# **EDEN ECHOES**

## November 2019 Issue Vol. 51 No. 9

www.edenmennonite.org

Moundridge, Kansas

Mennonite Church



### Inward & Outward Journey of Faith

In the early 1950's Gordon Cosby along with several others started meeting as a group of believers who were committed to taking seriously the teachings of Jesus. This small group became the beginning of the Church of the Savior in the city of Washington D.C. In 1976, with 120 core mem-

bers, the church intentionally divided into 6 (now 8) worshiping communities, each with its own call, leadership, and cluster of mission groups. From these groups many minis-

tries have developed. At the center of their life is the commitment to both the inward and outward journey of faith for individuals and for their communities.

At Church of the Savior, the inward journey is not simply a solitary devotional path but a combination of spiritual practices. Daily study and prayer along with times away for spiritual retreat are encouraged. The inward journey is not only centering prayer and listening for God, it is also a journey of self-knowledge and restraint, of surrender and courage for non-violent action.

"The one journey that ultimately matters," Gordon wrote, "is the journey into the place of stillness deep within one's self. To reach that place is to be at home; to fail to reach it is to be forever restless. In contemplation we catch a vision of not only what is, *but* what can be. Contrary to what we have thought, contemplatives are the great doers." Which leads to the outward journey.

At Church of the Savior, expressions of the outward journey are varied and multifaceted as different worshiping communities discern their particular calling of servanthood. These communities are involved in many different ministries in the city. Here are examples of a few of their ministries to a hurting world: care for homeless families and vulnerable children, places for conversations about linking faith with ecology, development of local gardens, establishing a medical clinic, operating a place of hospitality and spiritual retreat.

We all need both an inward and outward journey in our lives of faith. Some of us in the busyness of doing many good works of service forget the importance of nurturing our inner life with God. So then our acts can become duties and obligations rather than flowing out from within us in deep love and compassion. Some of us find great delight in reading scripture and praying but don't allow it to move us to reach out beyond ourselves in acts of love to others. Contemplation and action work together for rich lives of faith.

I invite each of us to take time to nourish our inward and outward journey of faith. Here are a few suggestions to spark your own creative ideas.

Nourish your inward journey

- Come to worship.
- Join a discipleship group.
- Try a new spiritual practice.
- Take a weekly walk in nature.
- Plan a spiritual retreat day.

There's more  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ 

In This IssueAnniversaries7Announcements2Birthdays7Immigration Detainee Kits 4Invitation to Share3Just For Kids6Thank you notes5

8

Thank you notes Up-coming Events Nourish your outward journey.

- Volunteer for an organization who helps those in poverty.
- Sew and/or knot a comforter for MCC.
- Invite your neighbor for supper.
- Donate blood.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes, "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." (Eph. 4:1) May we indeed live fully into our inward and outward journey in gratitude for all that God has given to us.

### Díanne

### The Eden Leadership Team met on Monday, October 14, at the Eden Church Office.

Members present: Jay Goering, Barbara Stucky, Berni Kaufman, Ken

Stucky, Pastor Derek King, Jerry Lankford, Becky Koller, Josh Regier, Jerri Kaufman, Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Marcia Goering, Austin Goering, and Candy Unrau. Vance Unrau was also present representing SCRT.

Jay lit a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. The group read Eden's Mission and Vision statements in unison.

**Devotions:** Scripture was read from Acts 3:19-21 in Lectio Divina format. Jay led in prayer.

Minutes from the September 9, 2019 ELT meeting were approved as submitted.

**Budget report:** Austin reported income to date of \$325,000 and expenses of \$334,000. While this is encouraging that we have a deficit of \$9,000 compared to a much larger deficit at this time last year, this does not figure in payroll for this month. We were also reminded that we gave one-fourth of the usual donations to our mission recipients the end of August.

