



# Memo

## September 2007

### **A Word from Dorothy Speaking truth to power**

This week, I traveled to Emporia with Keith Harder of MC USA and Karl Sommers of MMA to testify about the health care needs in Kansas. I received an invitation from the Kansas Health Policy Authority, which coordinates a statewide healthy policy agenda, to present Mennonite perspectives about health care reform. At first I was modest. "Who me? I'm just a conference minister and I don't pretend to know what Mennonites think." But I quickly recovered myself and thought, "You bet! I'm there." I hung up the phone, gathered my thoughts and began phoning friends to accompany me. Keith and Karl came through. We offered constructive options (pay attention to children and their families, think about churches as small business that are struggling with high premiums, give more transparency to the actual costs of health care) and then stated our views that the health care crisis is a moral and spiritual matter--not just a financial, legal, or business venture that needs tweaking.

It was astounding to hear the response of the six people who interviewed us. They lit up! They said that no one else was speaking from that point of view. They were tired of the blaming they had heard from other voices--It's the insurance companies' fault! It's the drug companies! It's people who refuse to take care of themselves! (Of course, there's some truth in those statements from my point of view.) They were impressed with the health care study that MC USA had put together (and we left copies with them) and with the public policy advocacy guide put together after Charlotte 2005. They were thrilled to hear about the health care summit planned by WDC and its congregations to talk about these issues. In short, they listened.

I found my voice and spoke truth to power. I promised to continue the advocacy work regarding health care access and I promised that WDC would keep raising this issue. In the meantime, I urge all of our congregations to face the access to affordable health insurance with creative and thoughtful discussion--and then speak up! At least in Kansas, there is hope of reform.

*---Dorothy Nickel Friesen*

*Western District Conference empowers its Anabaptist/Mennonite congregations to:*

- *Witness and invite others to faith in Jesus Christ,*
- *Dwell in just and loving relationships,*
- *Connect to God's mission in the world.*

### **May prayer be our fortress**

Summer is often a time for family reunions. My extended family recently gathered for such an event. In preparation, I compiled a 60-page heritage scrapbook. I was blessed to put the pieces of stories and pictures together and connect more personally with past generations. I was reminded how faith in God sustained them through many challenges. I also came across a poem tucked in with some old photos.

#### **When We Have Faith**

When courage is our partner  
 And when patience is our friend,  
 When fairness is our motive  
 And we're faithful to the end;  
 When prayer is our fortress  
 And clean habits are our style,  
 When giving is our trademark  
 And we go the second mile,  
 When fears and troubles haunt us  
 And misfortune comes along,  
 We truly can be joyful  
 When our faith in God is strong.

*(Author unknown.)*

As we move forward with Vision 2012, may we have faith and may prayer be our fortress.

*---Debbie Thimm, Vision 2012 prayer partner*

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***Please include announcements from this Memo in your bulletins and newsletters. You are encouraged to copy and distribute the entire Memo in your churches.***

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### **WDC prayer reminders**

**Sept. 2** - Give thanks for Turpin (OK) Mennonite Church as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

**Sept. 9** - Pray for Hallie Cable as she is installed for her first pastoral call as youth pastor at Kingman (KS) Mennonite Church.

**Sept. 16** - Pray for Nathan Koontz as he is installed as Youth Pastor at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS and for Mike Bogard as he is installed as Associate Pastor with Youth Emphasis at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS.

**Sept. 23** - Pray for Katherine Goerzen as she is installed in her first pastoral call as youth pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS. Pray for Miles Reimer as he is ordained at First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS.

**Sept. 30** - Pray for the discussions about planting a Spanish-speaking Mennonite church in the Newton area.

### **Pastoral openings**

*(Congregational Information Forms completed & available):*

**Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS** - associate pastor for youth pastor (half-time)

**Buhler (KS) Mennonite Church and Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church, Inman, KS** - associate pastor (full-time)

**Houston (TX) Mennonite Church** - pastor (full-time)

**Inman (KS) Mennonite Church** - pastor (pending CIF)

**Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, TX** - pastor (pending CIF)

### **Transitions**

**Norman Berry** began as Pastor and **James Branum** as Minister of Peace and Justice at Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City, OK on August 1.

