

Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

November 1995

Pastor's Corner

Sadie and I just returned from the annual Western District Conference, where Lynn Miller was the featured speaker. Lynn had been commissioned to assist churches in thinking about Stewardship, which was the theme of this conference.

In conventional thinking, only when we have budget problems do we begin to think it is necessary to talk about stewardship. Lynn says budget problems are about economics. Stewardship is about worship. We are stewards or caretakers of everything that we have and are. From what we have we give an offering as an expression of gratitude. Ultimately we

give ourselves, our very bodies.

When someone preaches a word as powerful as Lynn did, we don't always know what to do with such a message. An easy response is to believe the person giving the word can tell us what to do. The biblical way to respond to the word is to plant it in our heart. Like a seed it will grow and bear fruit. Bearing fruit means this truth will be reproduced in our lives. The word is not just something to be believed but something that directs the way we live. We make life decisions guided by the word. No one can do it for us. This is how I hope to respond to the word that was preached.

Moses Mart

Writer Profile: *A native of Newton, Kansas, Bill Klassen was born and raised Mennonite. Parental support and encouragement after high school got him into PAX service in Germany in the early 50's where he met Thea Janz, who became his wife on 31 December 1955. Bill's interests in engineering and surveying were strengthened while living in Germany with Thea for 2.5 years in the early 60's and also after returning to Hutchinson, Kansas, where he licensed as a professional land surveyor. Bill left a business partnership there in 1982, and with Thea, moved to Oklahoma City where they now reside. Licensed in Oklahoma, Bill is still active in surveying and in his professional society. Bill and Thea joined Joy Mennonite Church as charter members on December 31, 1990 and are active in the growing fellowship.*

Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS)

Possibly (or probably) a strange name to many of you -- it was also strange to us here at Joy Mennonite Church until late in 1991 when a recruiter made contact for visitation at the Federal Prison at El Reno, OK. All six of the local area visitors are Mennonites, and four of those are members of Joy Mennonite Church.

As early as the early 1940's Fay "Honey" Knopp, now (1995) deceased, was working for prison reforms, and in 1968, together with Robert Horton, founded PVS to give isolation relief to prisoners in Federal Corrections Institutions.

In a system designed to be degrading, intimidating, and morally destructive, there are many human beings whose families have disowned or abandoned them, or cannot visit them simply for distance or financial considerations.

Published testimonials indicate that often prisoners have had no outside contacts for more than ten years -- until PVS came in and

restored some hope and dignity by compassionate caring for a person.

The recent annual PVS workshop held at Leavenworth, Kansas, was a very significant gathering for members in that most openly acknowledged God's influence and blessing in their lives and their commitments to prison visitation. PVSers are asked to visit at least once a month, and with as many prisoners as possible who desire these visits.

The Bureau of Prisons endorses PVS and their purpose. PVS' rapport has put them in a class different from any other volunteers, with respect and accessibility that few others enjoy. The main objective, prescribed by PVS, is to bring hope, cheer and dignity back to the lonely and forgotten on the inside -- behind walls and bars that outsiders cannot comprehend.

PVS is nonsectarian, nonreligious, and totally nonprofit; please inquire of this writer if you wish additional information about PVS.

Bill Klassen

Fellowship News:

Several members volunteered their services this past month. Sadie Mast helped move people back into the Regency Towers apartment building in downtown OKC. Moses Mast worked for Habitat for Humanity. Bill & Thea Klassen took Ruth Miller and her son Buddy to Yukon's Czech Festival, and also helped with transportation when he had ear surgery recently.

Several from our church, including the Powers and Ediger families and Cristina Kaufman, attended Bethel College's Fall Festival, Oct. 7-8.

Cristina Kaufman, an OU student who attends Joy, suffered a broken little finger on her right hand that required surgery this past month. We pray that her hand will heal quickly and completely.

Cheryl Crichley and six children from Joy (Stephany Bonner, Jeffrey Crichley, Toyshanda Housley, Qumeisha Owens, Taneisha Owens, and Monique Threatt) participated in the **Children's Day of Hope Candlelight Vigil & Interfaith Service**, Oct. 6. This was to commemorate the five year anniversary of the 1990 World Summit for Children, and featured The Children's Torch of Hope.

Among items at our church business meeting, Oct. 14, a **Constitution & Bylaws** committee was formed: Peter Brueckner, Bill Klassen, Moses Mast and Darlene Powers. Also, it was decided that a **"New Members"** class for persons interested in joining our church, and a **Catechism** class for the youth were needed. Moses will be leading these when he returns from Central America. We had a good discussion of the **Pastor's Evaluation Report** on Oct. 15, which evolved into a discussion of our

church's vision/mission as a whole. We continue to search for God's leading.

For our October social event, several of us enjoyed a beautiful autumn day picnicking and walking through the Martin Park Nature Center in northwestern OKC, on Oct. 28.

Worship News:

Peter Brueckner gave the message on Oct. 29, speaking from John 8: 31-36.

Moses and Sadie Mast will be taking a short **sabbatical** to Central America during the month of November. In their absence, the following people will be preaching: Nov. 12 - **Cristina Kaufman**; Nov. 19 - **Bob Koehn**; Nov. 26 - **Shirley Watkins**; and Dec. 3 - **Cheryl Crichley**.

Church contact person while Moses & Sadie are gone: **Bill Klassen**, 324-7644.

S.S. News:

Our adult S.S. class is studying the new Confession of Faith, adopted by our church conference this past summer. Cristina Kaufman is leading the discussion, backed up by Peter Brueckner.

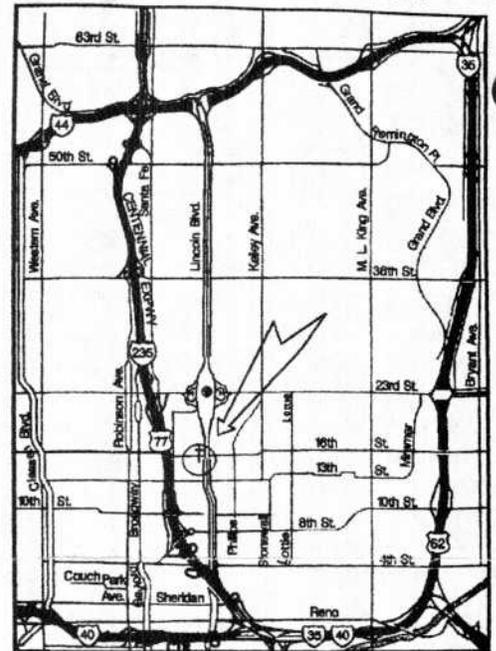
Coming Events:

The tenth annual **Fall Peace Festival** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, 10am - 5pm, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 222 NW 15th, OKC. More than 40 social justice and environmental groups will display 1,001 Holiday Gift Ideas, along with live entertainment, healthy food from the EARTH deli and Grateful Bean, a Children's Activity Area, and side workshops and videos.

Reminder: December Newsletter items are to be given to Mike or Darlene Powers by **Nov. 22**.

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.)

Churches: Feel free to post this newsletter for your members to read. Thanks.

Dates To Remember:

- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving
- Nov. 24-25 MCC Relief Sale, Fairview, OK
- Dec. 2 Peace Festival
- Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 7 Worship Committee Meeting, 6:15pm
- Dec. 25 Christmas

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

MOSES & SADIE MAST
4708 OUTPOST DR
SPENCER OK 73084

FORWARDING & RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Joy Mennonite Church
4708 Outpost Dr
Spencer, OK 73084-2722
(405) 799-7836



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