

EDEN ECHOES

October 2014 Issue Vol. 44 No. 8





As the Year of the Bible progresses at Eden, I am excited by what I am experiencing. There has been wonderful response by those who have been en-

gaging the scriptures. I have heard great questions and insights from people who are reading the Bible with the purpose of seeing the "big picture" of

God's grand story. I have even heard God's leading through the scriptures as I read.

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One morning I got a note at the office that someone had called who needed financial assistance. I decided that before responding to this note, I would start the day by continuing my daily Year of the Bible reading. Through that reading I got to Deuteronomy 15:7, which goes like this, "If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them." I smiled as I got the sense that the Holy Spirit was speaking directly to my context through the text. I hope that I would have acted generously towards the person in need anyway, but I am grateful that the Spirit could address my current situation. I also recognizing a way in which the scriptures can speak to our current situation at church.

We will soon get to texts later in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) in which God calls the Israelites to be a holy people, set apart for God. There is a clear desire for God's people to be distinct from the nations around them. This could be seen as a reason for the Israelites to view themselves more highly than others. But with Abraham's call in mind, they (and we) must remember that God's intention was to bless the nations through Israel. So there are all these other instances of God telling to people to be welcoming and generous with aliens and outsiders among them.

"The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as your-self..." (Leviticus 19:34)

"You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien..." (Lev. 19:10)

This second verse shows that the Israelites were to pay attention to the needs of the aliens in their midst and not just focus on themselves. So how does this relate to our own situation?

Well, I have noticed that while some of us have been swimming through the deep waters of the scriptures, others may be wading waist-deep and still others may not have put their toes in the water. I cannot assume that everyone is fully engaged in reading through the Bible this year. Each person comes from a different point in the journey through the Bible, and I am reminded by these verses of inclusion that it is important to be clear that all are welcome to participate wherever they come from. So whether you have been following the weekly readings or haven't opened the Bible yet, you are welcome and invited to enter the story each Sunday.

My hope is that through the Year of the Bible, the Holy Spirit will grow nourishing crops for all of us to feed on, the farmers and the passers-through alike. Please join us on this journey wherever you are, trusting that God's word is meaningful for each of us, regardless of how often we read it.



Eden Leadership Team works at clarifying how things work with the current structure

The Eden Leadership Team met on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at the church office at 9:00 a.m. with Jeff Snyder joining us by Skype.

Bret called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

The treasurer, Jay Goering reported we are approximately \$40,000.00 under expenses, but have continued giving to our mission projects.

The Stewardship Commission has begun working on the budget. Each commission needs to let them know what their budget needs are for 2015. The plan is to have the budget together by the November ELT meeting. Hopefully they will be able to present it to congregation by the end of November if too many adjustments are not needed.

All commission chairs should go to each sub-committee to get the an idea of their needs and get back to the Stewardship Commission by September 29. There are still some questions about what expenses go the Stewardship Commission and what goes to Trustees?

Each commission should have a treasurer report for each meeting to see where they are. Commissions will need to email Jay to let him know when they are meeting so he can print a report for them. It is up to commissions to decide whether they streamline committees within their commission and decide their value and their funding.

The Worship Commission shared they are enjoying planning for the Year of the Bible. They are working on more visuals and celebrations. Looking to the end of the church fiscal year, they noted that some committee member's terms lodged under their commission are up at the end of the year. With the current structure each commission finds their own sub-committee members.

With the current structure Eden Leadership Team (ELT) appoints Gifts Discernment and Staff Relations members. Other Commission members are secured by the Gifts Discernment Commission. The names of those appointed and those secured by the Gift Discernment Commission then go to the congregation for affirmation.

It was noted that ushers need replacements. The Worship commission should go to Gifts Discernment for assistance. As soon as Commissions know how they will replace people from each commission, they should let Gifts Discernment know. Jeff will touch base with Gifts Discernment and find out if they know what they need.

The Trustees have installed new handicap signs. Painting on curbs will be done this fall. They have also overseen the repairs to the air conditioner and it is now in working order.

Peace/Witness Commission has mailed checks to cover the expenses for the three young women serving in various voluntary service assignments. They are trying to keep in touch with all three. They plan to put pictures of the three on the bulletin board with each of their addresses, so the congregation can keep in contact with them also. It was nice to have an update from Lizzie on Sunday morning.

