



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

March 2017
Issue Vol. 47 No. 2



“Holy Comparison”

In this Issue

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

I am the type of person that lives with the constant desire to compare myself to others. As I look around, I compare my body, my vehicle, even my children. This compulsion borders on being unhealthy, as it hinders my ability to simply be grateful to God for all that has been given to me. I hope and pray that I will be given eyes that more fully see me with God’s vision. However, I imagine this struggle within me will be ongoing, even if I am gifted with a measure of heavenly perspective. So perhaps I can use the comparison eyes to better myself for God’s purposes, to be more faithful, loving, and gracious.

I thought about this comparison tendency recently as I read a part of Paul’s second letter to the Corinthian church in which he challenges the church to be more giving. Paul gives a report about the churches in Macedonia, how through their sorrows, joys, and poverty they have “overflowed in a wealth of generosity.” Paul affirms all that the Corinthian church has been doing and adds “we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.” Paul goes on to write, “I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.” Sounds a little manipulative, right? Paul seems to be playing on this comparison thing to get people motivated. But while it seems like a poor reason for the Corinthian church to be upping their game, it may be helpful and healthy.

In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he again brings up this idea of competition when he writes “outdo one another in showing honor.” I wonder if Paul is fully aware that comparison and competition are part of human nature and so he wants to utilize that impulse for God’s glory. If left unchecked, comparison can lead towards self-loathing because we just can never measure up to others’ successes and accomplishments. Or it can lead to other-destruction as we strive to improve ourselves so as to leave our “competitors” in the dust. Either way, comparison is extremely self-centered and can be quite destructive, as we have seen from countless stories including Cain and Abel, Esau and Jacob, and Saul and David. This is why I believe Paul is redirecting our desires, knowing that competition can serve God’s kingdom. If you compare yourself to others, don’t do it for a better body, more successes, and more things; do it for the good of others. If you compete, Paul says, compete to be more of a servant. The result, hopefully is not more praise for you, but that, as Jesus says, “they will see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven.”

It is with this perspective in mind that I began reading the book of Acts with Pastor Dianne weekly. We wanted to read about the beginnings of the church and see if their were healthy ways to compare it to our own church. What are some of the characteristics and activities of the early church and how can these motivate our church to glorify God and follow Jesus in all we say and do? We’ve noticed a few helpful things: 1. The early church relied very heavily on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) to make sense of all they had witnessed. 2. The apostle’s were so motivated to speak of Jesus that they couldn’t fathom quitting, even under threat of persecution. 3. The people who joined the group committed their whole lives to the church. I invite you to join us in reading through the earliest accounts of the church of Christ as it formed and grew in the book of Acts. How does the early church speak to us today? These comparisons can be helpful, if the emphasis remains on being faithful and glorifying God.

Similarly, in your own life, I invite you to pay attention to your comparisons and competition. Do not allow them to take over your self-worth. Do not let them to lead you to putting down others. Instead, focus your comparisons on people of faith, on the Scriptures, and on Jesus, so that you may be motivated to improve your love and service to God, neighbors, and enemies alike.



The Eden Leadership Team (ELT)

The Eden Leadership Team met Monday, February 27, 2017 at the church at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: Becky Koller, Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Pat Stucky, Austin Goering, Gary Regier, Jean Regier, JoLene Kaufman, Carina Knight, Kyle Neufeld, Tyler Stucky, Keith Schrag, Tim Regehr, Brenda Dalke, and Pastor Derek King.

Jean Regier led in Devotions. Gary Regier read from Matthew 25:35-40. Jean led in prayer.

Kyle lit the candle to represent the Holy Spirit's presence and called the meeting to order. He read the Vision/Mission statement.

The minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer Report

The offerings for this year total: \$46,000.00, Expenses - \$40,000.00, difference - \$6,000.00
Mission giving will be done tomorrow for the first time this year.

