

Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

June 1996

Pastor's Corner

Do not claim faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and show favor to the upper class and ignore the poorer class. (Paraphrase of James 2:1-2)

Ralph and Becky Ediger recently visited their son who is doing Voluntary Service in Hamilton, Ontario. This church has a special ministry to handicapped children. These handicapped children are welcomed to participate in the Sunday morning worship. These children participate

enthusiastically but their child-like simplicity is amusing and would be an embarrassment to a church concerned about a proper image. The Edigers said this church reminded them of Joy Mennonite. Their son, Chad, is excited about his work with these children. This brings great joy to his parents and to all of us. We also find joy that our church can be compared with the church in Hamilton.

Sometimes we grumble

when we feel a servant role is thrust upon us. We gladly accept the important roles our society assigns to the church like crisis counselors (not always), host of important life events like weddings and funerals, promoters of culture, and agents of spiritual blessings at events like ball games, etc. We do not mind the servant roles either if we are properly thanked. We do not like to be taken for granted or have people take advantage of us. However, we can perform the important roles for years and people may

never learn to know the real person in us. Not so with the servant role. People will remember if we minister cheerfully or grudgingly. The children of the community who seem to have discovered that we have good potluck dinners may not remember what is preached or taught but they will always remember what kind of persons they found at Joy Mennonite Church. We accept the challenge. Blessings and peace to all the friends of Joy Mennonite.

Moses Mast

A Family Profile:

Darlene (Auernheimer) Powers was born in Newton, Kansas, and grew up in Halstead, a small town west of Newton. She was baptized in 1973 in her home church, the First Mennonite Church of Halstead. After high school graduation in 1975, she went to Bethel College in North Newton, a Mennonite fine arts college, for three years. She was working toward becoming a math teacher, but later decided she didn't have what it took to handle all those kids!

Mike was born in Wichita, Kansas, where he attended schools through the eighth grade. He was raised in the Glad Tidings Assembly of God church, and was baptized at the age of 13. His family moved west, near Cheney Reservoir, and Mike attended Pretty Prairie High School, graduating in 1976. This is where Mike first met Mennonites, which led him to Bethel College that fall. (The scholarships helped, too!)

Mike's first roommate happened to be a distant cousin of Darlene's and that is how they first met. A year and several interesting stories later Mike and

Darlene were "best friends", and their other friends weren't surprised when they announced their engagement in February of 1978. They were married a year later on February 3, 1979. Mike graduated from Bethel College in May, 1981, with a degree in math/computer science, and a minor in art. (Darlene got a PHT degree -- "Put Husband Through.")

During this time, they became charter members in a new house church, Jubilee Mennonite, in North Newton. They also started a family: Laura, born in 1980, and James, born in 1982. In 1983 they moved on to join Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, where they took their turns being active in various ways, including being S.S. teachers, working in Women's Mission Circle, and helping to publish the church newsletter.

Mike worked as a computer systems programmer for KG&E, the electric company in Wichita, for 11 years, and then for Koch Industries for one year. Darlene stayed home to raise their two children, and got involved in volunteer work:

a teacher at a church-run preschool, and a library aide and PTO board member at their children's school. She also took on the Manager's job at the local food co-op, for almost 2 years.

After living in North Newton and Newton for almost 15 years, they moved to OKC for Mike's new job at Hertz Corporation in 1993. The transition was (and still is) hard for them all, leaving family and friends and "home" in Kansas. They joined Joy Mennonite Church in 1994, in a city which seems to swallow up most Mennonites with hardly a trace. Darlene is now song leader for the worship services, teaches S.S., and this past January she also became treasurer. Mike has taken his turn teaching the adult S.S. class, being one of many to help with an occasional meditation, and finds his computer skills and interests put to use in publishing this newsletter.

Laura, 16, has just finished her sophomore year at Putnam City West High School, where she has many new friends, though she still misses her close friends in Kansas. Her parents are struggling with

her "growing pains" and desires for independence! She has a driver's license now, and a part-time job at Applewood's Restaurant.

James, 14, has just finished his eighth grade year at Western Oaks Middle School and will be going to PCW next year. His greatest interest is our computer, both games and programming. His parents are struggling with his "growing pains" too -- he is suddenly taller than Darlene, and hasn't stopped yet!

Mike and Darlene are also struggling with their goals in life. Mike has developed health problems and is still searching for God's will in his career. Darlene just finished the Women's Career Development Course at OKC Community College, trying to figure out what she wants to do when she grows up, and will be taking more courses this summer in office administration and accounting.

One goal they all share: to return "home" to Kansas someday! But for now, they are working to make OKC and Joy Mennonite Church their home and family.

Fellowship News:

Several of our church families have been traveling lately. Peter & Kay Brueckner were in Paul's Valley for an open house with their son, Robert, on May 19. Judy Perkins spent a week in Washington, DC, taking a class for her job. Bill & Thea Klassen just returned from a trip to Chicago, Kansas City and parts in between, visiting family and friends. As summer approaches, we wish everyone safe and restful journeys.

The neighborhood association held a garage sale at our church May 16-18, to raise money for a community project. Sadie reports that there was a good turnout, with many neighbors working together.

Our annual campout is scheduled for June 7-9, and will be at the Little Ax Campground at Lake Thunderbird. The worship service on Sunday will feature each of us sharing our faith stories. For more information, contact Sadie Mast or Bill Klassen.

Jared Austin and Trisha Treadway will be married at our church on Saturday, June 15. We are invited to the reception at Ralph and Becky Ediger's, 205 East Coe, Midwest City, from 3:00 to 6:00pm. We wish them God's blessings on their future together.

Worship News:

May 12 found our church overflowing with a record attendance of 51, including many neighborhood children! The occasion was two-fold: Ralph Ediger's extended family from Kansas and Oregon was here for Mother's Day; and Cristina Kaufman's family, also from Kansas, was here for her graduation celebration. We worshipped, sang and celebrated together. A love offering was given for Cristina's summer trip to Colombia. Following the service, we shared a wonderful potluck dinner!

Stephany Bonner will be baptized on June 16. We will also be observing Communion during this special worship service.

Worship Service:

Every Sunday at 10 O'clock A.M.



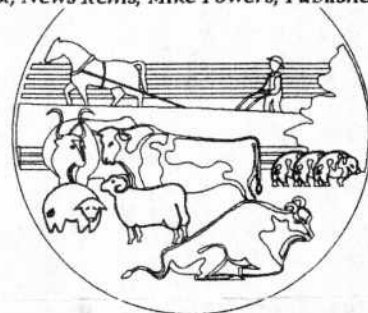
Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.
(just west of the oil derrick on Lincoln Blvd.)

Reminder: July newsletter items are due by June 26. Give to Mike or Darlene Powers.

Newsletter Contributors: Moses Mast, Pastor's Corner; Mike & Darlene Powers, Profile; Bill Klassen, Mailing; Darlene Powers & Sadie Mast, News Items; Mike Powers, Publisher.

Calendar:

- June 7-9 Annual Church Campout, Lake Thunderbird
- June 15 Reception for Jared & Trisha, 3-6pm, at Ediger's
- June 16 Stephany Bonner's Baptism, Communion Service
- June 30 Quarterly offering for MCC
- July 5-7 WDC annual sessions, Dallas, TX
- July 7 Peace Sunday
- July 20 Quarterly Church Business Meeting



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