The Peace/Witness Commission is also working on Peace Sunday ideas. Clarification was asked for about who pays honorariums for guest speakers.

The Education/Discipleship Commission shared the Wednesday night service project for next month is yet to be decided. The first Wednesday night service project went well. They filled 100 bags for children who are waiting for immigration hearings, and 55 people were served at the meal. They are still working on the job description for their commission.

Once job descriptions from all commissions are in Eden Leadership Team will go through them, reaffirm church priorities and that we are implementing them.

The Deacons shared they are working on a membership update.

Pastor Derek shared about the combined youth group of First Mennonite, Eden and West Zion. The name of the group is FEWZ (First, Eden, West Zion). There are a total of 19 youth, with 1 from West Zion, 6 from First and 12 from Eden. They will meet every Wednesday alternating by months at each church. September will be Eden. October will be West Zion and November will be First

Pastor Derek is excited about Year of the Bible. He is meeting with anyone who wants to come read at Modds coffee shop on Monday mornings at 7:00 a.m. The plan for covering the Sunday school elective during Year of the Bible is that whoever preaches will have S.S. elective about YOB. He shared he is finding it interesting reading ahead in the Bible.

A member of our church who hasn't been attending for a while is having a wedding in October at Eden with another pastor officiating. After conversation with the Deacons it was determined that we will be hosting the wedding at Eden but no Eden pastor will be involved in the ceremony.

More on next page. \rightarrow

ELT meeting continued

What is the next step with the Western District Conference (WDC) survey? Eden had fairly good participation. Eden will be hosting the WDC Reference Council meeting on November 15 with Mary Martha providing refreshments and lunch. We should get an update after that meeting. The table discussion at Eden was a positive time to be able to talk about survey questions. The committee will check with conference if we will we know the consensus from our church individually?

The Staff Congregation Relation Team is still working on changing the church office secretary position to a half-time position. The secretary has continued the half-time summer schedule.

Discussion was held about One Call Now, the mass communication system at Eden. It was reported that some messages are not coming through. The system shows who was called, if it reached a person or machine, and how long the call was. It appears some people hear the beginning of the recorded message and hang up before the message from Eden begins. Jeff plans to change the beginning of the recorded message so the first thing people hear is "Eden Mennonite Church has an important message for you" before the new recorded message is played. It would be a good idea to remind congregation to update the categories they want to be called about. The ELT still needs to be trained on the mass communication system.

Plans for an all church social organized by ELT was discussed. It was suggested the social be a Bible character costume party. Announcements and flyers will be taken care of by Pastor Derek. The Worship Commission has also thought about having a fun night in January or February with Year Of the Bible puzzles.

Pastor Derek was excused from the meeting so discussion about the interim pastor could be held. Concern was expressed about Derek being excused. Conference Minister, Clarence Rempel has one interim pastoral candidate for Eden at this time. The Ministerial Leadership Information (MLI) was studied during meeting. The ELT would like to see more candidates before moving forward.

We would like to set identifying a search committee for permanent pastor as a priority. Conference Minister, Clarence Rempel says getting an interim pastor first should be priority. Jeff will invite the congregation to submit names for search committee persons, including names of youth.

Next meeting - October 11 at 9:00 at the church office. Jolene Kaufman, secretary



Biking, walking and taking a stroller to church were all promoted on Sunday, September 21

Most Sunday mornings you don't see an abundance of people walking or biking to Eden, but Sunday, September 21 was an exception. What a wonderful sight it was to see families walking, biking and pushing little ones in strollers to church! This was the second annual Bike to Church, (or use an alternative to a car) Sunday.

This event brought out 27 energetic participants. Because it is impolite to tell the ages we'll just say, that Barb Stucky was the oldest participant and Wanda Knight was the second oldest riding her unique John Deere bike. The youngest participants were Aspyn Stos and Gentry Regier. The Warren and Jerri Kaufman family came together as a family riding bikes, walking and pushing strollers. Katie Gillmore biked the furthest.

People were encouraged to donate to Personal Energy Transportation (PET). Donating to PET brings awareness that we should be grateful for having the ability to walk and bike when so many are unable to do these things.

