

### **A Word from Dorothy IS THAT FOR ME?**

During the past number of months, I have had to do a lot of sorting--sorting of emotions, of work priorities, of schedule, of commitments, of comments. Life in the spring was full of tending to our immediate family's issues due to death, illness, funerals, memorial gifts, disposal of property, insurance forms, and on and on. Of course, there was the WDC to care for and about at the same time. Annual conference sessions were looming. Which speakers? What order of worship service? Who should speak? Who should sing? What about communion servers? bulletins? announcements? hymnbooks? meal choices? workshops? and on and on. I had to decide, "Is that really for me?"

Part of ministry, always, is the tending to priorities. I come back to a basic question: "Is that for me?" What I am asking is about priorities. What I am looking for are boundaries. What I discern is the match between gifts and talents and desired outcomes. What I pray for is wisdom to make good choices--amidst the plethora of demands that come reeling in (or emailing in!). Is that really for me--or is that someone else's responsibility? Is that really for me--or should it be delegated? Is that really for me--and if so, must I do it now?

Many times, pastors and leaders report exhaustion and overwork. But many times when I question them about what they are tired from, they list tons of things that really are not theirs to do. They are typing the bulletin while the secretary is on vacation or the volunteer didn't show up. They are attending the sixth ball game that week to observe a member of the youth group who is playing. They are going to a committee meeting where one of the other pastors is also attending! "Is that really for me?"

God's call in our lives is filled with the inspirational and the perspirational! Some things we do are lofty in nature; other are quite mundane. However, in all of our work--especially for leaders, is the necessity to take on those things that truly are ours to care for and tend to. This is good advice for all parts of our systems--church councils, boards, committees, as well as for

staff. When we step across to other's responsibilities, conflict is sure to follow. Pay attention. Is that really yours to do? What is God calling you to be--and to do?

--Dorothy Nickel Friesen, conference minister

**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.*

### **Prayer**

Throughout the Bible we can find great leaders like Jeremiah, Ana and David that touch the heart of God with tears. That makes me think that our feelings play an important role at the time of prayer. God feels compassion for people who ask with meaning.

I experienced this myself when I asked for my second child. After I had my first daughter the doctor was clear when he said that I may not be able to have another child due to the complications during my pregnancy. After two years, my husband and I decided that it was the right time to have one more child and the battle began. The first try I had a miscarriage. We tried for one year after that but we weren't able to get pregnant. The congregation and I prayed many times but we didn't see any answers to our prayers. One day, I prayed till there were no tears left in my eyes as Ana did. Two weeks later I got pregnant. Now my son is nine years old and he was the answer of my prayer.

--Sandra Montes-Martinez, 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**

**Aug. 3** - Pray for those with health concerns: José Vazquez, co-pastor of the House of Healing Church, Dallas, TX; and Ruth Buller, wife of Pastor Eric Buller

(First Mennonite Church, Ransom, KS), who are both receiving cancer treatment.

**Aug. 10** - Pray for growth in understanding between rural and urban congregations of WDC.

**Aug. 17** - Give thanks for the ministry of Ruth Penner as she retires from pastoral ministry at New Creation Fellowship Church, Newton, KS today.

**Aug. 24** - Pray for Mike Brouillette, youth pastor at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, as he is installed today.

**Aug. 31** - Pray for Eric Buller as he is installed as pastor of Inman (KS) Mennonite Church today.

#### **Pastoral openings**

*(Congregational Information Forms completed & available):*

**Eden Mennonite Church, Inola, OK** - pastor (full-time, immediate)

**First Mennonite Church, Ransom, KS** - pastor (2/3<sup>rd</sup> time, interim September 1, 2008)

**Goessel (KS) Mennonite Church** - youth pastor (1/2 time, immediate)

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

**Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, TX** - pastor (full-time, immediate)

**Turpin (OK) Mennonite Church** - interim pastor (full-time, September 1)

#### **Transitions**

**Mike Bogard**, Associate Pastor at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, wrote the worship materials for the new Faith Markers kit published by Faith and Life Resources. Faith Markers ministry is a plan that engages the whole congregation in celebrations of faith growth, especially for children and youth. A preview kit is available through the Conference Resource Library, or see:

[www.faithandliferesources.org/faithmarkers](http://www.faithandliferesources.org/faithmarkers) for ordering information. (You can call Marlene Bogard too - 316-283-6300 - and she will tell you all about it!)

