

# **EDEN ECHOES**

Moundridge, Kansas www.edenmennonite.org **November 2014** Issue Vol. 44 No. 9





#### Patriarchy and Misogyny in the Bible: How do we deal with this stuff as women and men of the church?

# In this Issue Anniversaries Announcements

2 7 Birthdays Invitation to Share 3 Just For Kids 6 5 Thank you notes **Up-coming Events** 8

At Eden we are progressing through our Year of the Bible. Already in our reading we are experiencing a variety of "musical" textures in the Symphony of Scripture. And to be honest, some of the melodies we "hear" are pretty dark.

The Book of Numbers is one place we encounter life in a minor key. In particular, there are at least three passages in the fourth book of the Bible which are especially discouraging in their view of women.

Number 5:11-31, for example, deals with the case of a husband who is suspicious that his wife has been unfaithful. The distastefulness of this text has several dimensions. I'll mention six. First, the woman is subjected to a cruel ordeal—drinking a mixture of dust and water and pronouncing on herself a curse of serious illness if she is indeed guilty of marital infidelity. Second, the woman is not asked for her statement. Third, there is apparently no effort to apprehend and question the alleged adulterer. Fourth, the husband's jealousy is given unquestioned legitimacy, at least to the point of requiring the ordeal. Fifth, there are no consequences to the husband if his jealousy is amiss (verse 31) even though his wife still has to endure the procedure. Sixth, there is no corresponding ordeal for a man suspected of marital infidelity. This is difficult music to hear.

In Numbers 12:1-16, Aaron and Miriam challenge the exclusive leadership of Moses over Israel. God is displeased. Yet, while both Aaron and Miriam are reprimanded, only Miriam is physically punished—a dissonant chord indeed.

In Numbers 31:1-54 the Israelites execute a war of revenge on the Midianites. After a massive slaughter of the enemy soldiers, the Israelites take captive Midianite mothers and children as well as single young women. Moses is outraged that these are allowed to live. So the Israelites are commanded to kill all the boys and married women, "but all the young girls who have not known a man by sleeping with him, keep alive for yourselves. Camp outside the camp seven days...purify yourselves and your captives" (Num 31:18-19). So these young prisoners of war, who have watched their fathers, mothers, brothers and older sisters murdered must endure gynecological examination(?), plus ritual baths under the supervision of soldiers for a week, and then become the property of the murderers of their families! This is the concert you walk out of! The kidnapping of Christian schoolgirls in Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram reminds us that, unfortunately, such misogynous atrocities are not just a thing of the past.

Certainly not the least of our worries is the idea that in some sense these texts are deemed "the word of God." How do we deal with this? First, allow yourself to get angry! Second, try to set aside temporarily whether you like or agree with a difficult passage and attempt to understand it as thoroughly as possible. This might require some Bible study aids like notes in a good study Bible, Bible dictionary or commentary which can give historical and cultural information on the ancient world. Such information can sometimes modify our initial reaction to a troubling story or set those understandable reactions in a fuller context. Third, be open to discovering in your reading accounts in which women are valued.

Surprisingly enough, that same Book of Numbers has some of those passages too—texts that affirm the value of women!

For example, Numbers 6:1-21 makes it clear that women, as well as men, had the opportunity to take a temporary vow of special dedication to the LORD as a nazirite. Like Leviticus 1:2, these verses indicate that women did participate in the spiritual and worship life of ancient Israel, even within a patriarchal (male-dominated) society.

**Numbers 30:1-16** says that adult unmarried women who are socially and economically independent are responsible for carrying out their own vows (no male relative has final responsibility).

In **Numbers 27:1-11** a new ruling revises the old law: If a man dies and has no sons but only daughters, the daughters can inherit their father's property just like sons. Interestingly, Job voluntarily goes beyond even this update and gives the daughters of his "second family" a share in the inheritance along with their brothers (**Job 42:12-15**).