**Mike Bogard** will be full-time Associate Pastor with youth emphasis at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, beginning September 1.

Congratulations to **Hallie Cable**, Youth Pastor at Kingman (KS) Mennonite Church, and her husband Amos, on the birth of their daughter, Bryleigh, on June 28.

**Dick Davis** has resigned as Pastor at Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, TX, effective December 31. He is anticipating a one-half time church planting assignment in addition to his one-half time job with Mennonite Mission Network.

**LeNora Duerksen** began August 1 as Coordinator of Senior Ministries at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS.

**Linda Ewert** was installed as full-time Associate Pastor for Visitation and Christian Formation on July 8 at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS.

**Jerry Kaiser**, pastor at Inman (KS) Mennonite Church has resigned effective November 4. He will become Pastor at First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID on December 1.

**Muriel Kaufman Graber** will be ¾-time Pastor at Beatrice (NE) Mennonite Church beginning September 1 after serving as interim pastor during the past year.

**Marco Guete**, WDC Associate Conference Minister, will be on sabbatical from September 1 through October 15. Part of this time will be spent in Colombia, South America.

**Justin Hiebert** was installed as Interim Youth Pastor for Trinity and First Mennonite Churches in Hillsboro, KS on July 15.

Best wishes to **Sarah Klaassen**, who completed a nine-week internship at WDC on August 17. She has returned to Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN.

**Orlan Koehn** was installed as Intentional Interim Pastor at Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS, on July 15.

Resource Commission member, **Adam Robb**, proved his WDC loyalty by proposing marriage to Jill Swenson (lifeguard) in the swimming pool at Camp Mennoscah this summer. Congratulations!

**John and Carolyn Voth** celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 5 at Eden Mennonite Church in Inola, OK. John is a retired pastor, having served Mennonite churches in Delft, MN, Meno and Inola, OK.

**Nita Wilson** begins a one-year church planter internship with Marco Güete in Dallas in September.

### **Financial update**

**As of August 15**, WDC has received \$164,846 (35%) towards its 2007 annual budget of \$472,300. The Vision 2012 capital campaign's total is \$691,945 (3-year goal of \$1,500,000).

### **Gather 'Round Refresher Workshop Scheduled**

A Gather 'Round Refresher Workshop will be held at First Mennonite, Halstead, KS on **September 23**, from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. This will be an interactive training session on the Gather 'Round curriculum led by WDC Minister of Christian Nurture Marlene Bogard. This can serve as an introduction for those who are new to the curriculum or as a refresher. Bring your Fall, 2007 Gather 'Round curriculum. Cost: \$5.00 per person. Register by calling WDC offices, 316-283-6300 or emailing [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org).

## Check It Out

The **August issue** of the Check It Out newsletter from the Conference Resource Library features ideas for adult Sunday school and small group study. Discover 19 book and DVD resources that will enable your adult study group to dig a bit deeper into faith conversations.

The **September issue** of Check It Out features resources on digging deeper into the Bible. Read books by Mennonite writers and theologians or find some helpful insights on the Sermon on the Mount from other streams of faith. Call or email the library to reserve a copy for preview: 316-283-6300/[crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org).

You may also view these newsletters on the Resource Library page at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org).

--Marlene Bogard, Resource Library Director

## Communication skills seminar

**Zion Mennonite Church**, Whitewater, KS, is sponsoring and hosting a seminar: "Communication Skills to Enhance Personal, Family and Congregational Life" on **September 29**. Presenter will be Dr. Nathan Regier, Ph.D., Vice President of Prairie View Process Solutions. This seminar will explore patterns of communication. Attention will be given to developing effective patterns of communication to grow through the three levels of spiritual maturity: loving ourselves and the people closest to us, loving our neighbors, and loving our enemies. Registration deadline: September 7. Suggested price is \$60. For information, call 316-799-2071 or [zion@iwichita.com](mailto:zion@iwichita.com).

