



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

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Connecting the dots

One of my favorite games as a kid while sitting in the church worship service was something we called "squares." It was a game with lots of dots on a page that two of us would take turns drawing one line each that connected two dots. A person gained points by eventually drawing a line that formed a complete square. We had fun simply connecting dots.

Sometimes it feels like pastoral ministry is like that, too. Once when I was serving communion and folks were coming forward to receive the elements, a nine year-old girl sitting in the front row whispered "Derek, can I come up, too?" I gave her a little shake of the head, but made sure to find her immediately after the service and tell her how excited I was that she wanted to participate, but that I wanted to make sure she understood what we were doing and why. So as I prepared to give some explanation the next week I said to myself, "How do I explain communion without explaining baptism?" then "How do I explain baptism without explaining Jesus?" then "How do I explain Jesus without explaining God's salvation plan revealed through the Old Testament?" I was again trying to connect the dots.

It can also feel like life is a practice of continually connecting dots. We regularly ask ourselves what one aspect of life has to do with another. At one point Christianity was the official religion of the Roman Empire. All other parts of one's life fell under the identity of Roman Christian. Since the Reformation, that one identity became two: a "political" and a "religious" identity. Now our nationality, gender, occupation, religion, etc. are all separate identities that we indicate in boxes on forms. Unfortunately many in our society are happy to keep those things separate, as if they need not affect each other too much. "Going to church" is just one thing in a long list of other things we do on a weekly basis. They are separate dots that we can connect if we feel like it.

The Christian life, however, is not simply one dot among many on a page. It is the whole sheet of paper! This is why the law of Moses included rules about worship, business practices, family relations, and diet. Similarly the book of Colossians reminds us that to proclaim Christ as Lord means allowing Him to rule over every part of our lives; *1:16 all things have been created through him and for him...18 He is the head of the body, the church...so that he might come to have first place in everything.*

This is why we choose to spend our Sunday mornings worshipping our Lord with fellow believers. This is why we extend love and hospitality to strangers. This is why we take care of the resources God has given us and give generously. This is why we use our hands and feet to help those in need. This is why we use our voices to proclaim peace, to speak up for the voiceless, and to refuse to participate in violence of any kind.

May our faith in Jesus not be just one more dot in our lives, but may each dot be connected by and to Jesus, in whom *all things hold together* (Colossians 1:17).

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Eden Leadership Team

By JoLene Kaufman

The Eden Leadership Team met Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Present Were: Dennis Wedel, JoLene Kaufman, Jay Goering, Bret Gillmore, Keith Albrecht, Jerry Schrag, Pastor Lee, Perry Krehbiel, Bonita Howard, Brenda Dalke, Mark Stucky, Pastor Derek, and Kyle Neufeld
Absent: Marcy Schrag

The candle was lit to show God's Presence.

Pastor Derek opened with devotions. He read from Luke 4. The scroll of Isaiah was opened. He read from and evangelical preacher's response to a speech made by Bernie Sanders at Liberty University. "If you have done it for the least of these, you have done it for me." ELT has focus on Eden, we need to have an eye for the poor and the imprisoned. We need to think about how we spend our energy on our own concerns. He led in prayer.

Bret called the meeting to order.

The minutes were corrected. The Stewardship Commission did not meet on Sunday as stated in the minutes. They were approved as corrected.

Budget as of September 15:

Revenue - \$268,920.65

Expenses - \$309,294.99

Difference - (\$40,374.34)

The budget is \$314,414.00

Four of the six payments have been made. There are two left. Last year we only made 5 out of 6. We ended up \$10,000.00 to the good last year. We would like to make all 6 payments. Could we make payments to missions instead of Commissions? We normally show a deficit at this time of year and then by the end of the year the deficit seems to disappear. Does excess amount in Commissions balance discourage people from giving? We need to look at how we handle excess funds. Is there a reserve fund to cover the deficit? Money Market and Checking account are accessible immediately. There is still \$52,000.00 left to make mission payments. \$6,000.00 of that is internal transfers to commissions.

Discussion for next meeting:

What minimum reserves should be?