### **Commission and Pastors' reports**

**Peace and Witness:** Jerri reported that they are working on presenting a project for our congregation to provide detainee care kits this Christmas season. Last year we collected items for infant care kits. There will be information in the bulletin soon on this process. At this time, they have no more baby showers planned for refugee families. Kendra, who had been their contact person, has taken a new position with Peace Connections in Newton.

**Education and Discipleship:** Marcia reports that all needed teachers have been secured for the Junior Sunday school department. Also, all slots have been filled with volunteers to serve the Wednesday evening meals. Their commission is planning to meet later this week.

**Worship:** Berni reported that they are discerning whether our congregation should consider purchasing the new Voices Together hymnals. They discussed possible ways of funding this project outside of the unified budget. They estimate that it would take 400 books to fill the pew racks at an estimated cost of \$9,500. It was discussed that perhaps we should consider buying fewer books (for a smaller attendance) and keep them on a cart to pick up on the way into church. They have also been working on preparations for Advent. **Deacons:** Barbara reports they have been working on the safe church policy to care for offenders and survivors of sexual abuse. When they are finished, they will bring the policy to the ELT for approval. They plan to hold some open meetings during the Sunday school hour for further discussion. They are looking for an individual to take over the purchase and delivery of bereavement packages. They continue to work on schedules for visitations.

**Stewardship:** Ken reports that they have done extensive work on the 2020 Unified Budget. They plan to meet again October 29, 2019.

**Trustees:** Keith Albrecht turned in a written report that the last project the trustees have planned for this year is to replace window sashes in several of the classrooms in the southwest corner of the church. The materials have arrived and they plan to finish this project within the next few weeks.

**Pastor Dianne:** She reports that her recent vacation was a time of refreshment. The church picnic was a good time of fellowship. The Wednesday night adult study on Ephesians has been well attended. Joe Sawatzky will be the speaker for November 17, 2019 Mission Sunday. We will be meeting jointly at Eden with West Zion and First Mennonite of Christian. Joe will also speak to the adults during the Sunday school hour.

**Pastor Derek:** He reports that the Stewardship Sundays went well. The three breakout sessions had good attendance and energy. The memorial service for Brian Davis was a meaningful time. Jon and Theresa Wiggins donated services and the Mary Martha Circle donated food for the fellowship time. The afternoon was a blessing and a wonderful witness to Brian's family. FEWZ youth group meetings are going well. They are a small group, but they have high energy with a desire to focus deeper into issues. Derek has been listening to a three-part Webinar series on "Putting Jesus on the Ballot" which takes a look at how Anabaptist theology and faith can relate to political systems. The congregation will be invited by mass text to attend the  $2^{nd}$  part October 15 at the church office.

**Unified Budget for 2020.** Ken reported that the stewardship commission has been working on some new budget options. This is in response to the church's history of shortfall for several years. We have had to dip into reserves to meet expenses and giving obligations. He handed out a working document with proposed budget cuts that would potentially save over \$48,000. There was discussion about how the unified budget is designed and how to encourage our congregation members to tithe to the unified budget.

# Pastor Derek and Pastor Dianne were excused for the evening.

**Pastor Derek and Pastor Dianne Renewal of terms** and voting date. Jay shared that that both pastors' terms expire December 31, 2019. Due to the stipulation in our constitution that two-month advance notice is required for change in employment, a vote will be planned for the last Sunday in October. Vance reported that the SCRT met with the pastors and their families. While there had been a suggestion to vary the contract terms of the two pastors, the pastors expressed a wish to have their terms end at the same time. Pastor Dianne has requested to take a 3-month sabbatical mid-May to mid-August, 2020, after which she requests to serve the congregation full time. She has currently been serving 85% time due to her continued seminary education. She will complete her seminary classes in May, 2020. Pastor Derek has requested an extra week of vacation per year (from three weeks to four weeks.) They will continue to use the language of Lead Pastor for Pastor Derek, and Associate Pastor for Pastor Dianne. The SCRT will continue to follow MC USA conference guidelines for creating their individual memos of understanding. There was discussion on possible coverage for Dianne's proposed sabbatical and discussion of budgetary concerns for pastoral staff. There was appreciation and gratitude expressed for the excellent pastoral team of Pastor Derek and Pastor Dianne for leadership of the Eden Mennonite Church.