Thanks to all who took part in this event and for your donations to PET.









October is Pastor Appreciation Month. If you appreciate your pastors, please let them know. Just a telling them a few words of encouragement or a note

of appreciation goes a long way.

Equipping women for caring ministry in Paraguay and Argentina

By Berni Kaufman

During the month of August 2014, I spent my vacation with Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen as they presented Sister Care: Equipping women for caring ministry in Paraguay and Argentina. Rhoda Keener, center, is the co-director of Mennonite Women USA. Her background variety of settings – includes mental health counseling in a Mennonite congregations, medical centers and a domestic violence shelter. Carolyn Holderread Heggen, left, is a psychotherapist specializing in trauma recovery. She has lived and worked in Latin America, Pakistan, and Nepal. During her time in Puerto Rico, as the child of a missionary and later as a teacher, she learned Spanish and speaks it fluently. She was our voice for the trip.



Nearly 300 years of Spanish rule rendered many Paraguayans poor, uneducated, and unaware of the outside world. During the war ending in 1870, half the male population was killed. Ruined by war, pestilence, and famine, Paraguay was on the verge of disintegration. Between 1904 and 1954, Paraguay became desperate to repopulate.

At the same time, the German-speaking population in Russia was persecuted by the new Soviet Government. Some Russian Mennonite saw Paraguay as a perfect place to settle because it looked isolated. The government of Paraguay wanted settlement in the Chaco region, which was under dispute with neighboring countries. Because of the diminished Latino male population, Latina women were taught to be appealing to men so as to become wives and mothers. Latino men were seen as poor and uneducated, fighting for position and purpose. It is into this environment, with this history, that Mennonite Women brings Sister Care to Paraguay. Sister Care is presented in four units: Claiming Our Identity as God's Beloved, Caring for self and Others, Compassionate Listening and Transforming Loss and Grief.



John 4, commonly known to us as the story of the Woman at the Well, is the scripture foundation for the first unit: Claiming Our Identity as God's Beloved. This story is acted out by members of the seminar.

The bedrock scripture for Unit 2: Caring for Self and Others is the story from Mark 2 where friends take their infirmed friend to Jesus for healing. During this unit, women are encouraged to embrace their natural ability as nurturers and caregivers. They also learn the importance of setting boundaries.

Among the 113 women who attended the Sister Care seminar in Paraguay, we had Latino women, indigenous women and German-Mennonite women from the Chaco.

The Dirty War of 1968-1977 left Argentina with a diminished male population as their men were killed in the war. The government kidnapped women, placing them in prison camps and forcing them into childbirth. The babies were sold to military families and allies of the regime. Through the science of DNA, they have identified 256 missing children who were generally adopted soon after birth. In this environment, where women have been conditioned to be baby factories, Mennonite Women brings Sister Care at a Mennonite camp in Bragado, Argentina outside of Buenos Aires.

Each seminar ends with a closing blessing. The worship table is dressed with an old basin filled with water representing our collective human tears. Tears shed and shared that bring us to healing. A Holy Spirit candle is set in the center. A beautiful basin is filled with water representative of Jesus' living water. Women come to the table wiping their own tears with water from the basin of collective tears and anointing one another with the water from the basin representing Jesus' living water.



The final day of the Argentina seminar was my birthday. I was sung to in Spanish and English and received flowers at breakfast. At lunch I was blindfolded while a beautiful cake was set before me. A special birthday. A special vacation. A powerful ministry with special people.



Burges take part in Parent-Child Dedication

On Sunday, September 7 a Parent-Child Dedication service was held at Eden. A Parent-Child dedication service gives the family the opportunity to express thanks to God for the precious gift of life given to them. It is a time when they can make a commitment as parents to provide regular Christian nurture for their child, and also a time when the congregation can commit to a partnership in providing that nurture. The Burges are pictured above with Rondell holding Nile, Rachel holding Hildie, and their son, Fynn in the middle. Welcome to our church family, Nile.

Invitation to Share



The "invitation to share" project for the month of October is an offering for PET (Personal Energy Transportation.) PET gives the gift of mobility for all of God's people in need focusing on those in greatest need and with the least resources.

If you want to support this project financially you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line. Please mail checks to the church office, P.O. Box 406, Moundridge, KS 67107.



