



# Joy Mennonite Church



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Mailing Address:

4708 OUTPOST DRIVE

SPENCER, OK. 73084

Church Telephone No.:

(405) 799-7836



1994



We had a baby dedication on Sunday, Jan 30, at Joy Mennonite Church. This is an exciting event for us. It is an opportunity to share the joys of the parents and their families as well as a time to express our commitment to the child and her parents. We wish we could offer what was offered our parents when we came into this world, a community committed to make a good day by day environment in which to raise a child. In the urban setting this is not possible in the way it was in the rural setting. At Joy Mennonite no two families come from the same neighborhood. It seems the church, especially a small church like ours, is more of a refuge from the environment than an institution that shapes the environment. If we think it is much more difficult to grow up today than in the past, just remember there have always been pressures against Christian values.

As we look at the reality of the urban church, what commitments can we make to be involved in each other's lives and families? The natural grouping of people in the urban setting is too large to form community. Urban neighborhoods do not make community, instead we come together from places and make community. Community is the people look out for each other, not because they deserve it but because they belong together.

Many people in the urban setting do not find fulfillment in their work. They look for fulfillment after work and on weekends. Many look to play for fulfillment and often come up empty. The challenge to the urban church is to provide something satisfying, and it will probably be some kind of work.

The environment now as in the past often seems hostile to Christian values. The urban church must help its people find the strength to face this hostile environment - with counter culture values.

Much more could be said. We just want people to know they are not alone, especially those who are bringing up children in the city.

Moses Mast

Dear Friends,

I may never quite grasp it - how fast time flies. Normal answers to that include "when you're having fun" or "the older you get," and I sure have a strong suspicion which one is applicable in my case (not that life is no longer fun - but...). A full month has passed in the new year, we are racing headlong into Lent and Easter, and then quickly half the year is behind us.

It could be tolerable if somewhere along the way there was the good feeling of having made a difference somehow. All the things we abhor seem to have taken up permanent reproductive residence all around us. Is it happening to frustrate us particularly or is it an effort to wake us up? Christians, and some Mennonites, talk of the need for revival, owning up to our sins (often things that make us less loveable), and dirtying our prayer bones more often.

All of that takes love, compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, etc., which could substantially be seen as new beginnings. New beginnings - "new life:" JMC has just had a child dedication service for a young new life, and the church believes in families and love - that it is not an experiment, but a fact that this will be the solution to our social ills and salvation for our world.

Not that Valentine's Day by itself could have massive impact, but the love theme of this season just might/ could. Let's hope that we are not so wrapped up in our own selves that pains, sorrows, needs of others get by us unnoticed. Let's prepare our minds and spirits for the true meaning of Easter - Have a good Lenten season of fellowship.

Bee Klassen



Happy  
Valentine's Day



The interest rates are down, and the economy is picking up. So that's not great news!! Try this -- The JMC Worship Committee met to look closely at ourselves in setting goals for 1994 and beyond. It seems as though preparing our hearts for ministry in the community topped the list. Understanding our own heritage will help communicate to the community where we are coming from, and growth will come through testimony of our faithful witness.

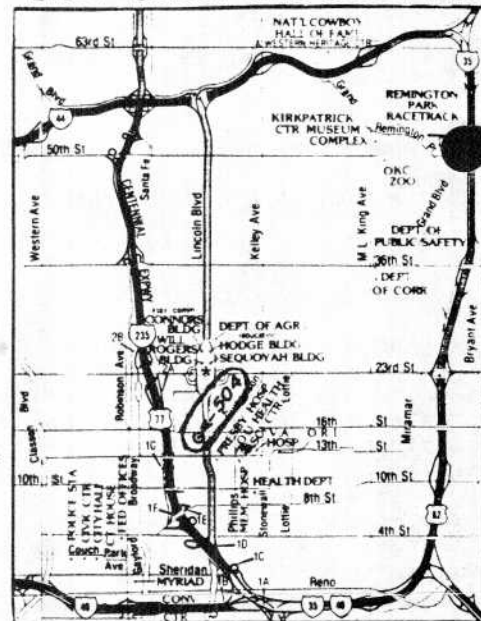
A list of possibilities accompanied to help get us off dead center, while from other quarters it appears that doors may be opening for implementation of those ideas. The conference's Abraham and Sarah Church Planting Project will visit Joy Mennonite Church in the spring.

**F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P**

A large group of family members, friends, and the Joy Mennonite fellowship were gathered on Sunday, 30 January, for the dedication of Jacqueline Mariah Standingwater Perkins, born 17 September 1993 to Ron and Judy Perkins. All present pledged their love and support to Jacqueline in the joyous atmosphere of this solemn ceremony.



WORSHIP SERVICE  
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Mon., 14 Feb. '94	.....	Valentine's Day
Tue., 15 Feb. '94	.....	Shrove Tuesday
Wed., 16 Feb. '94	.....	Ash Wednesday
Sun., 20 Feb. '94	.....	First Sunday in Lent
Mon., 21 Feb. '94	.....	Presidents' Day
Thu., 17 Mar. '94	.....	St. Patrick's Day
Sun., 27 Mar. '94	.....	Palm Sunday
Thu., 31 Mar. '94	.....	Maundy Thursday

Our first 1994 business meeting indicated at least two things: Strong bonding and unity in our fellowship, and at least a temporary financial stability. By acclamation officers were retained for this year. A reshuffle of committees worked to involve more people in more activities.



*Joy Mennonite Church*  
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