



Moundridge, Kansas  
www.edenmennonite.org

# EDEN ECHOES

**December 2014**  
**Issue Vol. 44 No. 9**



## **An Introduction to Interim Pastor Lee Suderman**

### **In this Issue**

Anniversaries	7
Announcements	2
Birthdays	7
Deaths	4
Invitation to Share	3
Just For Kids	6
Thank you notes	5
Up-coming Events	8

When Di and I returned to Kansas 10 years ago, I had been away from this area almost 40 years. So people often asked me what I'd been doing and "whom I had become" along the way. Part of the answer to that question was obviously my personality, the fact that I was among the "silent generation" born during World War II, and that I was rather influenced by the baby boom generation that followed. Also that my work had taken me to a broad spectrum of the wider church ranging from Pentecostals and ultra conservative groups to Episcopalian and Roman Catholic churches and everything in between.

I admit I'm eclectic and pragmatic in some ways, and embrace some rather unexpected interests. I've lived in 7 states and the suburbs of Kansas City, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles. Yet remain very rooted to the land and still enjoy a small farming partnership on some family land near Hillsboro with my brother from California and my son from Illinois. Di is OK with me being dirty since she says I clean up pretty good. I enjoy all kinds of music except rap (my grandkids may help correct that deficiency). I've always dressed up for business and when I'm preaching. I've flown well over a million miles in my work and rubbed shoulders with many amazing people along the way. An example was arranging for my Scripture Press colleagues to visit President Carter teaching his Sunday school class in Washington DC.

My favorite movies include "Chariots of Fire," "Dead Poets Society," "Out of Africa" and "City Slickers." This movie motivated me and my brother to join an authentic 1870's cattle drive in southwest Colorado about ten years ago. I wouldn't try that anymore today. I still watch Lawrence Welk, Doc Martin and Downton Abbey on Public Television with Di when possible. I enjoy NASCAR racing and cheer for Danika Patrick since Mark Martin has retired. Di and I each suited up to ride several laps around the Daytona Speedway at 165 mph in Richard Petty racecars on my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I love big trucks and have ridden cross country to the Bronx food market just to sleep in the sleeper, use the trucker's showers and eat in the reserved section with other gear jammers. I'm still a die-hard fan of Chicago sports teams and the University of Southern California Trojans.

A special trip with Di was our 5 weeks in Poland two summers ago for a heritage tour and service project with the Krakow YMCA. The "dessert" was several days in St. Petersburg to absorb some early Russian history including the original painting of "The Return of the Prodigal" in the Hermitage, lunch with a Russian family on our anniversary, and many other cultural and religious highlights. God has certainly been good to me despite some significant struggles along the way including a devastating divorce after 32 years of marriage. I'm grateful to my home church in California, my seminary, First Mennonite Church of Denver and the Western District Conference for assisting in my recovery from that experience and my return to the pastorate. I've sensed God's leading in joining the pastoral team here at Eden and pray God's guidance and blessing on our ministry together in the coming months.

*Lee Suderman*



## Eden Leadership Team

By JoLene Kaufman

The Eden Leadership Team met Saturday, November 8, 2014 at the church office. Jeff called the meeting to order.

Pastor Derek opened with a devotional on which he is preparing his sermon. How do we model Job's friends when people are in need? We need to listen to how God will open us up to his wonder. He closed with prayer. The candle was lit to remind us of God's presence.

The basket from Eden for Pine Village benefit brought approximately \$100.00. The worship Commission made around \$1,000.00 from the fish fry. That will be given to video committee to cover overage.

Pastor Lee Suderman was introduced the ELT.

The proposed budget was handed out for discussion followed. A new item on budget is the mass communication. \$1,000.00 will be put on budget for that. There will be an informal meeting to discuss the budget with the congregation. Dates will be announced.

The annual reports need to be in the office no later than January 15.

The winter congregational meeting will be February 15 and should have a tone of celebration for how far we've come in our trial year.