## Health Care Summit

**DID YOU KNOW?** More than 50% of personal bankruptcies are related to healthcare costs.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Healthcare access and affordability is a moral issue: *Jesus said, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."* (Matt. 25:34-36). Healthcare is a business issue: *Productivity and public cost lost to under and un-insured is higher than basic coverage for the uninsured.* Healthcare is an ethical question: *A society may be judged by how well it cares for its weakest members.*

**DID YOU KNOW?** **You** have a voice! Find it at **Healthcare Summit: Finding Our Voice** on Saturday, **September 15** at Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church. For more information and/or to register check your church bulletin board or go to [www.viewofhope.org](http://www.viewofhope.org) or call 620-585-6733. Registration deadline is September 2.

## Work and Play Camp

Need to get away and play? Come to Camp Mennoscah for the annual **Work and Play Camp September 16-20**. Work together on projects, Floyd Bartel will lead Bible Study and special presenter will be Paul Jantzen of Hillsboro, KS. Brochures available at

your church or contact Camp Mennoscah: 620-297-3290, [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org)

## Marriage Enrichment weekend for pastors/spouses

Pastors, take some time for you and your spouse to relax, communicate and spend time enriching your marriage **September 28 (7 p.m.) through 30 (1 p.m.)** at the Retreat Center at Camp Mennoscah. There is still space for couples who can commit to attending the entire weekend. Marlene Bogard, WDC Minister of Christian Nurture will be the facilitator / presenter for the weekend. She has received certification in Christian Prevention and Relationship Enhancement training, which focuses on maximizing the strengths of marriage, communication, and yes, fun! (Funds are available of \$100 stipend per church to pay for pulpit supply.) **A registration fee of \$100 per couple** includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals and quality time with your honey in the cozy atmosphere of camp! Reservations are due by **September 18** by contacting Nancy Funk at 316-283-6300. (Schowalter Foundation is generously supporting this project.)

## North American Young Adult Fellowship Retreat

"What is Missional Anyway"? The North American Young Adult Fellowship Retreat will address this question on **September 28-30** at Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, OR. Speakers: Rusty and Mary Lou Bonham. For information, contact Scott Hartman, [scott@mennoniteusa.org](mailto:scott@mennoniteusa.org); 574-523-3049. Registration is \$85 due by September 19.

## Country festival

**Eden Mennonite Church, Inola, OK**, will host their 5th Country Festival on **September 29**. The day begins with a pancake & sausage breakfast served from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. There will be activities for everyone including a State Qualifier Kiddy Pedal Pull for ages 4-12. An auction will begin at 9:30 a.m. featuring antiques, quilts and several handmade items. Various demonstrations will be featured throughout the day including antique wood-sawing, making apple butter and quilting. There will be a variety of food booths including ethnic foods such as zwieback, bierocks and peppernuts. Proceeds will go to Mennonite Central Committee Meat Canning, Short-Term Mission Fund, and Church Building Fund. Eden is located at 21905 East 600 Road -- 1½ miles south of Highway 412 on the Mayes/Rogers county line. For information call 918-543-2739.

### **Pastors' Day Apart**

“**Pastors and Money**” is the topic for the next Pastors' Day Apart on **October 4**, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. It will be sponsored by Western District Conference, South Central Conference, Southern District Conference-Mennonite Brethren, and Mennonite Mutual Aid. Registration deadline: September 27, \$25 registration fee. Registration brochures will be sent to pastors.

### **Anniversary**

**Peace Mennonite Church**, Aurora, CO, is celebrating their 20-year anniversary and dedicating their church building on **September 29-30**. In 1987 was their first gatherings in homes, in 1997 was their first worship in the current building, and in 2007, they have a \$300,000 project to complete the lower level and renovations. Sept. 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m. - open house with refreshments; 7:00 p.m. - dedication service for the building. September 30, 10:45 a.m. - worship service with 20 year anniversary celebration; 12:30 p.m. - meal following worship service. (303-340-1555)

### **Traveling Peace Trunk**

The Traveling Peace Trunk features dozens of resources for congregational learning, discussion and study for all ages. Plan a series on peace and conflict transformation, use a curriculum, learn some new ways of peacefully interacting, invite the community in for games and healthy interaction. **Reserve this trunk now** for a 6-8 week period by contacting Marlene Bogard, 316-283-6300.