**Mike Brouillette** has been called to serve as Youth Pastor (1/2 time) at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS for a two-year term. He has been serving there as Interim Youth Pastor since 2007.

**Eric Buller** begins as pastor at Inman (KS) Mennonite Church on September 1. He has served at First Mennonite Church, Ransom, KS since 1997.

**Mary Cross** served as supply pastor while **Pastor Phil Waite**, First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS, was on study leave at Chicago Theological Seminary beginning DMin work.

**Marco Güete** has resigned as WDC Associate Conference Minister for Texas effective January 31, 2009. He will become the Conference Minister for Southeast Mennonite Conference.

**Gary Janzen** began as supply pastor at Deer Creek (OK) Mennonite Church on July 13.

**Patricia Shelly**, Professor of Bible and Religion at Bethel College, is the Bible Insight writer for the fall 2008 Gather 'Round curriculum, "Judgment and Hope" published by Faith and Life Resources. For each of the 13 lessons, she provided Biblical background, commentary and insight to assist teachers in lesson preparation.

#### **Check It Out**

In the August issue of Check It Out from the Conference Resource Library, you will find the annual listing of new resources recommended for **Adult Sunday School, Elective or Small Group Study**. We only have one copy of each resource - so if you need multiple copies, allow yourself plenty of time for ordering. For those of you who can stop in, you will be pleased to note that all of our suggested adult electives from the past five years are now color coded with a hot-pink sticker. It will make finding these fine resources a whole lot easier!

As always - view this newsletter at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org). You can also view the last few editions of this popular listing by scrolling through the archived list. We look forward to your calls, your visits or emails! Marlene Bogard and Pat Schmidt, 316-283-6300 / [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org)

#### **Conference Resource Library**

##### **now serving four area conferences!**

As of July 1, the WDC Conference Resource Library is serving four area conferences of Mennonite Church USA. The most recent addition is the Central Plains Conference (formerly Northern District and Iowa/Nebraska Conference). Library Director Marlene Bogard was present at the annual Central Plains Conference at Lincoln, NE on June 14 to introduce the WDC Resource Library to the delegates with a power-point presentation and display. The Mountain States Conference joined as partners with the Resource Library two years ago and the partnership with the South Central Conference is now in its 15th year. Each of these area conferences pays a yearly membership fee, which helps to offset library staffing and collection development.

"Because we are now a regional resource library, and responding to requests from a 13-state area, our patterns of helping patrons are beginning to shift," states Marlene Bogard. "We are really encouraging people to check our on-line catalog at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) before they call us for assistance. Also - emailing a request is the best way to contact us. We can then respond to the many requests in a more efficient way."

#### **The Parish Paper**

Visit [www.mennowdc.org/Publications.html](http://www.mennowdc.org/Publications.html) to view the July and August issues of **The Parish Paper**. July's issue is titled: "Giving to Congregations: Have Patterns Changed?" and August: "How Does Church Size Impact Decision Making?"

### **Camp Mennoscah**

We had a great summer of youth camps and retreats! Thank you to everyone who visited us and supported us through prayers and gifts—we couldn't do it without you. Special thanks to all our program staff, counseling staff and kitchen volunteers who donated time and effort to our camping program.

Coming up this fall we have several retreats, and we invite you to join us. The **Mennonite Women's Retreat is September 5-7** for all women and girls grades 3 and up. **September 14-18 is our Work and Play camp**—come help us rejuvenate the camp grounds and prepare for the fall and winter! **MennoFolk on the Prairie Family Camp is October 10-12**, and all ages are invited. Further information can be found in the 2008 Camp Mennoscah catalog, or contact us at 620-297-3290 or [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org).

### **Congratulations to WDC!**

WDC has reached the \$1,000,000 mark in the Vision 2012 campaign. There is \$500,000 left to raise to fully fund the campaign goal of \$1,500,000.

In the process of spreading the word about WDC and its ability to serve our churches, we want to offer **Giving Seminars** in churches through services provided by the Mennonite Foundation. WDC encourages leaving a portion of an estate to WDC and other church-related causes.