Congregational Caregiving

The Eden congregation is a community of God's people which loves and cares for one another. As followers of Christ, a church community is called to be assertive servants and live out Christ like caring. Called to Caregiving, edited by June A. Gibble and Fred Swartz describes caregiving as this: "'New Testament' caring-involvement, assertiveness, persistency, faith, hope, and optimism"(p.17); "Caregiving is an affirmation of the congregation's basic function, divinely designed to bring wholeness to individuals, to the body itself, and to the world". (p.22) Through assertive caregiving, a church community shares the fullness of God's love, extending God's message of reconciliation and peace to the world while bringing healing and hope to others. Caring servants are engaged in Christ's ministry expressing Christ's love and compassion towards those of the congregation and community.

At Eden, deacons are called out from within the congregation to work with the Pastor(s) in providing care for the congregation. Although the deacons and pastors provide intentional care to the congregation, caregiving involves everyone in the congregation including the congregation itself. All are called to be God's assertive servants. If you have a need, anyone within the church community is able to provide care as one of Christ's caregivers. As assertive caregivers, be mindful of others' needs and help as you are able. If you are aware of persons in our congregation or wider community that could use further help with personal or financial needs, please let a deacon or pastor know.

Pastors and deacons share responsibilities for intentional care. The pastors share responsibilities for pastoral care during the week. Deacons and pastors share on call responsibilities for pastoral care needs on week-ends. Occasionally, deacons help with pastoral care needs during the week depending on the pastors' schedules. If you call the church office during office hours with a pastoral care need, Becky Koller, church office secretary, can help direct you to a pastor, or if need be, a deacon who is on call. If you have a pastoral care need after office hours or on a week-end, you may call the church office phone and voicemail will give information regarding who is on call. Information about how to reach the pastor/deacon on call for pastoral care needs during non-office hours has been added to the church information box on the back of the bulletin.



Words cannot express how grateful we are for all the prayers, calls, cards, visits and many ways of support during and after LaVerne's Heart Surgeries and as he continues to recover. Thank you to Derek and Dave for their prayers, calls and visits. Thank you all for your concerns and kindness shown to us. God is Good. LaVerne, Luene and Family

Pastors Derek and Dave wish to thank SIS for remembering them with a gift during Pastor Appreciation Month.

Thank you for the stamps, cards, and paper goods. They were very helpful with the family staying at our house. Thank you for the very nice lunch served after Elda's service.

The family of Elda Kaufman

Thank you for your prayers and the many acts of kindness and encouragement given to us and our family during Gary's recent surgery and recovery. We are grateful for a church family that shares such loving care and support. Gary and Bonita Howard

Jennifer Steiner, a 2007 graduate of Goshen College shared, "My Mennonite education was an important part of shaping me into the person I am today. Young adulthood is a time of many changes, and I am grateful to have been in the environment at Goshen College during those formative years. As my faith continues to mature, the Mennonite church, and individuals from within it, continues to play an important role in my life."

Your congregation's financial commitment to Mennonite education fosters a positive life transforming education that prepares students for a life of faith and service.

On behalf of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bethel College, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Goshen College and Hesston College we say thank you.

Thank you for partnering with us as together we make a difference in changing the world, one student at a time. Carlos Romero

Executive Director
Mennonite Education Agency

Dear Friends at Eden Mennonite,

Thanks again for your support to MCC! We are blessed by your gift. Thank you for being a part of MCC's work in places like South Sudan, where our partners are providing relief and stability to those displaced by the conflict. We appreciate you all!

Thanks,
Anna Yoder
Donor Relations Coordinator
MCC Central States

Thank you for your generous contribution to P.E.T. Kansas. Each gift helps us give the *Gift of Mobility* to the millions in the world in need of our special wheelchair. Every dollar raised gives the Gift of Hope for those who can not walk. With help from Health and Mobility Charities, P.E.T. wheelchairs have been sent to more than 100 countries around the world. Again, thank you so much for your support to this ministry of caring. Christine Goering

Thank you for your contribution to support disaster recovery. Your gifts help rebuild strong and resilient homes.

In late August, MDS commemorated the close of the Staten Island project, almost two years after Hurricane Sandy winds and surging flood waters wrecked homes and disrupted life. Over a thousand MDS volunteers worked to clear debris and to rebuild sturdy, safe homes.