Finally, in **Numbers 32:16-27** Moses grants permission to 2 ½ of the Israelite tribes, the Reubenites, Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, to settle in Gilead, east of the Jordan, as their inheritance. The condition is that the men of those tribes must first accompany the other tribes to secure the land west of the Jordan; then they can return and settle in Gilead. So the women of the 2 ½ tribes stay behind with the children, the elderly and the flocks and herds while the men go off to fight. The text hints at a courageous and untold story: It is the women of the 2 ½ tribes who are the pioneers of Israelite settlement east of the Jordan!

Taken as a whole, then, the "music" from Numbers on the theme of women is complex, encompassing both misogyny and affirmation. This complexity is not unlike the complicated view of women that we encounter in the writings of Paul. At points the apostle seems entrenched in the patriarchy of his day (e.g. 1 Cor 14:33b-36, "women should be silent in church," if indeed that text is authentic to Paul). At other times he seems surprisingly liberating (e.g. Gal 3:28, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus").

So, be angry if you need to *and*...be willing to be surprised!

**Eden Leadership Team** 

The ELT met Saturday, Oct. 11,2014 at the church office.

Bret opened the meeting in Jeff's absence. The candle was lit to remind us of God's presence. Pastor Dave opened with prayer.

Treasurers report stated that we are \$40,000.00 behind on meeting expenses and about \$50,000.00 under budget.

aue Jeweur

The Stewardship Commission is going to be finalizing the budget at their next meeting. November 8 they will bring it to the ELT for approval and if approved it will be brought to the congregation in November and will be voted on in December.

It was decided that the Harvest/Mission offering will be split between Associated Churches and MCC Meat Canning.

Eric Litweiller has been invited to speak to the congregation on December 7. He will talk during the S.S. hour about God and money. Keith and Connie Schrag are going to present a stewardship class to the SEEDS class...

The Deacon commission is working on membership concerns.

Peace/ Witness Commission is looking for a speaker for Peace Sunday. They are open to suggestions.

Trustee Commission - The guttering is going to be replaced all around the church and will be paid for by an insurance claim. The lights will be replaced in the sanctuary with LED lights that last 50,000 hours. They hope to have it done by Christmas. The cemetery rules and regulations concerning cost of plots will be reviewed and presented.

Pastor Derek - The new Youth group FEWZ (First, Eden, West Zion) is going really well. Year of the Bible is moving along smoothly and the visual arts for YOB are

amazing. There will be more to come.

Pastor Dave - 1 month to go. His final sermon will be titled, "What it means to be the new Eden". Discussion followed concerning staffing. The meting adjourned.



# Eden Celebrates Harvest Mission Sunday with Kevin King

Sunday November 2 Eden will celebrate Harvest Mission Sunday with Kevin King as our guest speaker. Kevin's topic will be "Who is my neighbor?" A special offering will go to Mennonite Central Committee meat

canning and the Associated Churches of Moundridge.

Kevin King was born on a potato and dairy farm in southeastern Pennsylvania. He attended Eastern Mennonite College (now University), Harrisonburg, Virginia, and graduated in 1981 with a degree in International Agriculture Development. He also received an MBA in International Economic Development in 1987 from Eastern College, St. Davids, Pennsylvania.

Since February 2004 Kevin is the Executive Director of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) based in Lititz, Pennsylvania. He is an active board member of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD).

Kevin and his wife, Karen, an elementary school teacher, have two children; Justin, 24 and Andrea 20. Kings attend Akron Mennonite Church, Akron, Pennsylvania.

During the Sunday school hour an informal time with Kevin King will be held in the sanctuary. A fish fry/potluck meal will be served at noon. Bring side dishes and desserts to go along with the fish.



#### Farewell scheduled for November 9 for Pastor Dave and Carole

Pastor Dave Stevens began his term as Lead Pastor at Eden in December of 2006. He will complete his ministry with us on November 9, 2014 and preach for the last time during

worship that morning. A time of celebration and fellowship with pie and beverages will be held following worship at which there will be opportunity for open sharing as well as mingling. Sunday School classes will not meet for any age. A basket will be available in the fellowship hall for well wishes, cards and love offerings. Thanks and praise be to God for bringing Pastor Dave, Carole, Laura and Katie to our faith community. God has blessed Eden through Pastor Dave's ministry. Much appreciation is expressed to Pastor Dave for his service to our congregation and to Carole, Laura and Katie for family support and sharing their gifts with our congregation during their time at Eden. We wish Pastor Dave, Carole and family all the best as they begin their journey with Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita.