WDC, together with Mennonite Foundation, would make available a workshop in a group setting such as Sunday school classes. For details and available dates, contact Marvin Penner, WDC Volunteer Development Director at 316-283-6300 or [marvinpenner@cox.net](mailto:marvinpenner@cox.net).

### **Day on the Farm**

The 13th annual Agri-Urban Day on the Farm will be held **August 16** at the Maynard Knepp/Carol Duerksen farm (3 miles north, 4 miles east and ¾ mile north of Goessel, KS). This family event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes animals, activities and food at noon.

Agri-Urban was developed to bring farmers and urban dwellers together to support WDC, Bethel College and Mennonite Church USA. The success of Agri-Urban is dependent on contributions made by both farmers (who raise the animals) and urban dwellers (who contribute toward feed costs). To contribute send checks payable to Mennonite Agri-Urban, c/o Ben Schrag, Treasurer, 406 Wedgewood Ct., Hesston, KS 67062 or bring them to Day on the Farm and enjoy all the great activities.

*Note to pastors: Please join the fun by helping to serve the noon meal. WDC benefits from Agri-Urban! Show your support (and avoid kissing pigs or other fun things) by reporting at 11:30 to the serving lines.*

### **Ignite!**

**Youthworkers** - you are not alone! Be with other youth leaders who have the same questions, issues, frustrations and dreams about youth ministry at **Ignite**, a resourcing event for all who are involved in congregational youth ministry. **Ignite** will be held on Sunday, **August 24**, from 3-8 p.m. at Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS. Cost is \$20/person, which includes a banquet meal. Register by contacting Nancy Funk at 316-283-6300 or [wdc@mennowdc.org](http://wdc@mennowdc.org) by August 15.

### **Mental Health Retreat**

A Mental Health Retreat will be held **August 31 - September 1** at Camp Mennoscah's Retreat Center for individuals and family members who experience mental illness. The purpose is to provide fun, fellowship, new information, worship and an opportunity to share experiences in a peaceful atmosphere. This is a ministry to a population that is often overlooked and who frequently feel excluded from the church and the broader community.

Please encourage individuals related to your congregation and community to attend and offer assistance. Registration is \$30 with some scholarships available. For further information, contact Lois Loflin - 316-835-2529 or Cay Siebert - 316-284-2458.

### **Women's and Girl's Retreat**

All Western District Conference and South Central Conference women and girls are invited to Camp Mennoscah **September 5-7**. The speakers are Debbie Schmidt, (Pastor, First Mennonite Church Hutchinson) and Raylene Hinz-Penner, (Professor and writer). They will provide interactive sessions on the "Spiritual Journey of Friendship". Sign-up by August 18. Registration forms available in churches. For further information, contact Eileen Stucky, retreat chairperson, 620-543-2756 or [swp@buhlerks.net](mailto:swp@buhlerks.net).

### **Christian educators - need a jumpstart?**

**Get one on September 13!** Want to dream about how to reclaim Biblical literacy in your congregation? How to teach basic Bible study to adults? How to use the "web" to find great Bible study helps and resource? How to turn brains "on" so that Bible memory sticks?

**Jumpstart** will provide a variety of interactive workshops relating to Christian education and faith nurture in the congregation. Plan now to send many of your teachers, pastors and Christian education committees to this affordable and enriching event, which will be held at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. Watch your mailboxes and emails for registration materials - coming soon! Sponsored by WDC Resource Commission. Questions? Contact Marlene Bogard at 316-283-6300.

**Proclamation by Design:  
Worship and the Visual Arts**

Worship planners, pastors, artists and anyone with an interest in the visual arts are invited to a worship and visual arts resourcing day on **October 11** from 8:30 - 3:30 at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. Presenters will include Marlene Kropf, MC USA Denominational Minister of Worship and Leslie James, co-author of the newly released book, *Proclamation by Design* by Faith and Life Resources. Workshops will include Banner Basics, Collaborative Art for Worship, Cohesive Worship Planning and Advent Idea Starter. This event is sponsored by the Resource Commission of the WDC and the Faith and Life Bookstore, Newton, KS. More information coming soon. Contact Marlene Bogard, 316-283-6300; mbogard@mennowdc.org.