### **Mennofolk on the Prairie Family Camp**

**October 12-14:** Bring your instruments, your voice, your ears, your dancing shoes and your camping spirit for a weekend of folk music and family fun. Both children and adults, musician and non-musician alike, will enjoy activities from jamming with other musicians, singing, and contra dancing, to traditional camp activities such as canoeing, fishing and swimming. Fees vary according to housing choice at **Camp Mennoscah**. Registrations are due by September 28. For information, contact [prairie@mennofolk.org](mailto:prairie@mennofolk.org).

### **Music Lending Library has new home!**

The Music Lending Library has a new home in the children's addition to the library. There is plenty of space to browse through anthems or play them on the keyboard. Choral directors and small music groups will be delighted at what they find. Come and check it out. A full listing of the contents are available at [www.mennowdc.org/MusicLibrary.html](http://www.mennowdc.org/MusicLibrary.html).

### **Anabaptist Vision & Discipleship Series Conference**

Politics pits people against each other - even Christians against Christians. Should Christians be involved in politics? Would Jesus belong to a political party? Can we talk with each other (and listen!) when we disagree? Come to Hesston College **October 19-21** for “Christian Ministry in a Red and Blue World.” Greg Boyd (well known speaker and author of the New York Times best seller *The Myth of a Christian Nation*), John D. Roth (Goshen College professor and popular speaker) and a host of workshop presenters will lead. Check the link on Hesston College website ([www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu)) to register.

### **Poverty**

“**What every individual should know about poverty**”, will be held at St. Mark United Methodist Church, 1525 North Lorraine, Wichita, KS on **October 20**, 10:00-3:00 (registration begins at 9:30). Cost is \$20 and \$15 for any additional registrations in the same envelope (includes lunch and workbook). Program will feature Bill Ehling, pastor, who has teamed with Dr. Ruby Payne in writing the book: *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty*. Governor Sebelius has been invited to share the “State of Kansas Children.” Register by sending contact information to Kansas Ecumenical Ministries, 1248 SW Buchanan St., Topeka, KS 66604, 785-272-9531 or [LK331@aol.com](mailto:LK331@aol.com). Make checks payable to Kansas Ecumenical Ministries, sponsor and coordinator of the event.

### **Spiritual Direction Offered**

Several AMBS students in the Newton / Wichita area are enrolled in a Spiritual Guidance seminar, learning the skills of offering spiritual direction. These students are looking for individuals who would like to have spiritual direction several times in the next year. To inquire about this free service, contact Nancy Funk at 316-283-6300 and leave your name and phone number. A student will return your call.

### **Seminary Sampler**

Seminary Sampler, **November 2**, at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN, is an opportunity for people interested in seminary study to meet faculty and students and learn more about study, financial aid and admission procedures. To register, go to [www.ambs.edu/Sampler](http://www.ambs.edu/Sampler) or contact the AMBS admissions office: [admissions@ambs.edu](mailto:admissions@ambs.edu) or 1-800-964-2627.

## **We're Listening!**

At Tulsa, we at Mennonite Mission Network heard delegates saying: "Come visit our churches. We want to see Mennonite Church USA people, not just Mennonite Church USA literature." We'd be happy to come see you, and we have a number of staff people available for church contacts. You can view our list of speakers at <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Resources/SpeakersGuide/> or contact Angela Rempel in our Newton office: [AngelaR@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:AngelaR@MennoniteMission.net), 866-866-2873 or 283-5100.

## **There is still work to be done!**

Mennonite Disaster Service is still looking for volunteers in **Greensburg, Kansas**, after the May 4 tornado destroyed that town. If you can do electrical, plumbing or roofing work along with general building skills, you are needed! If you are willing to work alongside others, you are needed! You can volunteer for a day, two days, a week or more. The MDS Greensburg site can house eight people or more. To volunteer, contact MDS in Greensburg: 985-291-1296.