#### Everyone needed in updating Eden Church records

Maintaining current church records is a common, annual event for many churches. The process of updating contact information

and reviewing church membership helps strengthen church body life and promote greater stewardship of church resources. Through a means of discernment that involved both Pastors and the Eden Leadership Team, the Deacon Commission has formulated plans to gather information regarding church records annually and will begin this process so that changes may be reflected in our 2015 church directory. In order to reach everyone and to simplify the process, everyone listed in the church yearbook with an address will soon be receiving a Year in Review letter from Pastor Derek, information about the process and a response form to be completed and returned. The response form replaces the previous mode of gathering information of placing the yearbook pages on a table in the fellowship hall. To enable the update of Eden's church records most efficiently, please return the response form even if the information requested remains the same. The Deacon Commission appreciates everyone's help in completing this process.





Ladies, please mark your calendars for the annual SIS Christmas tea on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 9:00am in the Eden fellowship hall. We anticipate another year of celebrating the Christmas season with good food, good music, beautifully decorated tables, Christian fellowship and an inspiring program.

Our program this year will be "This is my Father's World" presented by Vada Snider, Karen Loucks and Duane Graham. Please RSVP by November 30th to the church office at 345-8320 (edenmc@mtelco.net) or Denise Stucky at 345-2591 (hdstucky@mtelco.net). All guests are welcome, so please bring your friends! Also RSVP if you or your guests require child care. Please share your favorite table service with us by setting a table for 8. If you are interested in setting a table, please contact Judy Krehbiel at 345-8784 or email her at (jthorn5889@sbcglobal.net).



#### **Community Thanksgiving Meal**

The 5th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will take place on Sunday, November 16 at the Moundridge High School Commons area beginning at 5:00 p.m.

All are encouraged to attend. The dress will be casual so come as you are. Please watch for sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall for items you can bring to the meal. For many, this is the only Thanksgiving meal they will have.

If you have questions about the meal you can contact Barb Stucky or JoLene Kaufman.

#### **Invitation to Share**



The "invitation to share" project for the month of November is a cash offering.

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.



#### A FAIR TRADE RETAILER

A festival sale will be held by Ten Thousand Villages three weekends on the mezzanine above Prairie Harvest in Newton. The dates for this event are November 20-22, 28-29 and December 4-7. Hours will be: Thursdays - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays, - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec 7 - 1 to 4 p.m. These events give people the opportunity to shop for gifts, home décor, art pieces and accessories—handcrafted by fairly paid artisans around the world. Learn more about Ten Thousand Villages and shop online at www.tenthousandvillages.com.

#### Jeff Koller to speak at Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association Banquet

Submitted by Barbara Stucky

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) annual banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Water's Edge Restaurant in Hesston on November 11. Reservations need to be sent to Barbara Stucky (620-345-8367) or bstucky39@mtelco.net by Tuesday, November 4. The banquet is open to all. Bring your friends for an informative and fun evening.

The speaker for the event is Jeff Koller, writer and historian from Moundridge KS. He will focus on the stories of Mennonites who served in alternative service instead of serving in war. His interest in history and his passion for the Peace position of the Anabaptist faith combined to lead him to write *The Eden Peace Witness* composed of interviews of many who shared their stories.

Jeff has used his writing talent in writing the 50-year history of Memorial Home (now Pine Village) with the editing help of wife Becky. They are currently working on a collection of stories preserving the ministry of MDS.

At this time Jeff is serving with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) in regions west of the Mississippi River as Disaster Response Coordinator. He chairs the Resource Commission of the Western District Conference (WDC) and is on the WDC Death Penalty Task Force.