## Children begin rehearsals for Christmas Eve

For some, the Christmas Eve program is the highlight of the year. The children Pre-K through middle school will practice for the Christmas Eve program each Wednesday evening at 6:30. The children, age two and three will only be expected to be there for the last rehearsal on the 17th. Emily Regier will be directing the program this year. If you have any questions or would like to help with the program in some way give Emily a call.



## Transportation Updates needed for MDS

The Kansas Mennonite Disaster unit currently owns, operates and maintains the following equipment: 1995 Ford van, 1998 Ford van, and a 2003 Ford truck.

It was suggested in the fall of 2013 that a van replacement fund be started and we plan to replace one or both of the vans currently in our fleet. Both vans have 190,000 miles on them and have been very well maintained and currently are used to transport volunteers to various locations in the United States and Canada.

Since we started keeping track in 2004, these vans have been driven a total of 179,791 miles, transporting 1,185 volunteers. Over the past decade, time that volunteers have donated is valued at around a million dollars.

We are actively seeking funding for the replacement of either or both vans to help us continue the ministry that the Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service unit has been a part of since 1950.

To help us with this project please send your financial donations to: Mennonite Disaster Service Kansas Unit, 312 North Main St., Hesston, KS 67062. Please make your check to Kansas MDS Unit marked for "Van Replacement Fund." We look forward to being able to provide transportation for volunteers willing to take time for service and would like to replace this equipment in the very near future. Your gift will help us.

If you have any questions, please contact Jordan Miller, KMDS Board Chair, [Jordan@millerconstruction.org](mailto:Jordan@millerconstruction.org), 316-212-3255. Thank you!



*Christmas Tea*

Ladies, please mark your calendars for the annual Sisters in Spirit (SIS) Christmas tea on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Eden fellowship hall. We anticipate another year of beginning the Christmas season with good food, good music, beautiful table decorations and place settings, 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](mailto:edenmc@mtelco.net)) or Denise Stucky at 345-2591 ([hdstucky@mtelco.net](mailto:hdstucky@mtelco.net)). All guests are welcome, so please bring your friends! Please share your favorite table service with us by setting a table for 8. If you are interested in setting a table, please contact Carla Shilts at 345-2579 ([clas@mtelco.net](mailto:clas@mtelco.net)).



## Greetings from Alyssa Schrag in Serbia

Excerpts from her newsletter

Belgrade is a beautiful city, although I wouldn't say in the typical sense. It certainly doesn't look like Rome or Paris, but it still has beauty all the same. Belgrade means "White City," named for the stones from which the Kalemegdan fortress was built. I'd say it's a fitting name because the city lacks color. You can tell which buildings were built in the socialist style; very grey, plain, and in my opinion, ugly. I think certain people of Belgrade have taken it upon themselves to add a little color to this white city. I've enjoyed seeing the different graffiti and have started a collection of photos. Everywhere I look there is history.

The language is hard. There are seven different cases, (nominative, accusative, dative, etc.) each of which change the way that words end. So far that has been the hardest part for me, but there are also a few difficult pronunciations. But regardless of the difficulty, it's been a lot of fun, and I feel as though I'm doing pretty well. My favorite word so far is stvarno, which means "really." It has come in handy with the kindergartners.

My placement is at Noah's Ark Kindergarten. It has animals! Work, as expected, has been tough. It's not always easy to communicate with children when, well...you can't communicate with them. The first week my vocabulary was almost nothing, so even the most basic things were hard to communicate to the children. I relied heavily on my fellow teachers. Now I've even able to have very simple conversations and understand when they tell me they have to go to the bathroom.

Noah's Ark lives up to it's name. When I arrived it had one chicken, one guinea pig, and a few fish. Now it has one chicken, eight chicks, one guinea pig, even more fish, and a hamster! The children get to hold and play with the animals, and help us feed them and clean their cages.