Next meeting will be November 11, 2019 at the Eden Church office at 7 pm. Candace Unrau, Secretary



We choose not to print addresses of our members online. If you are looking for an address, please call the church office.



The project for the month of October is a Cash Offering.

If you would like to support this project financially you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line and mail it to P.O. Box 406, or take it to the Eden Church Office at 109 E. Hirschler, Moundridge, KS 67107.



Join us November 17th for Mission Sunday. This is an opportunity to worship, learn, and fellowship together with our sister churches. Eden will host First Mennonite of Christian and West Zion as we hear from Joe Sawatzky, Mennonite Mission Network. We will also fellowship together around the dinner table, at a fundraiser meal served by the joint youth group. Worship begins at 9:30a.m.



Joe began to work with Mennonite Mission Network as a Church Relations representative in September 2015. Prior to this, he served with his wife, Anna, through Mission Network in South Africa, working in the areas

of biblical education and leadership development for members of African Initiated Churches.

He's passionate about communicating the good news of Jesus Christ and building relationships within the church. In his current role, he will continue to encourage, educate and connect people for the purpose of God's mission in the world.

Based on his gifts, experience and education, he is prepared to engage the church on a variety of topics related to the Bible and mission. He feels most at home in the study and proclamation of the Scriptures.

He and his wife Anna live in Goshen, Indiana, and have four sons, Isaac, Moses, Levi and Jesse.



# Caring for Strangers Through New Kits and Partnerships

# Immigration detainee care kits give dignity & show Christ's love

For nearly 100 years, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has been walking alongside and offering relief to those who are hungry, without clothing or water. MCC is actively working to support people who are seeking a safer, better life for themselves and their families by migrating to the U.S.

In Matthew 25:31-45, Jesus commands that we care for the hungry, thirsty, strangers, those without clothes or in prison. MCC is following that command by collecting and distributing immigration detainee care kits and partnering with organizations like the South Texas Human Rights Center in Falfurrias, Texas.

A Christmas project this year for the Peace and Witness Commission will be gathering supplies for these detainee care kits. Duffle bags and backpacks will be provided and located under the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall ready for donations. If you would like to complete a whole kit that is fine—single items are fine too. Items will be gathered through November and December.

When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they transition into life outside the detention center.

### CLOTHING

Please compile packs sizes small, medium or large for both men and women.

 $\sim$  1 jogging suit (new, sweatpants and sweatshirt; can be purchased as separate items)

- $\sim 1$  t-shirt (new, crew or v-neck)
- $\sim 1$  pair of socks (new)
- $\sim 1$  pair of underwear (new)

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

 $\sim$  1 pair of shoelaces (outdoor or sport style; any color)

- $\sim 1$  pen (black)
- ~ 1 small notebook

### **HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

- $\sim 1$  washcloth
- $\sim 1$  bath towel
- ~ 1 adult-sized toothbrush (new; in package)
- $\sim$  1 small toothpaste (2.7-3.5 oz.)
- ~ 1 package bath wipes (pre-moistened soft wipes)
- ~ 1 razor (disposable)
- $\sim$  1 small shaving cream (2-3 oz.)
- $\sim 1 \text{ comb}$  (wide-tooth)
- $\sim$  1 small deodorant (2-3 oz.)
- $\sim$  1 small body lotion (2-3 oz.)

#### For female packs only

 $\sim$  sanitary napkins (18-24 count; ultra-thin)

For more information go to mcc.org/immigrationkit

Please limit donations to these NEW items. Items for kits will be taken to MCC in North Newton and assembled there. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Peace and Witness Commission.