The hammers are silent now, but the friendships built are as substantial as the homes volunteers built. As one MDS client eloquently said, "Even when volunteers are gone, they are still here! When MDS had a blessing at my home it was like my house came alive. You reminded me we still live in a beautiful world."

Your gifts offer life-giving partnership in the shared journey out of disaster. I am grateful for your gift that restores hope in God, Creator of our beautiful world. Kevin King

Executive Director

Thank you for your contribution to AMBS. Your investment has helped me prepare to take part in God's mission in the world. My experience at AMBS did not only give me the tools for ministry, but it has formed me to be a faithful witness. I encourage you to continue to make this education accessible to many who are called to God's mission.

Martin Navarro Master of Divinity candidate 2014

Thank you so much for your gift to Camp Mennoscah. Our vision to create a sacred space for people of all ages to renew themselves, their relationships, and their connection with God through Jesus Christ is realized only with your help.

Olivia Bartel Camp Director



We choose not to print our members' addresses on line. If you would like an address of one of our members, please contact the church office at 620.345.8320.

Church building

Burrton (KS) Mennonite Church is placing their church building on the market. It is in a high visibility location right along Hwy 50 with a main floor foyer, restrooms, and elevator added in 2011. Contact Ronald Dick 620-200-4320, The church is planning their closing celebration for January 4, 2015.



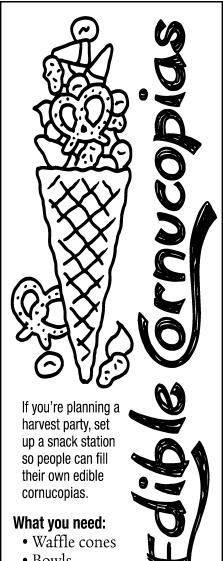
We choose not to print our members' addresses on line. If you would like an address of one of our members, please contact the church office at 620.345.8320.



Congratulations to Brandon and Morgan Kaufman on the birth of a son, Coy Logan. Coy was born at Newton Medical Center weighing 7 lbs. and 12 oz. He is welcomed by his big sister Sawyer, his grandparents Lynn and Karen Kaufman, his greatgrandparents Virgil and Vernell Kaufman and lots of extended family and friends.



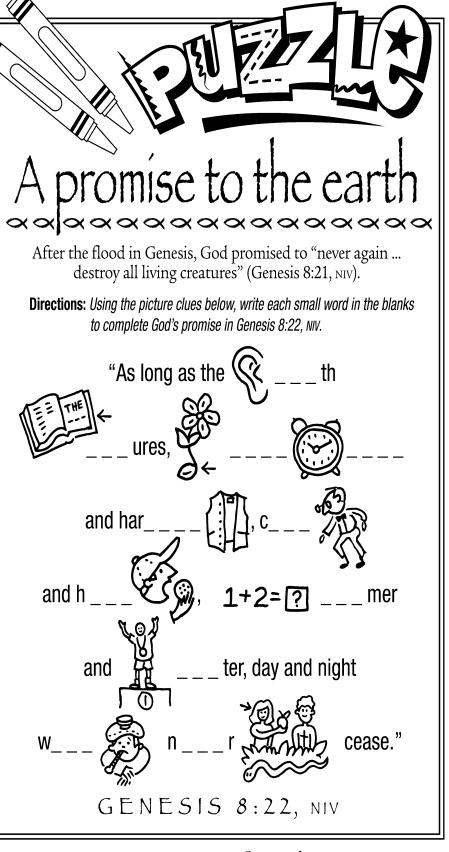
Congratulations to Pastor Derek and Becky King on the birth of their daughter Evelyn Horst King. Evelyn was born on September 23 weighing 8 lbs., 3 oz. and 19 inches long. Evelyn is welcomed by her big sister Sarah.



- Bowls
- Spoons
- Toppings (chocolate chips, nuts, pretzels, fish-shaped crackers, candy corn, dried cranberries, yogurtcovered raisins, etc.)