Commission Reports

Deacon Commission

The deacons were just given the constitution review so it will take a while until ELT gets a response from them.

There is renewed interest for transportation to Eden from Pine Village. They will work on that to find rides for those people. The biggest need would be for those that don't drive or have children that go to a different church. They only know of 1 person right now needing transportation.

Peace/Witness Commission

Peace Commission is focusing on Peace Sunday, and they have set the date for April 23. A gentleman from San Antonio will be speaking during worship and S.S. hour. There will be a potluck and an opportunity for Peace Essays to be shared after the meal. There could be an opportunity to send letters concerning immigration.

Trustee Commission:

The work on the church office is progressing. The back half has been gutted and rooms framed. They are waiting on windows and doors that are back ordered. After they are in, they will drywall, mud and paint. One day they had volunteers that were 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80 years of age. Volunteers need to

call Larry Kaufman to coordinate working schedules at the office.

There will be a church workday on Saturday, March 25. There is work that needs to be done in the cemetery, and there may be work available at the church office that day too.

Stewardship Commission

They will meet in March and had nothing to report at this time.

Education/Discipleship Commission

The commission is working on the policy for abuse prevention. There were several people that didn't come for one of the two training meetings that were held.

Worship Commission

Ash Wednesday will be observed with a short service on Wednesday March 1. They will put together a committee for the Eden Retreat Weekend at Camp Mennoscah. They have talked about joining West Zion for the retreat. Some new microphone stands have been purchased.

Pastor Dianne

She has met most of the Pine Village residents. Her main priorities are worship and visitation. She has been working on the worship services for Lent.

Pastor Derek

He attended the AVDS weekend at Hesston College that focused on trauma, abuse and non-violence.

Holy Week Services will be at West Zion on Sunday and Monday. The subject will be how the cross speaks to trauma.

There seemed to be a lot of energy for the fact that we dedicated 5 babies on one Sunday.

Office Remodel

The trustees needed to move very quickly to get a person in place to manage the construction and the volunteers. Larry Kaufman was hired to fill this role. He had been overseeing it on a volunteer basis, but now will be paid \$22.00 an hour and will only be there when he is needed. Bill Zerger is the overall contractor.

Constitution Review

No progress.

Conference Delegates

ELT is responsible for finding delegates. For MC USA we will need 4 and for WDC we will need 12. ELT should promote the conference. Kyle will start recruiting delegates. March 28 is the end of early registration for MC USA.

There's more →→→

Leadership Retreat Review

The Pastors were thanked for organizing the retreat. It was a very good day. Appreciation was expressed for how the activities made it easy to see how the Commissions overlapped and affected other Commissions.

The Trustee Commission has revised the church usage agreement. The biggest change is that there are no charges for the use of the building. People who want to use the building need to fill out a form with contact information, and the date and time they want to use it. If use of the sound/video system or kitchen is needed, those church members will fill those roles on a voluntary basis according to the availability of those persons. The policy will include a liability clause, as well as a no smoking or alcohol allowed on the premises clause. It will also include a statement saying if they would like to contribute for use of the building there will be someone to talk to about that. Gary Regier will bring the policy to ELT next month and it will be reviewed at that time.

Devotions next month - Brenda Dalke

Next meeting March 27, 2017 at the church.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

JoLene Kaufman, Secretary



Interested in worshipping with our wider church?

The Mennonite Church USA Convention and Western District Conference Annual Assemblies are right around the corner! These events are a great way to connect with our brothers and sisters, stay up to date on information from around the world, and praise God for our many blessings. The MC USA Convention is July 4-8 in Orlando, FL; and the WDC Annual Assembly is August 4-6 in Arlington, TX. In addition, our congregation is looking to fill a certain number of delegates for both events. For each delegate, Eden Leadership Team will pay for registration and a portion of travel expenses. To register for the event, visit the associated MC USA or WDC website. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please contact Kyle Neufeld for more information.

