

Greeley Mennonite Church August 2008 – August 2009

Our church year has been so filled with events that have challenged and stretched our understanding of what it means to feel God's presence in our midst, from the passing of our beloved Pastor, Ron Blough on August 22, 2008, to the coming together and healing of our corporate body, under the leadership of our interim pastor, Orlan Koehn. Many intentional efforts were made to address the grieving process and to help meet the needs of Pastor Ron Blough's family and our congregation. We were truly blessed to have had Ron Blough's leadership. A second blessing was Pastor Orlan Koehn's immediate availability for interim service. He continues to gently shepherd our flock with skill and compassion.

The Worship Committee, Praise Team and Christian Ed Committee have worked with our pastor and wife, to create a year full of inspired, spirit-filled worship experiences.

Through the year, we have revisited the Mennonite Confession of Faith in our Sunday adult discussion class, and spent time looking at The Relationship Principles of Jesus during a "40 Days of Love" experience that led us to the core of Jesus' ministry, giving insight into how we show love to the people God has placed in our lives. This was followed by a study of John Ortberg's book "If You Want to Walk on the Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat".

Through our food pantry program, Thanksgiving and Christmas basket distributions, Saturday meals prepared for the homeless, involvement with the Greeley interfaith homeless shelter program, and participation in Greeley's Faith Community Service Fund, we have found avenues for responding to those in our community who have needed food, shelter, or financial assistance.

We enjoyed a visit from the Rustchmans, who serve in Sweden through Mennonite Mission Network, and continue to support them and others in the mission network, as well as Russ and Cyndi Toews, mission workers on the Hopi Reservation, who were assisted by a work crew from our church.

Our church population has experienced the ebb and flow of members who have relocated, and the arrival of new faces and ones who have returned after a time away. In all of this, we praise God for the fellowship and giving that been so rich and generous.

Mennonite Women projects have included making school kits, filling Valentine boxes for college students, gathering for a women's spring brunch, and supplying clothing items for a needy family.

"Building Healthy Marriages" classes were offered to the congregation on two occasions and were well attended.

Our annual spring auction benefited the emergency fund, conference delegate expenses, and a fund for Jeremy Toews, a recent Moody Bible College graduate.

A second annual yard sale on our new church property was held in June. This sale has been a building project fund-raiser, and a bridge-building event into a new community which may be our future church home site.

Arlen Hershberger's choral conducting was cause for a joyful musical gathering of friends from the conference as we gathered for a hymn sing and meal on July 19th.

We are currently involved with two major projects: A search for a permanent full-time pastor, and the first phase of a church building project. In both these endeavors, we are actively seeking God's will, and the prayers of our friends in the conference.

Jane Macy