Jeff and Becky live on a farm near Moundridge. They have two married children and four grandchildren. They attend Eden Mennonite Church, rural Moundridge.

SMCHA membership tickets will also be available at the event for 2014 or 2015 for \$20/year or \$100/six



Daylight Saving Time ends November 2.
Don't forget to set your clocks back!



## Student Gra Update

Submitted by Gail Stucky

Eden's Student Grant program, which provides \$1,500 per year to students attending Mennonite Church USA colleges, is alive and well. We are supporting students attending Hesston, Bethel, Bluffton and Goshen Colleges.

There will only be one fundraiser for the Student Grant this school year, with a date yet to be determined. However, if you would like to contribute to the fund this calendar year, you certainly can. Make out checks to "Eden Mennonite Church" and write "Student Grant" in the subject line. Please take/mail your checks to the church office or give them to Gail Stucky or Dick Zerger.

In case you're unfamiliar with the program, this is how it works: All MC-USA colleges match church grant money up to \$1,000 dollar for dollar. After matching that first \$1,000 (\$500 per semester), all of the colleges will provide \$1 for every additional \$4 provided by the church **up to full tuition**. So, for Eden, the \$1000 is matched by all the colleges (over 2 semesters), and the extra \$500 (\$250/semester) is matched at a 4:1 ratio, meaning that the colleges give an125 additional per year. According to financial aid officers at Bethel and Bluffton, congregations contribute amounts varying from \$250 to full tuition, with \$1,000 being an estimated annual average amount. So Eden contributes more than average.

The **up to full tuition** phrase is important to note and has occasionally been a source of confusion to parents and students. None of the MC-USA colleges cover expenses beyond tuition; room and board is not covered. That means that, if a student receives scholarships and grants (such as the Kansas Comprehensive Grant or the Eden Student Grant) that MEET or EXCEED tuition, the college will not match the church grant. For the large majority of students, church funds do add significantly to their aid package and will not cause them to "lose" other funds.

Thanks in advance for considering a contribution to the Student Grant fund.

#### **Christmas Chocolate Idea!**

What do you think about this idea? First, give MCC \$22 to buy cacao plants, which farmers in Colombia will grow, selling the beans that are processed into chocolate. Then you give your chocolate-loving friend a fair-trade cholate bar for Christmas with a note attached about your gift to MCC. Voila! You will make two people happy! Your friend will have some chocolate even as you help farmers produce cacao instead of coca, which is used for cocaine. Pretty sweet, huh?

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A HUGE thank you to the Mary Martha Circle women who came to Angels' Attic to help us do whatever we asked them to do (dusting, cleaning, vacuuming, stocking shelves, pulling tags off items from Pine Village auction, etc. It was truly a blessing and so appreciated. Looking forward to next year already.

Angels' Attic

Thank you to Pastor Derek and Dave for visiting me in the hospital. And thank you to the church family for the prayers and phone calls.

Greg Krehbiel

Thank you to the numerous people who both waded through mud and muck to take out the dam and to those who cheered them on! Camp Mennoscah sends you many thanks and showers you with (invisible) flowers in gratitude. We'll put the dam back in spring, just in time for fishing and canoeing at Men & Boys Retreat.

Olivia Bartel



#### Rural Ministry Seminar: The Mission of a Rural Congregation

Western District Conference, in conjunction with Central Plains Mennonite Conference and AMBS-Kansas Center will host a Rural

Ministry Seminar on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 8 – noon at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. This seminar is presented by expert S. Roy Kaufman and will explore the unique mission of the church inf a rural context. This seminar will include lecture, case studies, discussion groups, and a catered lunch. Cost is \$39 per individual and \$100 per congregation to bring an unlimited number of congregation members. This seminar will be held in conjunction with a one-hour AMBS seminary course taught by S. Roy Kaufman. This course will meet January 20 and 22 from 6:30 – 9:30pm and January 24 from 8 - 4:30. In addition to discussing the mission of a rural congregation, the course will also explore preaching and pastoral care in a rural setting, as well as the prophetic calling of rural ministry. This course is designed especially for pastors and congregational leaders in a rural context. This course is available for credit or audit. Please see www.ambs.edu/ruralministry or contact kccoordinator@ambs.edu for more information.



