



JOY MENNONITE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Corner

Lessons from the Book of Job:

The book of Job concludes with the message that it is sinful to pretend we understand the mystery of God and life. Job is the story of the suffering of a righteous man. Job struggled to understand why he had to suffer what he did not deserve. His friends claimed to understand and in their arrogance passed judgement on Job. As the book draws to a conclusion Job did not understand his suffering, but in the

question put to him by God, he had to face the fact that he is not God and that as a mortal being he was unable to comprehend the God of creation. Job acknowledged this. The final words of God were then directed to Job's friends who believed they understood the mystery of suffering and passed judgement on their friend, Job. These friends were told that they had sinned and should solicit prayers of forgiveness.

It seems that the desire to know the mysteries of God and life is a natural desire within us. To acknowledge the mystery

is to acknowledge that the divine is greater than we and greater than our ability to comprehend. To acknowledge this is to mature spiritually. We know people who claim to know how the human experience on earth will end. This is arrogant and sinful.

An issue that comes closer home to us, however, is the way we deal with congregations who are dealing with the mystery of homosexuality. These congregations we are judging are dealing with real, live, human persons. The rush to pass judgement

puts us in the same position as Job's friends. I know there are sincere people of faith on both sides of the issue. Does this not tell us that collectively we do not know? Why would it be so wrong to admit we do not know and leave judgement to God. The final message in the book of Job is that the claim to understand the mystery of God and to pass judgement on others is a sin.

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Editorial

by Judy Perkins

This being November and the month that we celebrate Thanksgiving, I have decided to share the many reasons that I have to be thankful. First and foremost I thank God for giving us his Son to save us from sin. I also thank God for the people He created, my family the family I married into, my church family, my

wonderful friends, our pastors who minister to us and help us on a daily basis and the stranger who smiles at me when I need it the most. It is absolutely "awesome" to think about the many talents and the individuality that each person around the world has.

I also thank God for being able to see the changing seasons through the eyes of my four year old. The excitement in her voice when she asks if it is going to snow, or as she admires

the flowers and the changing leaves on the trees, her laughter as she runs barefoot in the grass or rides her bike on a sunny day. I am also thankful for seeing animals, the sun, the moon and the stars through her eyes. I will never forget one summer evening when we were standing outside and she looked up at the moon and stars and sighed, "It's beautiful isn't it Mom?" (it was)

Of course I cannot forget

to thank God for having a roof over my head, a bed to sleep in at night, and food to eat whenever I am hungry. I also thank God for the many trials and tribulations that I have been through. Although it is hard to thank God for my trials, usually if I really think hard enough, it could be worse! Thank you God for this time of year when we take time to remember and celebrate everything we have to be thankful for.

concerns...

Martha Shoemaker has recently undergone surgery, and is still feeling under-the-weather. We miss her and have been thinking about her.

Ethel Poser will be making a trip to Kansas the first weekend in November. We pray for a safe and enjoyable trip.

news...

Some of our cluster groups met this past month. A good time was reported by both the Norman and the East-side area groups. Due to efforts of these groups and individuals, some only "distantly" connected to our church, we were able to put together and deliver eleven bundles for refugees, as a part of the Comfort 'n Joy project of MCC. Thanks to all who participated! We especially thank our newest members, Damon and Nicole Tabor, for their inspiration in this effort.

Our congregation held its quarterly business meeting this month.

Several members "walked for those who must walk" in the annual Crop Walk here in Oklahoma City on October 5th.

The outing to the Oklahoma City Zoo was cancelled because of a really cold, windy, and dreary day. A future time and event will be announced.

upcoming events...

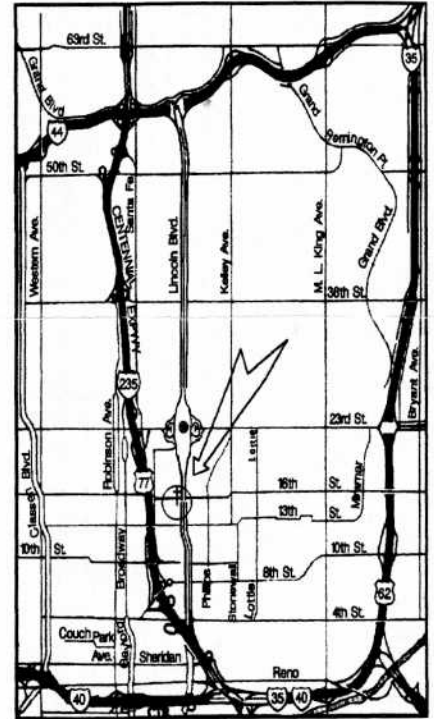
Remember the Fall Peace Festival here in Oklahoma City on November 22nd.

Also, the Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale will be on November 29th at Fairview, OK.

These are both wonderful opportunities to shop for the holidays, to learn about and contribute to important causes, and to partake of good fellowship and good food!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!! May you all be blessed and surrounded by loved ones. We have much to be thankful for.

Joy Map...



Joy Mennonite Church is located at 504 NE 16th (just west of the oil derrick on 16th.) We meet at 10:00 am on Sundays.

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