As spring buds and temperatures rise, it's fun to get outside and walk. Walking is great for both body and mind. "To solve a problem, walk around," advised St. Jerome. Naturalist Henry David Thoreau agreed, saying, "The moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow." Indeed, walking has been linked to improved creativity and reduced anxiety.

Some Bible versions translate Ephesians 5:8 "Live as children of light," while others use "walk": "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (NKJV). What a great rendering! Living is something we often do passively and without much thought, while walking is an intentional, active pursuit; we must choose when, where and how we do it.

Now that we're children of light — newly alive spring-time people, Easter people! — Jesus urges us to not just live the faith but to walk it. When our faith becomes active, new thoughts flow, anxiety decreases and we make strides in our relationship with Jesus.

—Heidi Mann



Invitation to Share

The "invitation to share" project for the month of March is Health Kits: 1 toothbrush, (adult size, leave in wrapper), 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (6 oz leave in box.) 1 bar soap, 1 fingernail clipper, 1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color). Place contents in a fabric double drawstring bag, 11" x 16".

If you would like to support this project you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line and mail it to Eden at P.O. Box 406, Moundridge, KS 67107.

Hello Church Family!

Here is an update about my experience here in Rwanda thus far.

Growing up in the Midwest one of the big adjustments I have made in Rwanda is getting used to the terrain here in the land of a thousand hills. I did not arrive in hill shape. Fortunately, I am finally growing used to walking up steep hills, and I have learned it's worth the effort to see the beautiful views that the heights have to offer.

I have experienced many other challenges of cross-cultural immersion including the discomfort of being the other, the language barrier, and adjusting to new food. However, I have also experienced many joys. I have settled into life with my host family and feel so blessed to be able to live with such a generous family while I am in Kigali. I am also blessed to have a fellow SALTER, Annika Bolter, here with me to share in my experiences. In the mornings Annika and I have Kinyarwanda class. I am making slow progress with the language, but I am also learning so much about the culture of Rwanda and we are making a good friend in our teacher, Jean-Baptiste. In the afternoons we travel to our work assignments.

I am thrilled to be working with MCC's partner organization, Transformational Leadership Center or TLC, at the Kigali Children's Peace Library in Kicurkiro. I am passionate about libraries, and it brings me joy to be around children who love to read as much as I do. I am happy to encourage them in building a culture of reading and help them improve their English literacy skills. In the weeks to come, the library is looking into adopting some new library practices that will allow them to improve record keeping, book classification, and patron relations. They are also excited to begin peer mediation trainings in February. I am looking forward to assisting as I can.

I have much to be thankful for here in my new home, and while some parts of my first cross-cultural experience are still a struggle, kind of like trudging up one of Rwanda's steep hills, with each step of the journey the view gets better, and I am excited to see what the rest of my year has to offer.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support!

Love,
Renaë



Eden Church Family,

I wanted to update you that I decided to transition from Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) to a new career opportunity. I believe strongly in commitment and the commitment I made to take part in MVS in Puerto Rico which is why this was a challenging decision that required a great deal of reflection and discernment.

I struggled for most of my time to find value in my work and reasonable quality of life with the feeling of limited local MVS support and evolving expectations. I gave significant effort to overcome numerous challenges, but ultimately felt my time and energy will be best spent elsewhere. I was fortunate to secure employment in northeast Indiana towards the end of January. I have moved to Valparaiso, Indiana and just started a sales position with a national graphics company.

I want to thank my Eden church family for supporting me and making my time with MVS and in Puerto Rico possible. You will all be missed very much. I am also grateful for the opportunity MVS provided and the wonderful friends I met in Puerto Rico. My service to God and to the Mennonite church is not ending, but changing and I know God has much more is in store for my life.