Mt. Hope Sanctuary in McPherson has several events coming up that you may want to attend. The first is the *Alternative Christmas Gift Market* hosted by the Brethren Church Outreach Team. It will be held Saturday, November 8 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Cedars Wellness Conference Center, 1021 Cedars Drive, McPherson.

A *Benefit Fair* will be held Saturday, November 22, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the McPherson Opera House Grand Ballroom, 219 S. Main St., McPherson. You will have the opportunity to support Mt. Hope Sanctuary as you shop with various vendors for the holidays.

Mt. Hope Sanctuary will hold their *2nd Annual Open House* with tours, treats and fellowship on Sunday, December 7 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Mt. Hope Sanctuary Home, 303 N. Walnut St., McPherson. Stop by and see what we are about.

Current needs at Mt. Hope are: Triple A, Double A, and 9 volt batteries, paper towels, gallon-size freezer storage bags, hair conditioner, body wash/soap, hand sanitizer, and antibacterial hand soap. Drop any of these item off at the house at 303 N. Walnut in McPherson.

Mt. Hope is currently seeking ministry-minded women to fill part-time (PRN) positions of Relief Staff workers at the Mt. Hope house. If this is an area of ministry you feel led to volunteer in, please contact Julie at (620) 245-7157 or by email at julie.mthope@gmail.com.

The International Guest House in Washington, D.C. <a href="http://igh-dc.com/">http://igh-dc.com/</a> needs hosts beginning July 2015 for a one year term. This ministry of Christian hospitality is operated by Allegheny Mennonite Conference to



provide a "home away from home" for DC visitors. Other volunteers (one month or longer) are also needed. Volunteers receive room and board; full year volunteers receive stipend and health insurance. Responsibilities: welcoming guests, serving breakfast & tea, baking, cleaning, laundry, maintenance. Enjoy sightseeing during free time. Contact: International Guest House <a href="mailto:igh-dc@juno.com">igh-dc@juno.com</a> (202)726-5808.



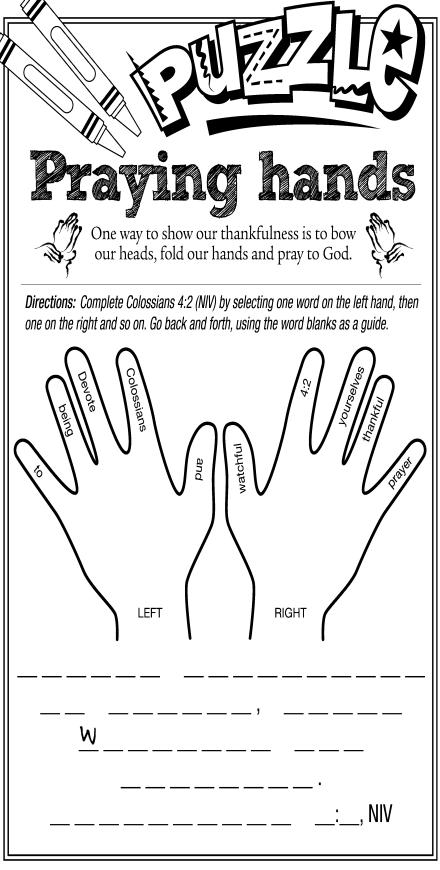
Make this Thanksgiving decoration and keepsake as a reminder of God's many blessings.

## What you need:

- Acrylic paints
- Paint brush
- White cardstock (8" x 11")
- Baby wipes or wet paper towels
- 8" x 11" frame (available at dollar stores)
- Black permanent marker
- Bowls or paper plates

#### What you do:

- 1. Paint your palm, fingers, wrist and a portion of your arm with brown paint.
- 2. With the white cardstock placed vertically, press down your painted hand and arm. The print should resemble a tree trunk and branches.
- 3. Clean your hand and arm with baby wipes or wet paper towels.
- 4. Dip your fingertips into different-colored paints and press them onto the paper to make leaves. (It's autumn, so leaves can be falling!)
- 5. When paint is dry, write "thankful" down the trunk with permanent marker.
  Also write your name and the year in the corner.
- 6. Frame and display your decoration.



