



**Mennonite Church
Of the Servant**

Newsletter

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Excerpts from *An Altar in the World*

The Ladies' Reading Group is beginning a study of *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Here are some excerpts to whet our appetite for the book:

“Who has the key to the treasure box of More?”

“No one longs for what he or she already has, and yet the accumulated insight of those wise about the spiritual life suggests that the reason so many of us cannot see the red X that marks the spot is because we are standing on it. The treasure we seek requires no lengthy expedition, no expensive equipment, no superior aptitude or special company. All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need. The only thing missing is our consent to be where we are.”

“What is saving my life now is the conviction that there is no spiritual treasure to be found apart from the bodily experiences of human life on earth....What is saving my life now is becoming more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world.”

“When people want to know more about God, the son of God tells them to pay attention to the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, to women kneading bread and workers lining up for pay.”

“The House of God stretches from one corner of the universe to the other.”

“As with Jacob, most of my visions of the divine have happened while I was busy doing something else...My only part is to decide how I will respond, since there is plenty I can do to make them go away...or I can set a little altar, in the world or in my heart.”

The New Look

Vangie Truex, (with the help of Jerry Truex) is stepping in as an interim editor while waiting for the *real* editor to reveal him or her self!

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Covenant Service: April 20



Lois led a meaningful covenanting ceremony April 20.

Thus far, 29 have signed the covenant.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Erna and Russell Jeffries to have the grace to meet the challenges of the day.
2. Jeffree Coba requests prayers for her healing.
3. Sally passes on prayer requests from Mothers 4 Mothers: for those who are separated from their families by various events of life, for jobs, and for ability to pay the bills.

Announcements

Annual MCS retreat at Camp Mennoedah May 7-8. RSVP to Vangie at 263 0204 or Cindy at 832 0050. Cost is \$55/room; \$3/meal or \$10 all meals and snacks.

Breaking New Ground: A Church Planting Consultation will be held May 27-28 in Oklahoma City. This is a Western District Conference consultation for any member who has a heart for developing new churches. See Nita if interested: 620 217 0249

An exciting fellowship, hospitality, and worship opportunity! We have invited **Casa Batania** (Newton) and several local contacts to our service June 12. We plan on hosting a meal after the service. Let's see what a sumptuous meal we can prepare! Please let Geneva know what you can bring.

MCC School Kits. You are all invited to an evening of sewing, assembling, and fun: Thursday, May 19, 7:30 pm at the church. See Sally for details (871 8306)

The teaching this summer will focus on **Thessalonians**. Please read ahead!

Worship in May

Theme	Worship Leaders & Teachers	Mission Focus
<p><i>Turn to Jesus; Go with the Spirit.</i></p> <p>The theme of the season between Easter and Pentecost is looking at the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to Jesus. It is asking the question of “Am I paying attention to the Spirit?” and not “Do I have the Spirit?”</p> <p>We plan to emphasize the <i>connections</i> between Jesus and the Holy Spirit as well as the sense of <i>movement</i> between them—turning to Jesus and going with the Spirit.</p> <p>From the Leader, Spring 2010/11.</p>	<p>May 1—Worship leader, Belinda; teaching by Jerry Truex; Communion; potluck</p> <p>May 8—Retreat Service</p> <p>May 15—Worship leader, Dout Von; teaching by Lois Barrett</p> <p>May 22—Worship leader, Vangie Truex; teaching by Pat Cameron</p> <p>May 29—Worship leader, Doug Von; teaching by Nick King; Healing Prayer</p>	<p>May 1: MCC Cluster Bomb Removal Program</p> <p>May 8: (Retreat)</p> <p>May 15: Mothers 4 Mothers</p> <p>May 22: Disability Programs and State Budget Cuts</p> <p>May 29: Immigration—Legislative events</p>

Mothers 4 Mothers

April 30, we participated in the Walk Against Gang Violence. We did this to support the work of protecting our neighborhood and families from violence. We will continue this effort during the summer through discussion and guest speakers.

We also went to the circus as a group April 16 and had an enjoyable outing together.

May 1 at 2:30 pm, we'll have a special Mother's Day celebration at the church. You are welcome to join us.

In June, we'll be participating in the Multi-Cultural Family Celebration. We plan on participating in the parade as well as having a booth.

Sally Huber

Quote

Something to ponder:

“Scientists have found that doing a kindness produces the single most reliable momentary increase in well-being of any exercise tested”

Martin E P Selgman

In Flourish, 2011

Servant Groups



A servant group is an intentional face-to-face group (3-12 people) who meet at a regular time (often twice a month) to grow in Christ and actualize God's reign. We have five 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), 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)

Psychosynthesis Study Group.

This group meets on the 2nd and 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 meetings 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.

New Servant Group: After two organizational meetings, a new servant group has begun. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m. This group will meet for worship, study, sharing, prayer, and focus on its "outward" mission as well as bringing a religious perspective to immigration issues. For more information, contact Pat at 371-8274.

Faith Issues 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 at 263-0204.

Lectio Divina Servant Group.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8 pm at the church. We read scripture using lectio divina and also examine our day. Accountability, sharing, singing, and prayer is also part for practice. For more information, contact Nita at 620-217-0249.

Womens' 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 at 832-0050 (cgswriter@aol.com).

Childcare

May 1--Karissa/Geneva
 May 8--retreat
 May 15--Jenny/MC
 May 22--Karissa/Sally
 May 29--Alex/Dori



Attendance in April

April 3	26
April 10	34
April 17	25
April 20	20
April 24	32

MCS May 2011

Verse of the Month: John 20:21-22
 Song of the month: Through Jesus,
 death and night are gone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 MCS Retreat <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Jennifer Hurd</i>
8 MCS Retreat <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Latavianna Cheaney</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Breaking New Ground, Oklahoma City	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

- Practicing peace and reconciliation,
- Sharing our lives in love and accountability, and
- Bringing the good news of the reign of God to the world.

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