What will be spent next year by commissions?

What to budget for next year?

What to do with Commissions excess funds in accounts?

Stewardship - The Deacons were the only ones to meet the deadline for submitting their needs for the budget line. **The final date for them to get their requests to the Stewardship Commission is OCTOBER 15.** It would be good to have them by next ELT meeting.

Schedule for budget proposal time line.

Stewardship Commission will meet November 17 to finalize budget.

ELT will approve budget November 19

The budget proposal will be given out to the congregation on November 29

December 6, the budget, ballot and approval to fully implement the 2 year trial structure will be voted on.

ELT agreed to this schedule. The Stewardship Commission will be on the agenda for next meeting, Oct. 15.

Worship - Jerry attended in place of Linda. They would like to

have a variety show or some kind of a get together this fall. They will give the idea to the congregation to see if someone will take it and roll with it.

Peace/Witness - They were going to fund Dana from Serbia. They sent \$1,500.00 to Alyssa Schrag who was going to wire the funds to Dana. Then Dana decided not to come. So that money was available. Mark contacted PULSE. Mary Schrag was \$920.00 short of meeting her commitment. So they funded Mary's obligation in full. They still have \$1,673.00 in VS fund and also excess in general fund as well. The Peace/Witness Commission and Deacons will meet this Sunday, Sept 20, during the S.S. hour to discuss the Benevolent fund. Bo will present it to them. Kyle will represent ELT at that meeting.

The Peace/Witness Commission is looking at some possibilities for Peace Sunday. They are looking at having a Congregation action Sunday in regards to Syria. Still working on details. Michelle Armster, MCC Central States Executive would be good for a speaker.

Education/Discipleship Commission - will meet On Monday, September 21st.

Deacons - Waiting on feedback from membership proposals by October 1. Still discussing small groups.

Trustees - The janitors room has a number pad on it. The MCC wagon will be stored there. The trees will be treated for bag worms in June next year to get the most effective kill. Brandon Kaufman won the drawing to farm the church ground. They wrote up a 7 year contract with him and the Trustees and Brandon signed it. The ELT approved the contract unanimously. Eden Church usage agreement was discussed. The associate and full members will not be charged for using the church. Usage policies should read, Final approval of each Church usage agreement remains at the discretion of the Trustees. If another Pastor is involved, the Pastors should go the Deacons for permission. Phone numbers for janitors should also be added to the form. ***ELT approved the corrected document.***

Pine Village Basket - Jerri Kaufman will prepare the basket and ELT will cover the cost.

WDC is Oct 30 and 31. With our membership roll of 634 we could have 22 votes. The registration cost will be offered to be paid by Deacons. The Pastors will meet and decide if the Resolution Committee should reconvene and share more with the congregation concerning the Rainbow resolution. We are figuring 410 active members and that would give us 14 votes. Let the congregation know that we are deciding that on active members.

Al Neufeld will fill the two year term left by Bob Tolle's resignation on the SCRT. Still need someone for the three year term. Tyler Stucky will fill the 2 year term on the Worship Commission left by Sondra's resignation.

Tent update - The SEEDS class cleaned the tent and all parts are there. It is 40 X 40. They would like to teach others to set it up also.

Projector update - The Inman Technical Director at the school will be coming out next Wednesday to possibly give a more cost effective price to the project.

KIPCOR is postponed for now. They need a higher percentage of people to make it worthwhile.

No new business.

Pastor Lee will have devotions at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 15, 2015 at the church.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

JoLene Kaufman, secretary



“Held Together in Christ” (based on Colossians 1:17) is the theme for the Western District Conference Annual Assembly, held October 30-31 on the Bethel College Campus in North Newton. Everyone is welcome to register and attend. Children are invited! Childcare will be provided for infants through preschool. Activities are planned for those who are in K through grade 5.

There will be enriching worship, including the installation of Heidi Regier Krieder as the new Conference Minister, communion together, and preaching by Heidi and Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director for Mennonite Church USA. The Annual Assembly provides rich opportunities for fellowship and for discerning together where God’s Spirit directs us now and for the future. Delegates will be asked to act on the **RESOLUTION** that was presented by Rainbow Mennonite Church at the 2014 Assembly and has been processed by the Discernment Task Force since then.