We have about 20 children at the kindergarten who vary in age between 2-6 years old, (Our youngest just turned two in October). In the morning we have circle time with all age groups where we sing songs and teach lessons based off of the theme of the month. After circle time we break into smaller groups, usually by age, and have activities such as arts and crafts workshops, sports, playtime, music, chess lessons, Serbian language (like phonics), and English.

Although it's often hard to communicate, and I've definitely got a learning curve with my lack of education background, it's also been fun as well. It's always a pleasant surprise when a kid will run up to me and say something in English. How Cool! And there is nothing better than when I walk through the doors in the morning to have a child shout my name and give me a big hug.

Oh the food! Yum! If you are a meat-and-potatoes kind of person, Serbia is for you. I've tried all kind of different foods here and it's all so good! An interesting fact about Serbian cuisine, though, is that they don't really like to mix

sweet and savory so a peanut butter and jelly sandwich would be unheard of. Sweet jam with salty peanut butter? That's crazy!

I will admit that I miss some foods from back home. It's hard to find cheese that melts well - there isn't a whole lot of plain and simple cheddar. Chocolate chips; also not a thing. I've started buying chocolate bars and mashing them into pieces to do my baking. BUT the thing I miss most is Mexican food. I'm sure missing the delicious and ginormous Mission Burritos in San Francisco right now, not to mention fresh avocados.

Spiritual Life: There is no Mennonite church in Serbia, which gives me a chance to explore other methods of worship. I live above Holy Trinity Pentecostal church, so for the first month I headed down two flights of stairs and listened to the sermon through English translation. I decided to branch out of my building and see what else Belgrade had to offer. My first stop: St. Mary's Anglican church. I chose to go to this church first because it is English speaking. I had never been to an Anglican service, and I rather enjoyed it! The best part of church, is how welcoming everyone has been. It's also an interesting and international group. Serbia's population is majority Orthodox, so I'm also very excited to attend an Orthodox service.

I had the delightful surprise of getting to host my former MVS roommate and current MCC service worker in Palestine, Sara Brubacher. My boyfriend, Evan, visited and we adventured to Derlap National Park.



## Leadership opportunities in MCC

Mennonite Central Committee currently has opportunities for leaders. Lead a team of passionate, dedicated development workers overseas. Mennonite Central Committee is looking to fill these MCC Representative positions: Bolivia, Tanzania, Nigeria, Palestine/Israel, SwaLeSa (Swaziland, Lesotho, & South Africa). For more information about these placements go to [serve.mcc.org](http://serve.mcc.org).

## Invitation to Share

The "invitation to share" project for the month of December is Comforters and blankets (60" x 80" or 82" x 90"). Comforter specifications, NEW or nearly new material. Single/twin size preferred. Winter weight preferred. Please use quilt batting, knotted with crochet cotton.

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 few more details about Lee**

Eden welcomes Pastor Leland (Lee) Suderman. He will be serving as our Interim Pastor while we search for replacement to fill our current pastoral vacancy.

### **What Lee tells us about himself**

As one whose entire working life has been centered on the Christian faith and the Church, I resonate deeply with the words of the Apostle Paul in Phil. 1:6 about “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Except for five years of graduate studies in music at WSU and theological studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, I’ve enjoyed ten years of teaching and administration in four church related colleges and my seminary alma mater.

After pastorates in Minnesota and Illinois, I spent 22 years with several Christian publishers in church resourceing, and leadership training for a number of denominations. Upon retirement in 2004, my wife Dilores, and I, moved to Kansas at which time I pastored the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church for five years and also served in interim positions at the Hoffungsau, West Zion and Buhler Mennonite churches. My wife Di, (pronounced “Dee”), is retired from 39 years of teaching in England, Germany, Colorado and Kansas.

