

Since Moses Mast, our pastor has been traveling, we asked Terry Hostetler to write an editorial for this month's newsletter.

**Thoughts from
Sunday School
by
Terry Hostetler**

Our adult Sunday school classes have been going pretty well this summer, so far at least. We've had very good participation from the group. One of the more spirited topics of discussion has been the

"Mennonite" merger which has led us to the topic of homosexuals in the Church. I want everyone reading this to understand this is my opinion.

When Jesus defended the adulterous, what was it He said? Something like "let he who is without sin cast the first stone". Wasn't Jesus criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners? I have always believed that Jesus came for ALL people. That doesn't mean all people who think and act like me. All people have rights and wrongs in their lives. It's not my place to judge them. As Christians and Mennonites I cannot understand turning anyone away from church who truly wishes to worship with us.

I do understand concerns people may have about exposing children to "lifestyles" they don't approve of etc. But on the same theme, I don't believe living a lifestyle where we exclude people for some perceived fault something I want to do. We all have faults or sins. The Bible teaches that through Jesus we can ALL be forgiven.

I believe our job or mission is to be as Christ like as possible, follow His example and have faith. Yes, have faith. Set an example for your children to follow. Show your children and others how to be as accepting and loving as Christ is. The focus needs to be on how we treat people, not on what they may or may not be doing.

We need to treat people as Jesus would. We should all be concerned that our own behavior is appropriate, that we are setting a good example and who knows...maybe others will follow. Have a good summer. Terry

**June
Revisited**

This has been a month of travel, relaxation, fun and fellowship. Some stormy weather dampened some fun and caused a little more work than

some of us were planning on, but we all pulled through just fine. I personally promise to never gripe about the electric company again.

Karin Evans donated this about our campout June 2nd.

The first weekend in June was chosen for a lovely, renewing and inspiring retreat for Joy Mennonite attendees. The retreat was held at Red Rock Canyon State Park, west of OKC, with many gathering. Good food, inspiration and Christian

fellowship was shared by all. Our Sunday worship featured guest speaker Robert Koehn and his wife Nancy, a ventriloquist, from Cordell. Karin

I know that my son, Jack, thinks that Nancy's puppet Sam is the funniest thing he ever saw. If you get a chance to see and hear the Koehns, take it, you will enjoy it.

Moses and Sadie Mast were traveling this month. First, to OK Pastor/ Spouse Retreat at Deer Creek Mennonite on June 4th, and then later in the month, to Kansas. Karin Evans spoke in their absence, a wonderful sermon on what it means to be a child of God.

Robert Brueckner was traveling this past week also, visiting with Frank Bliss at Hopefield Ranch, in celebration of Robert's birthday. Beverly Bliss and their boys are working out of state in Minnesota at a summer camp and we look forward to their return later this month. Should be some interesting stories from "up north".

Summer seems to be the time for renovations also. There has been a lot of painting and varnishing done at the church. Our meeting room has never looked better and we invite everyone to come admire the results of all the effort.

Charlotte Warkentine's Ten Thousand Villages booth at the Chandler Ice Cream Festival, June 2nd, drew a lot of interest. Ten Thousand Villages sells fairly traded goods from all over the world and supports many families in extremely poor areas.

Jessica, Melissa, and Jeremy Warkentine have opened a Sno-cone stand in Chandler. They are working hard, meeting all expenses and deserve recognition for the example they are setting for young people. Selling Sno-cones is a lot more work than it looks and it would be easy to quit, but these kids are hanging in there. WAY TO GO!!!

June 17th was Fathers Day. How did you honor your Heavenly Father?

COMING EVENTS

- Most of you won't receive this in time for July 4th. Hope you had a good one.
- By the next newsletter, Joy Mennonite Church hopes to announce that it's website is up and running. In the meantime, you can go to <http://www.mennonite.net> to check out some other church sites and some cool links, such as "Reverend Fun". We will probably add some of these cartoons to our own page. Other features will include church information, pictures of events, an events calendar, a printable church directory and a secure online church directory (which will contain as much or as little info as folks want), birthdays and anniversaries, the current newsletter and an archive of past newsletters, and whatever else we can come up with. Everyone's input is welcome, so look for us in cyberspace!

I fed birds all winter and most of them are still here. We have been watching a nest of blue jays in one of our pecan trees and finally saw one of the babies. Hard to believe something so funny looking grows up to be something so pretty.

Final
Thoughts
Deborah
O'Neal

About ten minutes ago I got dive-bombed by the parents. One baby fell out of the nest and landed

on the truck hood. Its okay, but I had to move it. Boy, were they mad! Kind of makes me think of God watching over us. Feeding us with His Word, protecting us from the "cats" and storms of life. Then some big thing(me) comes along and shifts everything around.

I know the baby blue jay will be fine and the parents are feeding it and watching out for it. I'm getting "fed" too. I've been reading a lot lately and learning more about God's will in my life. A lot of things I thought were important like a perfectly clean house, everything done to everyone else's satisfaction, etc., are not really number one priority. My kids don't care that the dishwasher needs to be unloaded, they want me to see the spider web in the apple tree. My husband, Jack, doesn't care that the laundry needs to be folded, he wants to give me a ride on the four-wheeler.

Karin Evans sermon on children of God really hit home. Am I a child of God or a servant of society? If all I care about is keeping up with the Jones (whoever they are), God is going to get left out. Like my son says that's not cool. If I'm more concerned with what God has given me and less concerned with what others think I should do with it, I think I will be closer to God's will for my life.

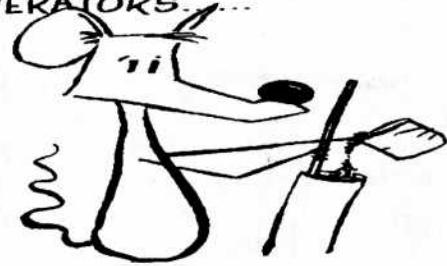
JOY MENNONITE CHURCH
504 NE 16TH OKC OK 73104

Sunday Services 10:00am Sunday School 11:30 am
All are welcome, please join us as you are able

My brother, Jonathan Gehman, writes a cartoon for his church newsletter in Virginia. He has graciously consented to let us use one occasionally. So, the antics of Loomis and Squib. Squib is the mouse and Loomis is a crow.



THIS IS A SHORT TERM AERIAL LIGHTING DEVICE, THOSE, ATMOSPHERIC RESONANCE GENERATORS....



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