Schedule

Friday, October 30

- 4:00 p.m. Registration opens (Mem Hall)
- 5:30 p.m. Pastor/Spouse Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Worship, Heidi Regier Kreider, Preacher & Installation, Communion (Mem Hall)
- 9:00 p.m. Alumni Gatherings: AMBS (Mem Hall Classroom #25) Bethel Alumni Gathering (Mantz Library)

Saturday, October 31

- 8:30 a.m. - Noon Delegate Session 1
- 10:30 Break
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Mem Hall)
Women in Mission Lunch (Bethel College Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall)
- 1:15 p.m. Delegate Session 2
- 3:15 p.m. Break Out Session 1
- 4:20 p.m. Break Out Session 2
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner (Mem Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. Worship, Ervin Stutzman, Preacher
- 9:00 p.m. Fellowship

For a complete schedule and more details see the registration forms on the literature table in the fellowship hall or go <http://mennowdc.org/annual-assembly/>. Registration can be done online. Registration for meals must be done by October 16.



With Deepest Sympathy

Sherwin L. Niehage (78) passed away on Thursday, September 17 at Pine Village. Services were held at Eden on Tuesday, September 22. We extend our sympathy to all of Sherwin’s family.

Invitation to Share



The “invitation to share” project for the month of October is: Offering for PET-Kansas (Personal Energy Transportation)

If you want to support this project 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.

Health and Healing: In the Bible and Today

In October and November during Sunday school, Jill Zenger will lead an elective on **Health and Healing: In the Bible and Today**. Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall if you plan to attend. The class will explore the topics of health and healing through a study of Old/New Testament scriptures and history, including the use of essential oils. What knowledge can we apply today as we address issues of healthy living, wellness, and healing in our lives?

Mennonite Disaster Service working to remove beetle infested trees at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp



Spruce beetles have moved into trees at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) youth camp worked throughout the summer to address the issue and removed 80 trees containing beetles. Eighteen more trees containing beetles need to be removed to keep beetles spreading to other trees at the camp.

MDS will be working at this project Oct 2-10. All skill levels are needed. During the MDS youth camp, some of the most productive volunteers were teens who had never done this kind of work before. Please consider helping a day or two or the whole week. Please call Paul Unruh 316-772-6308 or Gordon Unruh 620-747-0835 to let them know if you can help. Food, lodging and tools will be provided by RMMC.



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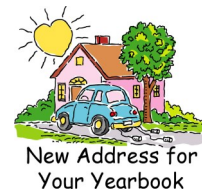
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***Etched in Sand* author to speak at
Hesston Mennonite**

Regina Calcaterra, author of *Etched in Sand* will discuss her book and advocacy work with foster care at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5 in the Hesston Mennonite Church sanctuary, 309 S. Main. The book, which was chosen as the college's 2015 First-year Experience (FYE) common read, traces her and her four siblings' childhood experiences with abandonment, physical abuse and a fear of the foster system that was put in place to protect them.

A follow-up question and answer session will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6 at the Hesston Public Library. Both events are free and open to the public. Copies of the book are available at the Hesston and Newton Public libraries for any who wish to read her account prior to the presentations.



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Congratulations to Zach and Kali Graber on the birth of their son Britton Eli on September 8. Britton is welcomed by his big brothers Kason and Keelan and his paternal grand-parents Steve and Linda Graber.



September 5, 2015
Kevin Sechrist and Taylor Schrag



We would really like to thank everybody who took the time to bring us meals over the last 2 weeks! We have been extremely blessed and overwhelmed by everybody's kindness. It's been greatly appreciated!! Thank you!!
Zach & Kali Graber & family

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, and kind words I received during my recent hospitalizations. Your support from Eden is much appreciated. May God bless you.
Virgil Kaufman

Dear Friends of Mennonite education:

Thank you for your support of Mennonite education. Because of your gifts—and the support of many other friends of Mennonite education - 13,589 students received an opportunity to grow in faith at one of our Mennonite educational institutions last year.

