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Joy Mennonite Church

**PASTOR'S
CORNER**

NOVEMBER 1994



Dear Friends,

Talk about racehorsing - 1994 has been on its "horse," is in the final turn, and heading for the home stretch. Seems only yesterday that Christmas decorations came down, and the stores are already gearing up again. Does the fact that this is an election year have anything to do with it? Well, maybe. The campaigning has gotten so bad that we will need all of Thanksgiving being thankful that the election is over, and Christmas can serve as a reminder at the anniversary of Christ's birth of the salvation he came to offer us.

A truly sad state of affairs when candidates across the board have so little self-esteem, totally lacking in values that they cannot promote themselves positively but need to negatively destroy their opponent, often with slander or untruth. So, what's really new? Leaders and politicians have been destroying each other through the media, probably since day one.

It may just be another method of violating others' individual, civil, human and equal rights. Talk about sick; everyone, well most, are so gung-ho about protecting the constitution as long as they feel threatened, but when it is someone else's cause it is no longer that important. Not to worry, we will pass some new legislation that may take effect in a few years - then they will know that we really care, but don't let it inconvenience us or give someone else fair advantage.

Let's hope and pray that persons of integrity can fill these public offices for us. Through it all we may have some responsibility in creating an atmosphere where that can happen. Maybe we even need to consider real live involvement.

(Over)

This past week Sadie and I took a trip to Arkansas to revisit some scenic sites that Sadie remembered when she had worked in Arkansas. We planned the trip for the fall so we could enjoy the changing colors of the leaves. "Look over there," Sadie would say. "But I'm driving," I said. But she continued to say, "look," and I would do the same when Sadie was driving, even though I knew she should concentrate on the road. It was our way of sharing the joy of seeing beauty. Isn't it true that joy is not complete until it is shared?

Jesus described the kingdom of God as a life of shared joy, a wedding feast or a banquet. The three stories of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son were stories of joy because the lost was found. There is an emphasis on the call to neighbors and friends to share the joy. The meaning of the story of the lost son is found in the refusal of the elder son to join the feast and share the joy of his wayward brother returning. These stories expressed the disappointment of Jesus because the Jewish religious leaders would not share the joy of a life turned around. These religious leaders could not share the joy because these people did not fit their image of good people.

We, of course, imagine we would have shared the joy with Jesus. But unless we have been converted we probably will not. The Jews were normal people. Normal people see good people as coming from good homes and nice neighborhoods. Normal people see good in successful people, more than in struggling people. Normal people need to be converted before they will be able to share the joy with Jesus. The celebration banquet is prepared. All good church people are invited. But if you have other things to do, Jesus said, we will invite others, but there will be joy and celebration in the Kingdom of God.

Moses Mast, Pastor

9 AM Sat. **WORKDAY** & BUSINESS
12 Nov. 94 **AT THE CHURCH** MEETING

F·E·L·L·O·W·S·H·I·P



What was Jesus' ministry? What is the church's ministry? What is (or should be) the ministry of our church fellowship at Joy Mennonite in NE Oklahoma City? Three questions - one answer? I will suggest - probably. We can observe that Jesus' ministry was one of sacrifice, service, and love - he might not have included the term sacrifice. St. Francis confirms

service and love as the ministry of the church - actions speaking loudly in a time when words may well have been empty.

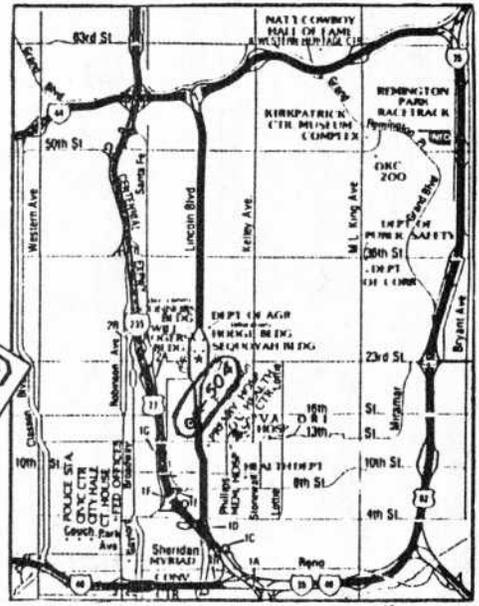
MDS has been working on this premise for years, and JMC is flexing its wings in our fellowship community to prove this ministry theory.

Our recent workdays were coordinated to remedy a neglect and decay problem on the roof of a neighborhood home. A total of 25 people, more or less, from local and remote areas, rallied 'round to tackle this job (which turned out to be a structural undertaking). In addition to the acknowledgements listed in the October issue, special mention goes to the benefactor Arletia Threath and her children Rico and Monica who pitched in to help, Jarred Austin, Marcus Mast, Ralph Ediger and, of course, Moses Mast.

On Saturday, 22 October, a celebration feast was held at the church to praise God for that fellowship experience. Peter Brueckner spoke on fellowship through service.



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



Church Address: 504 NE 16th St.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Fri., 11 Nov. Armistice Day
- Sat., 19 Nov. Oklahoma City Peace Fest
- Thu., 24 Nov. Thanksgiving Day
- Sun., 27 Nov. First Advent Sunday
- Sun., 25 Dec. Christmas Day
- Sat., 31 Dec. Last Day of 1994

(Cont'd.)

I'll get off my soap box before it collapses and urge us all to be truly thankful for all that is good in our lives, families, community, and nation. This can be a period of preparation for Advent and then Christmas.

Best wishes to you all.

Bice Klassen

9 AM Sat. **WORKDAY** BUSINESS
12 Nov. 94 **AT THE CHURCH** MEETING

Thanksgiving



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