We want to thank you for all the ways you showed us comfort and love during mom's last days and after her passing. Also thank you for all the cards, food, expressions of sympathy. And also to all those who had a part in the service: Men's Chorus, Pastors, Sound and video persons and also to the food committee. It was a nice celebration of her life. It is so comforting to have a church family who cares so much about each other.

Bob and JoLene Kaufman Matt and Angie Harmon Stacy and Tonya Kaufman and family



Complete the first of Jesus' "beatitudes" correctly: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for ..."

- A. they shall be comforted.
- B. theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- C. they shall inherit the earth.
- D. they shall see God.

Answer: B (See Matthew 5:3.)

#### **Special Dates**

- November 1: All Saints Day
- November 3: Daylight Saving Time ends
- November 24: Christ the King Sunday
- November 28: Thanksgiving





#### **Thanksgiving Beatitudes**

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

~Author unknown



Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2. Daylight Saving Time ends November 3.



**The Generosity Cycle** 

God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ...God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous.

-Rick Warren (based on 2 Corinthians 9:11)

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving. What you need: • M&M's or other colored candies • A bowl • The list below (adapt the colors, as needed) **Red:** a need God has provided for **Orange:** a gift you've received Yellow: something you've recently learned **Green:** something in nature **Blue:** a special memory Brown: someone you love What you do: 1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color). 2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all

the candy is gone!



1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses;



- 3- Madison Krehbiel (Clinton & Shelly) Harvey Jon Stucky
- 4- Carla Shilts
- 5- Bailey Graber (Travis & Penny) Allen Bonde
- 6- Joseph Schrag (Darrell & Bobbi) Keith Schrag Russell Stucky
- 7- Rashell Kaufman Ashley Schrag (Bruce & Kelly)
- 8- Kay Burgan Maynard Krehbiel
- 9- Kacy Anderson (David & Joyce) 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 D. Schrag Lvnette Alshanski
- 14- Evelyn Harms Alan Neufeld Pam Mandeen
- 15- Trey Unrau
- 16- Kelly Stucky
- 17- Ron L. Krehbiel

- 18-**Bob Kaufman**
- 19-Floyd Flickinger
- 21-Karsyn Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan) Robert Tolle
- 22- Cecilia Goering 24- Sharon Durst
  - Daniel Schrag Leslie Thiessen
- 25- Wayne Ensz
- 27- Fynn Burge (Rondell & Rachel) LaVerne Flickinger Arielle Zerger
- 28- Norma Bevitt Myron B. Goering
- 29- Cindy Bartell June Graber JoLene Kaufman Kelly Hayes Lou Ann Lichti Kevin Stucky
- 30- Doris Flickner Beth Goering Daryl Griffin Merlyn Johnson



- 1- Leland & Leona Goering Byron & DeLonna Lehman
- 2- Glenn & Lynette Suderman
- 3- Ron & Renetta Stucky
- 13- Mark & Joyce Vogts
- 18- Gerry & Wanita Schrag
- 19- Tyler & Kristen Stucky
- 23-Anton & Patsy Klassen Delbert & Barbara Stucky
- 24-Jerry & Kathy Neufeld
- 25- Gary & Jean Regier
- Bruce & Pat Stucky
- 28-Ron & Nancy Krehbiel
- 29- Lonnie & Jean Schrag

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

### **Up-Coming Events**

November 4:	6:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors meeting
November 5:	7:00 p.m. Worship Commission meeting
November 6:	6:00 p.m. Supper served
	6:45 p.m. Game Night
	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
November 11:	7:00 p.m. ELT meets at Eden Church Office
November 13:	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
November 17:	Mission Sunday at Eden
November 20:	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
November 28:	Thanksgiving – Eden Church Office Closed
November 29:	Eden Church Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

November 2019								
S	М	Т	w	т	F	s		
					1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	4 11 18 25	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		



December 2019								
S	М	т	W	Т	F	S		
1	2							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
	30							



Address Services Requested