Thank you for partnering with us in raising Christ followers, difference embracers, rigorous learners, peace seekers, community builders and service givers.

God's peace be with you,
Carlos Romero
Executive Director

Below is a list of cheery, hard-working folks from your congregation who volunteered at Camp Mennoscah during the 2015 summer. Some of these generous people gave a few days. Some gave weeks of their summer. We are grateful to these folks and the many others from your congregation who have donated time, skills, and money to Camp Mennoscah not listed here: Dana Tolle, Leslie Schrag, Marla Gillmore, Miranda Snyder, Rustin Clark, Michelle Schrag, Robin Schrag.

May you and your congregation find your way back to Camp Mennoscah soon. We send you prayers for health, fun, and great camp memories.
The Camp Mennoscah Staff

Thank you for your continued support of Bethel College. It's people like you who make a difference in the lives of our students every day.

I look forward to conversations with you in the future and invite you to visit Bethel anytime as we start our new academic year with excitement, including our new football coach and staff. Go Threshers!!

Sincerely,
Rob Schunn
Annual Fund Director

Eden Congregation,

Thank you for your donation. This helps us keep the doors open and keep a nice environment for our shoppers. The statistics show shoppers and items out are up from last year showing the need is still here.
Angels' Attic

Thank you for your generous contribution to PET Kansas. Your 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 cannot walk. With help from Health and Mobility Charities, PET 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

Dear Eden Members,

As you can see from the list (below) of accomplishments by our Circle Leaders, great things are happening and changing their lives. It is because of the generosity of people like you and your donations that we can continue to work and build relationships with our Circle Leaders.

We are so proud of our Circle Leaders and their Allies as they make accomplishments along the way to reaching their goals and building resources.

Again, thank you for your donation and helping us to eliminate poverty in McPherson County one family at a time.

Brenda Sales

Recent Accomplishments

- One Circle Leader is now in her second year at Hutchinson Community College and is due to receive her Associates' Degree next Spring.
- One Circle Leader enrolled in truck driving school through Salina Vo-Tech, is now driving across country and out of poverty.
- One Circle Leader, on disability, is now working part-time, and now at 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- One Circle Leader has now been at his job for over a year, and having been through the OMEGA Program, is now living on his own.

Since our beginning in 2010, 18 Circle Leaders (with a total of 26 children) have left poverty. With this, they have had an average earned income gain of 217% and an estimated ROI of \$1,046,520.

Dear Friends at Eden Mennonite Church,

Thank you very much another wonderful gift to MCC! Your gift is helping in places like Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan where MCC and our partners continue to share God's love by helping displaced people have shelter, food, education and jobs.

Thank you for making a difference!

All the best,
Anna Yoder
Donor Relations Coordinator
MCC Central States

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service. Recently MDS commemorated the 10th anniversary of the devastating Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. For seven years, 2005-2012, MDS volunteers rebuilt homes. This was the longest continuous recovery effort in MDS history. This work was made possible through the generosity of donors like you.

The hammers are silent now in the Gulf Coast, but the friendships continue between MDS volunteers and the communities with whom they worked. You'll find the stories titled "Ten Years Later" on the MDS website, mds.mennonite.net.

Your gifts make a difference in the shared journey out of disaster in many locations throughout Canada and the US. MDS is responding to flooding in High River, AB rebuilding after wildfire in Brewster, WA, and cleaning up after floods in Detroit MI.

Thank you!
Kevin King
Executive Director

BLESSING BAGS



Make these practical gifts to share blessings with homeless people and others in need.

What you need:

- Gallon-size zippered baggies
- Clothing (socks, mittens, scarves, rain ponchos)
- Travel-size toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, sunscreen, lip balm, lotion, tissues, bandages)
- Snacks
- Water bottles
- Paper
- Pencil

What you do:

1. Pack baggies with supplies listed above (and more, if desired).
2. Write encouraging notes (including Bible verses), and add them to the baggies.
3. Keep the gifts in your car, and give them to people who are homeless or asking for help.