Our son, Verlyn, and his wife, Julie, live in the Chicago suburbs with their 3 children ages 2, 8 and 12. Our daughter, Vonette, and her husband, Darryl, live in Orange County, CA with their two children ages 13 and 16. Needless to say we spend as much of our spare time with our families as possible. We enjoy music, travel and farming as a hobby. Our desire is to be faithful to God in this later chapter of our lives and to be the kind of supportive leadership that enables the Eden Mennonite Church to reach its greatest potential in this community and in the world.

### **What others tell us about Lee**

Lee is an extrovert, hearty soul with multiple talents: preaching, singing, choral conducting, Bible study leader and counselling. He is a hard worker, ambitious and entrepreneurial. He loves the outdoors, and has a great sense of humor, which he often uses to stress a point in his sermons. He quickly becomes a genuine friend to most people. He works hard at his calling to the ministry, studying for sermons and preparing for meetings. Lee’s advice is sought after. He provides advice after carefully considering the concern of individuals or groups. While he is sensitive to the feelings of other people, he holds solidly to his convictions and his faith.

Please do your best to make Lee and Di feel at home at Eden.



We extend our sympathy to Teresa and Blaine Stucky and Doug Stucky with the death of Teresa and Doug’s mother Dorothy Stucky. Dorothy passed away October 24 at Heartland Haven. Services were held at Eden on Wednesday, October 29. Our sympathy goes to all her extended family as well.

Kenneth Flickner (76) passed away Wednesday, November 5. Services were held at Eden on Saturday, November 8. We extend our sympathy to his sister Florene Wedel and all of Kenny’s extended family.

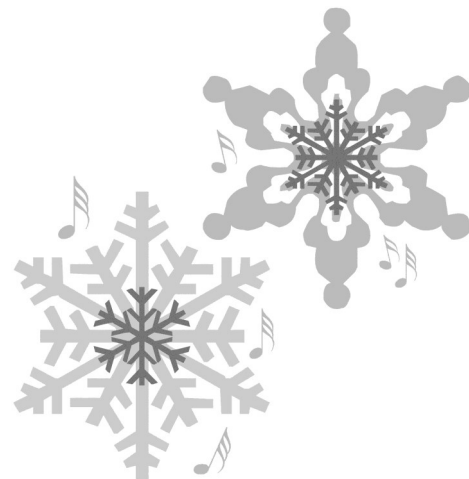


Evelyn (Kaufman) Goering (94) passed away on Sunday, November 9 at Pine Village. Services were held at Eden on Wednesday, Nov 12. We extend our sympathy to her son Myron Goering and her siblings, Roland Kaufman and Verna M. Goering, brother-in-law Clarence Goering and sister-in-law Julaine Goering, and all of her extended family.



New Address for  
Your Yearbook

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.





Thank you to all who gave us cards, gifts and words of blessing. Your kind acts made our last Sunday with you a very blessed event.

Pastor Dave and Carole

Dear Eden Congregation,

We are the parents of Laurie Schrag and each time we are in your area we attend your church services and always enjoy it. We were recently there and were given two lovely thermoses. Thank you so much. We are using them and they are very special. Your congregation with its teaching and support are definitely instrumental in why our two granddaughters are serving Christ. Thank you again.

In Christ,

Vern and Judy Warkentin

Thank you to the Eden congregation for all of your thoughts, prayers, visits, and acts of kindness during the time of Evelyn's passing. A special thank you to Pastor Derek for his visits, words of comfort, and wonderful message at her memorial service. We would also like to express our gratitude to those who gave their time to bake pies, help serve the meal, and serve as ushers at the funeral. May God bless all of you.

The family of Evelyn Goering

Thank you everyone for your prayers, phone calls and cards sent after my recent surgery. A special thanks to Pastor Dave and Pastor Derek for their phone calls and prayers.

Les Thiessen

Thank you Eden Mennonite Church! Thank you for your contribution to AMBS annual fund. I'm here on campus for board meetings, and was delighted to see your church's name among the generous donors who support the seminary's vital ministry of forming and educating Anabaptist leaders. Blessings on your church and your ministries, too!