Katie Gillmore



During remodeling of church office we decided to remove the safe that was located there. It is an antique Mosley-Bachman & Co. It is in workable condition, but very heavy! We are making this available to church members first. Please make offers to any of the church trustees.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the loving care shown to our family during Anne and Milo's final months and after they passed away. We appreciate so much the thoughts and prayers, cards, phone calls, handshakes, hugs, food, paper goods, and contributions to Pine Village and MCC in their memory. Thanks also to all who contributed to make the memorial services times of worship, healing, and fellowship and to Pastor Derek and Pastor Dianne for their wonderful support.

The family of Anne and Milo Schrag

A Big Thank You to the Eden Church family for all the words of concern and comfort during Mark's extended illness these past 4 months. A special thank you to Pastor Derek and Pastor Diane for their visits and prayers. As Mark continues to receive continuous IV Therapy and Rehab for the next 6 weeks at Schowalter Villa, we ask for continued prayers for his recovery and patience as he heals. Visitors are welcome. We are very blessed to be surrounded with such caring people. Thank you! Mark and Pat Rupp

As staff of Mennonite Church USA's Executive Board, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your congregation's financial support. Our records show that you are among the 25 congregations who gave most generously for our work this past year. We express our thanks in the words of the Apostle Paul: "Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else," (II Cor. 9:12-13). May God bless you abundantly.

Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director

Your support is helping me to continue my studies at AMBS. Looking at the situation in my country these days, I was urged to study in the peace and justice program, for which we have limited resources in my country. After my graduation, I plan to go back to Nigeria to do the work of peacemaking, justice and reconciliation. Thank you for your generous contributions!

Hassan Dicks

Kisanchi, Nigeria, first-year MAPS student

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service. Many begin the New Year hoping for a fresh start. Your gift is providing that fresh start for disaster survivors like Larry Defeyer of Calaveras County, CA. Larry found himself losing hope that his house would be rebuilt after it was damaged by the wildfires that struck California in 2015. Larry and his wife were facing zoning and insurance obstacles at the

county inspector's office when MDS volunteers overheard their difficulty. The volunteers asked for Larry's address to see if he was on the MDS client list. "No, I'm not on your list. I'm not on anybody's list," said Larry. Together, they discovered Larry was indeed on the list and scheduled to get a new house. Surprised by the news, Larry responded, "I could hug you!"

Your generosity makes moments like these possible. MDS is busy this winter season with hundreds of volunteers responding to fires and floods in places like California, Texas, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Louisiana. Thank you for helping our volunteers bring joy and hope! I also heard great reports of some of your members going to San Antonio, Texas. Well done!!

With gratitude,

Kevin King, Executive Director



Milo Schrag (93) passed away on Monday, February 20. Services were held at Eden on Friday, February 24. We extend our sympathy to his sons Jerry and wife Linda, and Robert and wife Marcy, and all of his extended family.

Leonard Graber is now at home at Pine Village, 805B Sunflower Lane.



Bethel College seeks a person for a three-quarter-time position as alumni administrative assistant and institutional researcher. Candidate must have strong interpersonal and communication skills, experience in Word and Excel, comfort using social media, proven accuracy in data entry and reporting, affinity for complex database management, interest in event planning, and familiarity with Bethel constituency, and must be able to maintain confidentiality. Details at www.bethelks.edu/why-bethel/people/career-opportunities/. AA/EOE



Daylight Saving Time begins March 12. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below. Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z _____