PUZZLE

meeting needs

The Bible emphasizes the importance of giving to people in need. In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus describes the proper attitude for giving.

*Directions: Starting at the *B and going counterclockwise, write every other letter on the lines below. Continue until you've completed Matthew 6:3, NIV.*



"B _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ g."

MATTHEW 6:3, NIV

Answer: "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing," Matthew 6:3, NIV



1-	Glenn Carey Brody Graber (Travis & Penny) David Stucky Carol Zerger (Mrs. Bill)	17-	Brandon Cruz (Ron & Cecilia Goering) Elliana Garcia (Kayla) Ross Wedel
2-	Samantha Doane Gregory A. Krehbiel (Elaine) Mason Regier (Josh & Emily)	18-	Eldon Zerger
3-	Kylee Stucky (Kevin & Gayle)	19-	Milo E. Schrag
4-	Annie Wyssmann Brianna Stucky (Blaine & Teresa)	21-	Emory Wedel
5-	Brenton Alfaro (Brian & Tenae) Timothy J. Stucky	22-	Leona Goering
6-	Rod Gehring Gail Graber Hudson Krehbiel (Will Krehbiel) Jacob Stucky	23-	Chad Goering Jerrod Newhouse
7-	Gail Goering Lillie Krehbiel Harvey J. Stucky	24-	Harry Crabb Sarah Neufeld (Jerry & Kathy)
8-	Kenneth Goering Ardath Graber Nancy Krehbiel (Mrs. Ron) Bruce Schrag	25-	Betty Kaufman
9-	Rondell Burge	26-	Germaine Bird Brooke Brite Wayne Schrag
10-	Logan Hayes (Mike & Kelly) Elise Neufeld (Kyle & Sarah)	27-	Barbara Ewy Tim Goering Melvin Graber Ruth Kaufman Wes Krehbiel
14-	Kip Krehbiel (Jay & Jane) Michael Waltner	28-	Eric Goering Nelson Goering Lennon Graber (Nathan & Shelby) Barbara Stucky (Mrs. Delbert)
15-	Ryan Parsons (Rob & Lori)	29	Ellen Stucky
16-	Perri Mulder (Tom & Jamie) Bruce Stucky	30-	Elizabeth Goering Gladys Schrag



3-	Rollin & Kay Flickner	16-	Dick & Jill Zerger
4-	Matt & Angie Harmon Bill & Carol Zerger	24-	Randall & Annette Goering Richard & Sharon Harris
5-	Nicholas & Lori Vontz		Virgil & Vernell Kaufman
6-	Greg & Pam Flickner	25-	Virgil & Verna Goering
8-	Chuck & Diane Knight		Tyron & Victoria Stucky
10-	Kyle & Sarah Neufeld	28-	Greg & Kathy Perkins
11-	Keith & Mary Albrecht Carlos & Jolene Alonso	30-	Delton & Roberta Ollenburger
13-	Michael & Kelly Hayes		
14-	Rondell & Rachel Burge		
15-	Merlyn & Janice Johnson		

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

Up-Coming Events

- Sep 30:** 6:00 p.m. meal served
6:00 p.m. FEWZ Youth Group meets at Eden
6:45 p.m. Bible study for all ages
7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
- Oct 4 & 5:** FEWZ Youth Group Retreat at Morning Star Ranch
- Oct 5:** 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Comm. mtg.
- Oct 6:** 9:00 a.m. Mary Martha meeting at Angels' Attic
- Oct 7, 14, 21, 28:** 6:00 p.m. meal served
6:00 p.m. FEWZ meets at West Zion
6:45 p.m. Bible study for all ages
7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
- Oct 12:** 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission meeting
- Oct 15:** 7:00 p.m. Eden Leadership Team mtg. at Eden
- Oct 19:** 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission
- Oct 26:** 7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors meeting
- Oct 30, 31:** WDC Annual Assembly
- Nov 3:** Mary Martha all day meeting
6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission
- Nov 6:** MCC Meat Canning in North Newton



October is Pastor Appreciation month. If you appreciate your pastors, please let them know.

October 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



November 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					



Address Services Requested