With deep gratitude,

Sara Dick

AMBS board member (& pastor at Shalom Mennonite Church down the road from you)

Dear friends at Eden,

We gratefully acknowledge your generous support of Bethel College. We at Bethel value your ongoing support in prayer, participation, and generosity. We also seek your input and counsel regarding how we may best serve the Church, and your congregation specifically.

Again, thank you for your generous support of Bethel College! May God bless you and make you a blessing as you continue your journey of following Jesus!

Grace and peace,

Peter Goerzen

Campus Pastor and Director of Church Relations

Dear Eden Mennonite Congregation,

Because of your support, the Pine Village Benefit Day Season experienced a record setting year! We could not have done it without your support of the auction, and for that our sincerest appreciation!

The previous record had been set last year. Each year the funds raised through the Benefit Day events are designated for a specific project. This year they were used to remodel the extremely outdated bathing rooms in The Neighborhoods, which serve the 60 residents in health and skilled care.

Thank you,

Jim Huxman

Administrator

Remember how we asked you to help us support the young girls at the Secure Unit at Youthville in Newton, KS by supplying them with personal hygiene items back in October? Well you came through with flying colors! Thanks to your generosity we were able to collect and deliver over 740 personal hygiene products, plus socks, t-shirts, slippers and more! Thank you for helping MCC support the young girls (ages 10-17) at the Secure Unit!  
*Mennonite Central Committee Central States staff*

Thank you for sharing with Angels' Attic on November 6, 2014, at Match Day. We appreciate it very much and together we received \$2,652 in matching funds and an additional \$1,000 prize money. Without generous gifts such as yours, it would be difficult to keep the sharing going.

Thank you again and God Bless.

P.S. Just a note to let you know how we are doing. Last year 40,899 items were taken by 8,454 shoppers. This year, year-to-date figures will exceed last year's totals. It's amazing what can be accomplished with the help of 21 volunteers, who we appreciate tremendously.

Angels' Attic

Thank you so very much, Junior Sunday School Classes! Wow—what a great gift to Camp Mennoscah. The offering that you collected for us will purchase a snazzy recycled plastic picnic table. We think they are great because we don't have to paint them and there's no wood to rot.

Thank you!

With Peace,

Olivia

Dear Eden Mennonite Church

May God bless you in your ministries. Thank you for hosting the WDC Reference Council on November 15. Your hospitality was outstanding. The setting was ideal. The food was great! The audio was appreciated. Thank you!!!

Joy in Christ

Clarence Rempel

Conference Minister

# "Away in a Manger" PLATE



Make this special plate as a gift to give this Christmas.

## What you need:

- Clear glass plate
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush and water
- Black permanent marker

## What you do:

1. Turn plate upside-down on table. Paint one of your palms brown, and press it on the center of the plate.
2. Rotate the plate so fingers point down. Using yellow paint, make a straw bed in the palm.
3. Mix white and brown paint for Jesus' face. Use white paint for a swaddled body.
4. Paint a yellow star above Jesus and a yellow border around the plate rim.
5. When paint is dry, turn plate over. With the marker, draw dots for Jesus' eyes and write the words of Luke 2:12 around the plate rim.



# Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

**Directions:** In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.



☆ ☆

16-17	28-17-6	61-50-39	8-7-18	106-96-85-97-107-106	42-41-52-63-64-53
3-14-25	36-47-58	104-105-106	38-49-60	89-100-111-123	107-108-109-120-130
2-3-4	5-16-27	19-18-29-30	69-79-89	80-92-103-104	125-135-134-124-123-133-134
40-51-62-39	37-47-59	105-95-84-96		124-125-126-127-128	69-80-91-102-103
				129-130-142-141-129	141-140-128-129