What you do:

- 1. Set up the table, placing each topping in a bowl. Place a spoon in each bowl.
- 2. Invite friends to create their own cornucopia by spooning chosen goodies into their waffle cones.
- 3. Enjoy!



summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22, NIV Answer: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,

October Birthdays

17-

18-

- 1- Glenn Carey
 Brody Graber (Travis & Penny)
 David Stucky
 Carol Zerger (Mrs. Bill)
- 2- Samantha Doane Gregory A. Krehbiel Mason Regier (Josh & Emily)
- 3- Kylee Stucky (Kevin & Gayle)
- 4- Annie Wyssmann Brianna Stucky (Blaine & Teresa)
- 5- Brenton Alfaro (Brian & Tenae)
 Allen Bonde
 Kenneth Flickner
 Timothy J. Stucky
 6- Rod Gehring
- Gail Graber

 Hudson Krehbiel (Will Krehbiel)

 Dorothy Stucky

 Jacob Stucky
- 7- Gail Goering Lillie Krehbiel Harvey J. Stucky
- 8- Kenneth Goering
 Ardath Graber
 Nancy Krehbiel (Mrs. Ron)
 Bruce Schrag
- 10- Logan Hayes (Mike & Kelly)
 Brianna Hochstetler (Jon & Lisa)
 Elise Neufeld (Kyle & Sarah)
- 14- Kip Krehbiel (Jay & Jane) Michael Waltner
- 15- Ryan Parsons (Rob & Lori) 16- Perri Mulder (Tom & Jamie)

Simon Garcia

Bruce Stucky
Jordan Torres (Kimberly Kaschke)

19- Milo E. Schrag
20- Cara Craig
21- Emory Wedel
22- Leona Goering
23- Chad Goering
Jerrod Newhouse
Sherwin Niehage
24- Harry Crabb
Sarah Neufeld (Jerry & Kathy)

Ross Wedel

Eldon Zerger

Brandon Cruz (Ron & Juanita Goering)

Elliana Garcia (Simon & Kayla)

- 25- Ron Goering Betty Kaufman
- 26- Germaine Bird Craig Ewy Brooke Brite Wayne Schrag
- 27- Barbara Ewy
 Tim Goering
 Melvin Graber
 Ruth Kaufman
 Wes Krehbiel
- 28- Eric Goering
 Nelson Goering
 Lennon Graber (Nathan & Shelby)
 Barbara Stucky (Mrs. Delbert)
- 29 Ellen Stucky30- Elizabeth Goering

If there has been an omission or mistaken date please contact the church office.

October Anniversaries

- 3- Rollin & Kay Flickner
- 4- Matt & Angie Harmon Bill & Carol Zerger
- 5- Nicholas & Lori Vontz
- 6- Greg & Pam Flickner
- 8- Chuck & Diane Knight Doug & Angie Stucky
- 10- Kyle & Sarah Neufeld
- 11- Keith & Mary Albrecht Carlos & Jolene Alonso
- 13- Michael & Kelly Hayes
- 14- Rondell & Rachel Burge Jon & Lisa Hochstetler Jeff & Juli Wedel

- 15- Merlyn & Janice Johnson
- 16- Dick & Jill Zerger
- 20- Josef & Maggie Cutright
- 24- Randall & Annette Goering Richard & Sharon Harris Virgil & Vernell Kaufman
- 25- Virgil & Verna Goering Tyron & Victoria Stucky
- 28- Greg & Kathy Perkins
- 30- Delton & Roberta Ollenburger

Up-Coming Events

Oct 5	World Communion celebrated at Eden
Oct 6	7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
Oct 7	Mary Martha all day meeting
Oct 8	6:45 p.m. Bible Study for all ages
	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	8:00 p.m. Mixed Chancel Choir
	8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
Oct 13	7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg. at church office
Oct 15	6:45 p.m. Bible Study for all ages
	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	8:00 p.m. Mixed Chancel Choir
	8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
Oct 16	Staff Congregation Relations Team mtg.
	4:00 p.m. Eden provides worship service at Pine Village
Oct 22	6:45 p.m. Bible Study for all ages
	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	8:00 p.m. Mixed Chancel Choir
	8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
Oct 29	6:45 p.m. Bible Study for all ages
	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	8:00 p.m. Mixed Chancel Choir
	8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
Nov 2	Harvest Mission Sunday with Kevin King speaking
	Potluck meal at noon

October 2014							
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November 2014							
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Address Services Requested