## **MMA college scholarship granted**

**Peter Miller** of First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS, along with 35 other students, has received an award of \$1,000 to attend Bethel College (KS). To be considered for this award, students submitted essays on holistic stewardship and how it impacts them today. ([www.mma-online.org](http://www.mma-online.org).)

## **Western District Conference Coming Events**

Sept. 8-9 - Women's Retreat, Camp Mennoscah  
Sept. 12 - Staff Birthday: Nancy Funk  
Sept. 15 - Health Care Access conference, Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church, Inman, KS  
Sept. 16-20 - Work & Play Retreat, Camp Mennoscah  
Sept. 23 - 1:30-3:00 p.m. - Gather 'Round Refresher Workshop, First Mennonite Church, Halstead, KS  
Sept. 28-30 - Pastor's Marriage Enrichment weekend, Camp Mennoscah  
Oct. 4 - Pastors' Day Apart: "Pastors and Money", Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS,  
Oct. 12-14 - Menfolk on the Prairie Retreat, Camp Mennoscah  
Oct. 19-21 - Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series, Hesston College, KS  
Nov. 3 - Reference Council, First Mennonite Church, Halstead, KS  
Feb. 8-10, 2008 - Junior High Snow Camp, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp  
Feb. 15-17, 2008 - Senior High Snow Camp, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

March 9, 2008 - Children's Choir Festival, Bethel College Memorial Hall, North Newton, KS  
March 14-16, 2008 - Senior High Snow Camp, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp  
June 27-28, 2008 - WDC/SCC Annual Conference, Hesston College, Hesston, KS

## **Conference Ministers' schedules**

Sept 1-2 - Turpin (OK) Mennonite Church 100th anniversary (DNF)  
Sept. 2 - Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS (LL)  
Sept. 4 - Vision 2012 steering committee (DNF); Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS Staff Relations Committee (LL)  
Sept. 5 - Inman (KS) Mennonite Church search committee (DNF)  
Sept. 6 - MC USA leaders' breakfast (DNF)  
Sept. 9 - Install Hallie Cable - Kingman (KS) Mennonite Church (DNF)  
Sept. 11 - New Creation Mennonite Church search committee, Newton, KS (DNF)  
Sept. 15 - Health Summit; Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church, Inman KS (DNF, MB)  
Sept. 16 - Install Mike Bogard, Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS (DNF); Install Nathan Koontz, Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS (LL)  
Sept. 18 - Kansas Christian Leaders' Forum at WDC; Newton church plant informational meeting (DNF); Kansas Ecumenical Ministries (LL)  
Sept. 20 - Great Plains Seminary Board; Buhler (KS) Mennonite Church Council meeting (DNF); I-70 Pastors, Topeka, KS (LL)  
Sept. 21 - Women pastors breakfast; retreat day; Exec Committee and Board (DNF)  
Sept. 22 - Leadership Commission (DNF, LL); Resource Commission (MB)  
Sept. 23 - Install Katherine Goerzen, Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS; Ordain Miles Reimer, First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS (DNF); Gather 'Round Refresher at First Mennonite, Halstead, KS (MB)  
Sept. 23-26 - Vacation (LL)  
Sept. 23 Sept. 28 - 30 Pastor-Spouse Marriage Retreat, Camp Mennoscah (MB)  
Sept. 26 - Staff Relations Committee (DNF)  
Sept. 27 - Ecumenical day on health care - Dodge City, KS (DNF)  
Sept. 29-30 - Houston (TX) Mennonite Church (LL)  
(Marlene Bogard-MB; Dorothy Nickel Friesen-DNF; Dave Gerbrandt--DG; Marco Güete-MG; Doug Krehbiel-DK; Lee Lever-LL; Hugo Saucedo-HS)

*The MEMO is published monthly for WDC pastors and committee members. Submit articles and correspondence to: Dorothy Nickel Friesen, [dorothyntf@mennowdc.org](mailto:dorothyntf@mennowdc.org).*

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