



Mailing Address:

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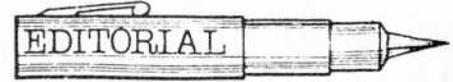
Church Telephone No.:



NOVEMBER 1993

PASTOR'S CORNER

Thanksgiving



Mennonite Voluntary Service was in the Lincoln Terrace Neighborhood for about 25 years. As we talk with people from the neighborhood we are made aware that this 25-year presence left a mark. Some people are very aware of the work that was accomplished. However, others never realized it existed. For all the good that was accomplished, this service did not produce a church in the community.

We are advised by some that we must focus on evangelism first. We agree the record shows, not only here but in many places, that service programs have not built churches. The record also shows that those who focused on evangelism were more successful in church building.

At Joy Mennonite we are not trying to evaluate voluntary service but rather we are seeking to discern the will of God for the future. We believe the choice is not between service and evangelism but how we do them that matters. If we do not understand the integration between the two perhaps we don't understand either one. Service should make people feel worthy and loved by God. The opposite is often the case; people feel unworthy when they need help. The preparation of our heart is as important for service as for evangelism. We must not assume that we are naturally so good that our good deeds will attract people to God. But take heart, there was one who went before us. Jesus, who was known as a person of compassion, did make people feel worthy and loved. A heart conditioned by repentance, prayer and meditation and filled with a new spirit can make people feel worthy and loved.

As a way to begin what we believe we must do we have gone to the Neighborhood Association. We explained the closure of the Voluntary Service Unit. We suggested a new way to address community needs could be a volunteer day. We said we could help find and coordinate volunteers. They, who live in the neighborhood, must identify needs. Saturday, November 6, is to be our first volunteer day. We expect the vibrations of a new spirit to pulse through this neighborhood. If you feel a tug at your heart you may want to come and participate. We can guarantee a good and blessed experience.

Your Pastor, *Moses Mast*

We hope that churches receiving this letter are also posting them to be seen or read by their church members.

Dear Friends,

Once again we are on the threshold of the major U.S. holiday season. It's a time of joyous greetings and festive activities; of love and sharing, giving and receiving, mostly with sincerity of heart.

There will be "scrooges" and other mercenaries who play the season for financial gain and advantage, but for the most part, the sincerity allows reflection, reevaluation, and hope - hope for justice in a world of corrupt politics, hope for plenty in a world with much hunger and poverty, hope for brotherhood in a world brimming with hate in all corners, hope for peace in a world where turmoil, violence, and wars cause sorrow, fear, and more hate.

When we reflect, let's do it in front of a mirror; our smiles are returned, and there is someone also reaching for the extended hand. Think of all those around us, or strangers, that the mirror image could represent, and the mutual warm feelings that could be generated if we got past the mirror and into the real world of people longing for people - to love, care, respond in a spirit of fellowship and compassion.

The closing lines of a novel I read recently said it well: "The greatest force in the universe is not the power of the atom, but the power of love."

Have a thankful Thanksgiving!

Bill Klassen



Moses and Sadie represented Joy Mennonite Church at the Western District Conference annual meeting in Beatrice, NE, on 29 and 30 October. They report a very good session with a theme for integrating the youth of today into the church mainstream.

The kickoff for cooperation between Lincoln Terrace Neighborhood Association and Joy Mennonite Church was held at the church on Saturday, 23 October, with a fund raising supper sponsored by the Lincoln Terrace Neighborhood Association. Sandra Daniel and Bee Schofield did the legwork and organizing, and Sandra prepared much of the great food in a kitchen full of helpers.



CONT'D

F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P

The November Sunday services will all include some short meditations on hunger awareness/Thanksgiving, prepared by Cheryl and Sadie.



Joy Mennonite Church will observe Holy Communion on Sunday, 7 November. Distribution of bread and cup will be part of the regular 10:00 a.m. service - all are invited.

create peace

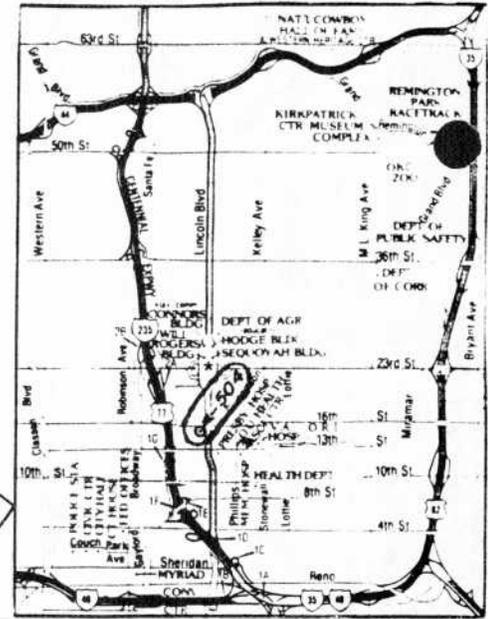
The annual Fall Peace Festival will be held at the Civic Center Music Hall in downtown OKC on Saturday, 20 November. Joy Mennonite Church will work together with the Edmond Mennonite Brethren who will be handling the sale of Third World Country crafts from the Weatherford Etcetera Shop.

Members, remember Sunday, 21 November - Joy Mennonite Church is invited to the "Hunger Banquet" at the Edmond Mennonite Brethren Church, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Rev. Jeff Hamilton will be our guest speaker on Sunday, 28 November. An Oklahoma State Representative for District #101, Jeff was cofounder of the "Oklahoma Peace Strategy" and a former pastor of the Edmond Mennonite Church. Joy Mennonite Church will have a carry-in dinner that Sunday after the service.



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



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun., 7 Nov. 93 Holy Communion
- Sat., 20 Nov. 93 Fall Peace Festival at the Civic Center Music Hall in OKC
- Sun., 21 Nov. 93 ... "Hunger Banquet" at Edmond Mennonite Brethren Church at 6:00 p.m.
- Thu., 25 Nov. 93 Thanksgiving Day
- Fri. & Sat., 26 & 27 Nov. 93 .. MCC Relief Sale at Fairview OK
- Sun., 28 Nov. 93 First Sunday in Advent OK. Rep. Jeff Hamilton - Speaker
- Sun., 5, 12, 19 Dec. 93 Sundays in Advent
- Sat., 25 Dec. 93 Christmas Day

Joy Mennonite Church
4708 OUTPOST DRIVE-SPENCER, OKLAHOMA 73084

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTIED

Moses & Sadie Mast
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