Answer: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2, MIV

#### **November Birthdays**

- 1- Maria Drier
- 3- Madison Krehbiel (Clinton & Shelly) Harvey Jon Stucky
- 4- Carla Shilts
- 5- Bailey Graber (Travis & Penny)
- 6- Orville Goering

Joseph Schrag (Darrell & Bobbi)

Keith Schrag Russell Stucky

7- Rashell Kaufman

Ashley Schrag (Bruce & Kelly)

8- Kay Burgan Geneva Flickner

Maynard Krehbiel

9- Kacy Anderson (David & Joyce)

Verna M. Goering Cathy Johnson Tiffany Stucky

Chase Swanson (Mark & Julie)

- 10- Trent Preheim
- 11- Austin Neufeld

Gentry Regier (Josh & Emily)

Kevin Schrag

12- June Krehbiel

Crystal Burnett

Jacob Schrag

Lynette Alshanski

- 13- Brad Wedel
- 14- Evelyn Harms

Alan Neufeld

Pam Mandeen

- 15- Trey Unrau
- 16- Macy Craig (Berry & Cara) Kelly Stucky
- 17- Jon Hochstetler Ron L. Krehbiel

18- Bob Kaufman

- 19- Floyd Flickinger
- 21- Walt Neufeld Robert Tolle
- 22- Juanita Goering Victor Goering Art Krehbiel
- 24- Sharon Durst Daniel Schrag Leslie Thiessen
- 25- Wayne Ensz Lowell Krehbiel
- 26- Arlo Flickner
- 27- Fynn Burge (Rondell & Rachel) LaVerne Flickinger Arielle Zerger
- 28- Norma Bevitt Myron B. Goering
- 29- Cindy Bartell
  Verna P. Goering
  June Graber
  JoLene Kaufman
  Kelly Hayes
  Lou Ann Lichti
  Kevin Stucky
- 30- Doris Flickner Beth Goering Daryl Griffin Merlyn Johnson

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



- Floyd & Edith Flickinger
   Leland & Leona Goering
   Byron & DeLonna Lehman
   Brad & Juli Wedel
- 2- Glenn & Lynette Suderman
- 3- Ron & Renetta Stucky
- 13- Mark & Joyce Vogts
- 18- Gerry & Wanita Schrag
- 23- Anton & Patsy Klassen Joel & Allyson Krehbiel Delbert & Barbara Stucky
- 24- Jerry & Kathy Neufeld
- 25- Gary & Jean Regier Bruce & Pat Stucky
- 28- Ron & Nancy Krehbiel
- 29- Lonnie & Jean Schrag

## **Up-Coming Events**

Nov 2	Harvest Mission Sunday with Kevin King speaking
	Fish Fry/Potluck meal at noon
Nov 4	Mary Martha all day mtg.
Nov 5	6:00 p.m. meal
	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 8	9:00 a.m. Eden Leadership Team mtg. at Eden Church Office
Nov 9	Farewell for Pastor Dave and Carole during S.S. (No S.S. classes)
Nov 10	7:00 p.m. Worship Commission meets at Eden Church Office
Nov 12	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 15	Eden hosts WDC Reference Council meeting at Eden all day
Nov 16	5:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving at Moundridge HS/MS complex
Nov 17	7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg. at Eden Church Office
Nov 19	Last Wednesday night Bible study until January
	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 20	SCRT mtg. at Eden Church Office
Nov 27	Thanksgiving (Eden office closed)
Nov 28	Eden Church Office closed

November 2014										
S	М	T	W	Т	F	S				
						1				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29				
30										



December 2014									
s	М	Т	W	Т	F	S			
	1	2	3	4	5	6			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28	29	30	31						



Moundridge, KS 67107

Address Services Requested