**Jonathan Larson to speak at WDC fall events**

**October 25 (9:00 - 1:00) - WDC Reference Council**, at First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS. Featured morning speaker will be Jonathan Larson, who will help us explore "What does Africa have to do with WDC?" We will look at issues of globalization and mission--how does WDC connect and serve? This meeting is for all WDC leaders and pastors.

**October 26 (7 p.m.) - Music & Storytelling:** Jonathan will present an evening of music and storytelling at First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. An offering will be taken for WDC.

**October 27 (9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) - Pastors' Day Apart:** Topic is "Global preaching: What say you?" with Jonathan Larson. He wants to explore how US pastors preach and how African pastors preach--and wonder about our worship impact in the world. More details to come.

**Prairie View - new procedure for referrals**

Prairie View (Newton, KS) Psychiatric Hospital has a "Direct Admissions Process". Call 316-284-6410 if you believe your client/parishioner would benefit from hospitalization. Admission guidelines: If client exhibits dangerous behavior to self or others, OR Therapy has not worked, OR Client is psychotic, AND client is medically stable. For information, contact Lance Maley, director of hospital services at 316-284-6425. Note that Prairie View has outpatient services at six locations (Hutchinson, Hillsboro, McPherson, two Wichita locations, and Newton), all within WDC geographic boundaries.

**Western District Conference coming events**

Aug. 7 - Staff birthday - Dave Gerbrandt  
Aug. 24 - Ignite!  
Aug. 30 - Staff birthday - Doug Krehbiel

August 31-September 1 - Mental Health Retreat, Camp Mennoscah  
Sept. 6-7 - Women's and Girl's Retreat, Camp Mennoscah  
Sept. 13 - Jumpstart, Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS  
Sept. 14, 4 p.m. - Dedication of new Director's House, Camp Mennoscah - and refreshments follow  
Sept. 14-18 - Work & Play Retreat, Camp Mennoscah  
Oct. 10-12 - Mennofolk on the Prairie Retreat, Camp Mennoscah  
Oct. 11 - Visual Arts & Worship Resourcing Day, Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS  
October 25 - Reference Council, First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS  
October 26 - WDC Fundraiser with Jonathan Larson, First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS  
October 27 - Pastors' Day Apart with Jonathan Larson, Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS

**Conference Ministers' schedules**

August 2-3 - Nueva Jerusalem Church, Pasadena, TX (MG)  
5 - Constituency Leadership Council anti-racism conference call (DNF)  
Aug. 6-12 - Vacation (DG, MB)  
Aug. 10 - Mid-Redentor Church, Richardson, TX (MG)  
15 - Women pastors' breakfast; Prairie View Board meeting (DNF)  
Aug. 16 - Casa de Dios Church, Garland, TX (MG); Day on the Farm, Goessel, KS (DNF, MB); Resource Commission (MB)  
Aug. 17 - Ruth Penner retirement/farewell, New Creation Fellowship Church, Newton, KS (DNF); Gather 'Round training, Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS (MB)  
Aug. 18 - Dallas, TX pastor's meeting (MG); Retreat Day (DNF)  
Aug. 20 - Staff Relations Committee (DNF)  
Aug. 22 - Leadership Commission (DNF, MG)  
Aug. 23 - WDC Executive Board (DNF)  
Aug. 24 - Install/credential Mike Brouillette, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS (DNF); Ignite (DK, MB)  
Aug. 25 - Kansas Ecumenical Ministries, Wichita, KS (DNF)  
Aug. 26-27 - WDC Staff Retreat, Camp Mennoscah (all)  
Aug. 30-31 Rey de Gloria Church, Rowlett, TX (MG)  
Aug. 31 - Install Eric Buller, Inman (KS) Mennonite Church (DNF); Mental Health Retreat, Camp Mennoscah (MB) (Marlene Bogard--MB; Dorothy Nickel Friesen--DNF; Dave Gerbrandt--DG; Marco Güete--MG; Doug Krehbiel-DK )

*The MEMO is published monthly for WDC pastors and committee members. Submit articles and correspondence to:*  
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