafty Ladies** has disbanded.

Needed for Fairview Neighborhood/ Homeless breakfast. The small colored plastic bags that Sunday papers come in. Plastic grocery bags. Gently used backpacks. Diapers of all sizes. Store bought bread (only on first Saturday's). And volunteers.

September 6 is a community potluck. Community is defined (by me) as anyone who is in or around our lives. Please invite anyone you would like to visit our church. Bring extra sides and desserts, meat will be provided. BBQ

**We are invited to have our monthly potluck on October 4, at Nick and Ronda King's farm in Hillsboro. The potluck will be at 1:00, following our worship service. The King's will provide the meat and drink. We need to bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share with everyone. A map and reminder will be sent out in September. Contact Geneva with any questions.**

Be sure to watch the video about school kits on [mcc.org](http://mcc.org) school kits. You'll learn why school kits are so important and you'll be inspired to help make them. In 2008 MCC shipped out 120,000 school kits, 12 of them were ours. This year we created 24 complete kits, 1 incomplete and 5 extra bags. We doubled our contribution. You can be proud of that. Let's try to double our efforts again for next year. We have enough supplies except for note books if you wish to put some in the offering. We need the spiral notebooks with approximately 70 pages and wide lines. We need people to sew bags and tape pencils together. These things could be done at home.

MCC's greatest needs this year are 2000 relief kits, 5000 heavy comforters, and 2000 aids care kits. Maybe we could do one of each. John thinks the relief kits are most important. He's our resident expert, so let's start with a relief kit .

Relief kits provide valuable supplies to families traumatized by war and natural disasters. Kits have been sent to Gaza, Bosnia, Serbia, Nepal, Mozambique, Indonesia, and Honduras. In 2008 MCC sent almost 9000 to Iraq.

Each kit includes 4 large bars of soap, leave in wrappers

1 plastic bottle shampoo, 380-710 ml/ 13-24 oz, place in resealable plastic bag

1 squeeze tube toothpaste, minimum 130 ml/6 oz, leave in box

4 adult size tooth brushes, leave in wrappers

4 new bath towels, medium weight dark colors

2 wide tooth combs, 6-8 in/ 15-20 cm

1 fingernail clipper

1 box adhesive bandages, minimum 40 assorted

1 pack sanitary pads, 18-24 thin maxi

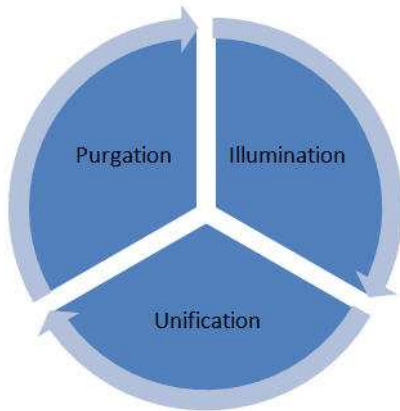
NEW ITEM: 4 large bars laundry soap

Pack in box to deliver to MCC, to be repacked into a new 5 gallon pail with a lid. Please bring your offerings any time in the next two months. Let's plan on having it done by the last Sunday in October. You can also bring cash contributions to cover supplies and shipping costs.

# THE THREE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## FALL 2009 SERMON SERIES

By Pastor Jerry Truex



Everything that lives goes through stages of growth and development. If there is no growth, there is no life. All cells move through prophase, metaphase, anaphase, and telophase. Humans move from being children to adolescents to adults. Growth means life. No growth, no life.

The spiritual life is no different. There are phases to spiritual life and growth. In the Christian tradition, growth moves through three stages: purgation, illumination, and unification.

**Purgation** refers to the initial phase of Christian life. It includes conversion, turning from sin (harmful behaviors or works of the flesh), learning to resist temptation (seven deadly sins), developing practices that sustain spiritual life (prayer, Bible study, meditation), transcending the narcissistic ego (false self), and establishing stable relationships with other Christians (church).

**Illumination** refers to the second phase of Christian life. Once stability has been established by purgation, one is able to better perceive the divine illumination that is always present. With illumination, a person is able to move into deeper prayer (discursive and non-discursive), cultivate the fruit of the spirit (the seven virtues), sacrifice for others with less and less hesitation (serving others), and more completely surrender to God and detachment from what is not of God.

**Unification** refers to the highest stage of spiritual life. The spiritual masters tell us that only after years of purgation and illumination, one is able to experience a deep and abiding union with God, characterized by profound humility, freedom from fears of suffering or trials, great desire to serve God, and profound mystical states of consciousness. Some of the spiritual masters prefer to call this phase “communion,” emphasizing an intimate relationship with God, rather than “unitive,” which stresses oneness with God.

Each stage provides a stable basis for the next. However, the stages overlap and repeat even as one grows. People in the purgative stage have moments of profound illumination and can experience oneness with God. People in the unitive stage continue to work at purgation and illumination, but from a higher perspective and experience.

This fall we will focus on the three ways of spiritual life. In September, our sermons will focus on the purgative way. In October, the illuminative way. In November, the unitive way.



It was the answer to his prayers. Not the one he was hoping for, but an answer nonetheless.

# SEPTEMBER 2009

| SUN  | MON | TUES                               | WED | THUR                         | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|-----|
|  |     | 1                                  | 2   | 3                            | 4   | 5   |
| 6 POTLUCK<br><br>Greeters:<br>Dori<br>Childcare:<br>Karissa                                    | 7   | 8                                  | 9   | 10<br>smile at a<br>stranger | 11  | 12  |
| 13<br>9am SS K-6<br><br>Greeters:<br>Nancy &<br>Jen<br>Childcare: Pat &<br>Jen                 | 14  | 15                                 | 16  | 17                           | 18  | 19  |
| 20<br>9am SS K-6<br><br>Church Life<br>11:40<br><br>Greeters:<br>Dori<br>Childcare:<br>Karissa | 21  | 22                                 | 23  | 24                           | 25  | 26  |
| 27<br><br>Greeters:<br>Nancy &<br>Jen<br>Childcare: Sally<br>& Jen                             | 28  | 29<br>send a card<br>for no reason | 30  |                              |     |     |