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	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132
133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1- Karey French<br>Nick Graber<br>Roberta Ollenburger                                     | 19- Seth Goering<br>Zaeta Knoll (Dan & Annette)<br>Ernest Krehbiel<br>Judy Krehbiel<br>Jacey Krehbiel<br>Kyle Schrag |
| 2- Tony Schrag  | 20- Christina Graber   |
| 3- Leland Goering<br>Polly Schrag<br>Angela Tipton  | 21- Victoria Stucky<br>Danny Zerger  |
| 4- Alfred Stucky<br>Alexis Westfall (Jacob & Tonya)                                       | 22- Emmi Schrag (David & Hillery Schrag)<br>Marilyn Stucky<br>Jason Neufeld  |
| 6- Dave Stevens<br>Bill Toews   | 23- Milo B. Goering<br>Chelsey Knight (Chuck & Diane)  |
| 7- Annie Toews  | 24- Marla Gillmore<br>Ruth White<br>Frank Wedel  |
| 8- Virgil Goering<br>Calvin Preheim<br>Katelynn Stucky (Kevin & Gayle)<br>Teresa Stucky   | 25- Leonard Graber   |
| 9- Alison Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)  | 26- Charlene Epp<br>Ronald Stucky  |
| 10- Galen Waltner   | 27- Annah Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)<br>Lauren Bonde   |
| 11- Deborah Koehn<br>Bryan Zerger   | 28- Blair Goering<br>Annie Schrag<br>Judy Sebo   |
| 12- Ethan Knight<br>Miriam Krehbiel<br>Norman Wedel                                       | 29- Kim Cutting<br>Aaron Parsons (Rob & Lori)  |
| 13- Reese Gehring<br>Christine Goering<br>Janet Kaufman<br>Tonya Westfall<br>Haley Schrag | 30- Dick Zerger  |
| 16- Makenna Hayes (Mike & Kelly)<br>Sarah Erb   | 31- Ronnie Schrag  |
| 18- Becky Clark<br>Kurt Graber<br>Leda Kaufman<br>Jerry Stucky<br>Jayden Wedel (Brooke)   |  |

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



- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3- Fred & Polly Schrag        | 22- Mark B. & Sheila Goering |
| 11- David & Margaret Goering  | Robert D. & Katy Schrag      |
| 16- Kirby & Christine Goering | 26- Harvey & Mary Graber     |
| 17- Josh & Emily Regier       | Tim & Bethany Schrag         |
| 18- Steve & Barbara Goering   | 28- Matt & Lindsey Begnoche  |
| Michael & Margaret Krehbiel   | 29- Don & Bonnie Kaufman     |
| 19- Daniel & Janet Schrag     | Darrell & Bobbi Schrag       |
| Kelly & Donna Stucky          | 30- Stephen & Sandra Koontz  |
| 20- Homer & Dorothy Goering   | DaWayne and Britney Stos     |
|                               | Emory & Naomi Wedel          |

## Up-Coming Events

<b>Dec 2</b>	2:30 p.m. Mary Martha meets at Krehbiel Apts. Commons 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission mtg.
<b>Dec 3</b>	6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve program practice 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus 8:00 p.m. Mixed Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
<b>Dec 6</b>	9:00 a.m. Christmas Tea
<b>Dec 7</b>	Proposed budget and slate of officers to congregation Eric Litwiller from Everence speaks in sanctuary during S.S.
<b>Dec 10</b>	6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve program practice 7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
<b>Dec 13</b>	9:00 a.m. ELT meets at church office
<b>Dec 14</b>	Christmas Cantata during the worship service Q & A on proposed budget, affirmation of new officers, followed by Youth Group (FEWZ) fundraiser meal 6:30 Mentor/Mentee Caroling Party
<b>Dec 17</b>	6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve program practice
<b>Dec 18</b>	SCRT mtg. at church office.
<b>Dec 24</b>	Church office closed 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve program
<b>Dec 25</b>	Christmas Day – Church office closed
<b>Dec 31</b>	No choir practice
<b>Jan 1</b>	New Year's Day—Church office closed

December 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	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			



January 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	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



Address Services Requested