

Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S CORNER

It is one week before Christmas, the season of peace and good will. While America's citizens are preparing for the holidays, our national leaders are debating the impeachment of our president and dropping bombs on Iraq. There is a sense of ill will instead of good will and an absence of peace that seems to invade our whole country. It seems imperative to me that for those who have chosen to follow the Prince of Peace, that we do not fall into the trap of believing we must choose the right side of the debate, but understand there is a third way, the way of the gospel of peace. Our national leaders believe they are striving

for peace by protecting us from the threat of chemical and biological weapons. The rightness or wrongness of the military action depends from where you view this war. From the vantage point of the privileged people of the world it is the sensible and right thing to do. If you are of an underprivileged class and a victim of the war you wonder what you have done to deserve this destruction.

Most of the people of the western world do not know that among Arab peoples are believers who in the midst of the experience of attack and suffering they believe that God is present with them in their suffering and this gives them peace. Among these Arab people are believers who resist the temptation to hate their

attackers, but instead pray for them. They understand the war as an effort for a quick fix to a serious problem, but in the long run has been the root cause of the situation and will probably guarantee that violence will continue. From people like them we learn the meaning of peace promised by the Prince of Peace.

In the impeachment debate one heard convictions of religious fervor. A common belief seemed to be that if we take a stand against sinful behavior that God will bless us and continue to make us great. The attitudes demonstrated against our president is identical to how we hear people respond to offenders who commit crime in our country. There is a spirit of revenge and

retribution. Those who commit a crime must pay, meaning they must be made to suffer. The gospel does not excuse sin but asks the person to confess their sin and also to make restitution to those who have been wronged. In contrast to the spirit of vengeance and retribution the messenger of the gospel does not see the sinful person as ugly and despicable, but by faith, even before they repent we can see the redeemed and restored person. By faith the believer can see what God has promised even before it happens. We thank all of you who supported us this past year. We pray that god will bless you and make you prosper in doing good in the coming year.

Moses Mast

The history of Joy Mennonite.....continued. From February 4, 1990 to August 26 of the same year, the church met at Rainbow World Child Care Center at 2616 SE 74th. The original name of Joy Community Church was changed to Joy Mennonite Church in September 1990. The September/ October 1990 services were held at a vacant church

building on 13301 S May where on October 7 the charter service was held for Rev. Floyd Bartel, at that time minister of WDC, Rev. John Sprunger, Rev. Peter Neufeld and Rev. Abe Krause officiating. Charter members were Rev. Mark and Gayle Wiens, Peter and Kay Brueckner, Ralph Ediger, Grace Roley, Terry and Donna

Hostetler and Billie and Constance Stillwater. In November 1990 JMC's location was at 330 SW 104th. Bill and Thea Klassen were accepted as charter members on December 31, 1990. In July 1991 JMC used the Rosedwood Chapel at 7720 S Penn as their meeting place. Laura McDaniel and her son Nicholas joined the church. Mark Wiens resigned as minister

effective August 31, 1991. A special meeting was held in July 1991 with the JMC support committee in which church members expressed their desire to have Joy Mennonite continue. On September 1, 1991 Moses and Sadie Mast became the church's interim pastoral team. Due to prior commitments of the Masts *continued.....*

that required their absence for six months. From October 91 to October 92 the church group held their Sunday services at Bluebird Care Center at 11801 Southwood Dr. The Masts, after having been asked by the WDC upon recommendation by the Joy Mennonite Church membership, became the permanent pastoral team for the next three years at an installation service on June 21, 1992 with Pastors Peter Neufeld and Abe Krause officiating. The Masts also officially joined JMC at that time. On October 11, 1992 the church began meeting at the previous MVS building at 504 NE 16th Street, which is its meeting place to this day. Joy Mennonite Church was accepted into membership of the Western District Conference at the joint convention of the South Central and Western District Conferences at Tulsa July 1-4, 1994. Abraham and Sarah Caravan assisted JMC in work in the church neighborhood, in church

worship and fellowship with church members and church neighbors January, 18th to April, 24th in 1994. **Church Happenings (members and friends of the church):** Annual church events are a weekend camp out, Christmas caroling, providing assistance at the Oklahoma Mennonite Relief Sale and communion service four times a year. Average church attendance is 25 with a record attendance of 51, **New Members:** Cheryl Crichley (11-29-92), Mike and Darlene Powers with children Laura and James (6-14-94) Stephanie Bonner (6-16-96), Martha Shumaker, Ethel Posar (both 8-10-97), Damon and Nicole Tabor (9-14-97) **Weddings:** Shawn Crichley and Sarah Bryant (6-16-95). Ben Austin and Alicia Patton (7-8-95). Jared Autin and Trisha Treadway (6-15-96). Damon Tabor and Nicole Jenkinson (6-10-97) Tammy Ediger and Erich Schulte (11-7-98). **Deaths:** Michael King (8-7-93). James Posar (10-

27-96). **Births:** Zacharias (grandson to Ralph and Becky Ediger); Mikaila Ashley, 4-14-96 (daughter to Jared and Trish Austin; Jacqueline Mariah Standin gwater, 9-17-93 (daughter to Ron and Judy Perkins); Jack Aaron, 1-22-95 (son to Jack and Debbie O'Neal); Modesto , 4-16-95 (grands on to Terry and Donna Hostetler); Osmony, 6-9-97 (grandson to Terry and Donna Hostetler); Alexis (grandson to Judie Menadue); Isabel Marie (granddaughter to Ralph and Becky Edigar); Anna Arlene, 9-9-98 (daughter to Jack and Debbie O'Neal). --Thea Klassen.

NEWS

During Advent we had different families and/or groups plan the worship service. They were well planned, thought provoking and inspiring. Thanks to all! The last Sunday we also had communion services. Sunday the 13th after church we enjoyed making and eating pizza. We also prepared fruit, nuts and candy plates and then went caroling for people in the neighborhood.

It was greatly appreciated by all!

Sunday the 20th Sadie took Henrietta, Jessica and Scott to sing for Mrs. Barry. She enjoyed and appreciated it very much and let them know that Joy Mennonite was her church.

CALENDAR

Dec. 31st 6:30 or later. New Years Eve party at Moses & Sadie's home. Come one, come all. Bring finger foods. Jan 3rd Hemisphere Reconciliation Project group meets at Joy Menn. We'll have speakers who were in Nicaragua and the School of Americas in Georgia. Everyone is welcome. Jan 9th Business Meeting at the church. Jan 16th and 17th. Know Jesus '99 Jr. High youth conference at Heston K.S. Jan 24. World Fellowship Day.

REQUESTED
ADDRESS CORRECTION
POSTAGE GUARANTEED
FORWARDING & RETURN

(405) 236-4938
Spencer, OK 73084-2722
4700 Outpost Dr

Joy Mennonite Church



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OKC, OK
PERMIT NO. 2545