A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,

because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1- May Juhnke
Terri Neufeld
David Schrag
Emma Schrag (Peter & Debra)
Michael Stucky</p> <p>2- Virginia Kaufman
Joshua Zerger (Greg & Jackie)
Tillie Zerger</p> <p>3- Anton Klassen</p> <p>4- Clarence Goering
Cory Graber
Carol Lichti
Douglas Waltner</p> <p>5- Lonnie E. Schrag
Marike Stucky
Dianne Schmidt
Dennis Wedel</p> <p>6- Grant McGinness (Paul & Claudia)
Glenna Schrag
Wanita Schrag</p> <p>7- Kale Arnold (Todd & Sandy)
Claudia McGinness</p> <p>8- Waneta Goering</p> <p>9- Matt Harmon
Emily Knight
Venita Patchin
Gail Stucky</p> <p>10- Steven W. Schrag
Sara Hocking</p> <p>11- Doug Stucky</p> <p>12- Janice Graber
Marge Kaufman</p> <p>13- Roland Kaufman
Jessica Neufeld
Brian Schrag
Boston Smith (Ian & Shayna)
Wayne Waltner
Addison Westfall (Jacob & Tonya)</p> <p>14- Ren Flickinger</p> <p>15- Kathy Flickinger
Ty Unrau</p> | <p>16- RJ Clark (Becky Clark)
James Neufeld
Jeff Snyder</p> <p>17- Gary Schrag</p> <p>18- Zachary Graber
Karen Kaufman
Shelly Krehbiel</p> <p>19- Patty Clark</p> <p>20- Matthew Thiesen</p> <p>21- Daniel Graber
Elaina Graber (Nathan & Krista)
Nathaniel Graber
Sawyer Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)
Marcy Schrag</p> <p>22- Alexa Hoffmann (Phil & Kristy)
Herb Stucky, Jr.
John Elmer Stucky</p> <p>23- Whitney Fast</p> <p>24- Ezra Gehring (Don & Robin)
Jake Krehbiel</p> <p>25- Ashton Goering (Blair & Kelly)
Robert K. Stucky
Erika Zahn</p> <p>26- Marcia Hiebert
Lynn Kaufman
Sandra Koontz
Cole Stucky</p> <p>27- Zachary Roberson (Steve & Robyn)
Taylor Sechrist
Delbert Stucky
Wes Stucky</p> <p>28- Larry D. Goering
Patricia Mead</p> <p>29- Lachlan Goering (Patrick & Jennifer)
Marvin J. Goering
Morgan Kaufman
Clinton Krehbiel</p> <p>31- Dylan Juhnke (Vaughn & Dee)
Richard L. Stucky</p> |
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If there has been an omission or mistaken date please notify the church office.



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|---|--|
| <p>1- Derrick & Laura Law
Alan & Tina Waltner</p> <p>2- Merlin & Lisa Goering
Jake & Sandra Krehbiel
Morris & Diana Stucky</p> <p>4- Nelson & Joan Goering</p> <p>7- Paul & Claudia McGinness</p> <p>8- Duane & LaDonna Wedel</p> <p>16- Dick & Kaylene Gehring</p> <p>19- Daniel & Annette Knoll</p> | <p>20- Robert & DeLonna Barnett</p> <p>21- Perry & Betty Kaufman
Paul & Sherri Marsh
Russell & Lynelle Stucky</p> <p>24- Duane & Carol Stucky</p> <p>27- Wayne & Laurie Schrag</p> <p>28- Todd & Sandy Arnold</p> <p>29- Keith & Connie Schrag</p> <p>30- Larry & Betty Krehbiel</p> <p>31- Orville & Mary Ann Waltner</p> |
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Up-Coming Events

- Mar 1:** Ash Wednesday
 6:00 p.m. Meal served in fellowship hall
 6:45 p.m. Activities for children; Ash Wednesday service for adults
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
- Mar 4:** 6:30 p.m. Eden Game night at Pine Village
- Mar 5:** Tolles and MVS share during SS hour
- Mar 6:** 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
- Mar 7:** Mary Martha all day meeting
- Mar 8:** 6:00 p.m. Meal served in fellowship hall
 6:45 p.m. Service Project
 7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
- Mar 12:** Daylight Saving Time begins
- Mar 14:** 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Commission meeting
 7:00 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission meeting
- Mar 15:** 7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
- Mar 22:** No Choir Rehearsal
- Mar 27:** 7:00 p.m. ELT meeting at church
- Mar 29:** 7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus

March 2017						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	



April 2017						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



Address Services Requested