

Community and Conference Announcements

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**SEEDS**

*A weekly communication for WDC churches announcing what's new and good in WDC.*

**Tithe Demonstration Sunday**

How do you increase the joy of generosity, and, in a non-heavy way, encourage tithing? Alexanderwohl, of Goessel, recently tried something called a Tithe Demonstration Sunday. We invited everyone who called Alexanderwohl their church home to give one week's tithe (10% of that week's gross income) on one particular Sunday. Kids were invited to tithe on their allowance, teens and adults on their earnings. Those giving electronically were asked to put a slip of paper in the offering plate saying how much they gave. Those unable to attend were asked to mail it in or drop it by the church before Sunday. We tried to make it a fun adventure. For example, we had people guess what they thought the offering total was going to be. (Previous year's totals for that Sunday were provided.) These guesses were reported back to the congregation in a graph form. A sermon included the pastor's testimony on the profound difference tithing made in his family's life. On the tithe demonstration Sunday, the total was counted during the service and reported toward the end of the sermon. The total was double our usual offering. This amount multiplied times 52 weeks shows our potential. What does it all mean? We're sorting that out by asking questions like: "What did the Spirit speak to you through this experience?" and "What do you think the Spirit is speaking to our church?" (These questions were put in later bulletins, and on the Church Council agenda.) Responses are coming in!

*--submitted by Pastor Steve Schmidt, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church*

**Fall Story Time at the Conference Resource Library.** Pre-schoolers age 3-5 are invited to Story Time with Marlene, Michelle, Ali and Pat, beginning Wed. Sept. 18 at 10 am. We will enjoy brand new books and old favorites at 2517 N. Main, North Newton. Call 316-283-6300 to register.

**Camp Mennoscah:**

**Camp Mennoscah Annual Meeting**--Camp Mennoscah Association will have its second annual meeting (wow!) on Sept. 22 at 3pm in the camp dining hall. Entertainment will be provided by Tom, Lois, & Anna Harder and a pulled pork meal will be served. Pulled pork and buns provided. Please bring a side dish to share and table service. Donations accepted. We'll see you there!

Don't Hide Under a Bushel! We're looking for skills great and small--from dusting to repairing, from willing spirits to helpful hands--to join us for our **Work & Play Camp** at Camp Mennoscah, September 15-18. This is a service-oriented retreat for all ages. We'll be working hard and squeezing every ounce of fellowship and fun out of each day. This year's retreat is slightly shorter than previous years and we'd be happy to have folks stay longer. Just let us know!

**More Cropping at Camp Mennoscah!** This spring there was such a demand for our scrapbooking retreat that we're considering adding a second retreat this fall. Our primary scrapbooking retreat is November 1-3. If we have enough interest, we'll add a second retreat on November 15-17--this retreat is not guaranteed. Brochures are not yet available, but send us an email or give us a call to tell us you're interested.

*Information for all of the above - email: [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) phone: 620-297-3290  
on line: [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org)*

**Mennonite Disaster Service update on Shawnee, Oklahoma.** Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with the clean-up in Oklahoma following the tornado outbreak in May. MDS is now ready to begin the rebuilding phase! We continue to invite your prayers and support as we work to bring families back home. We are in need of weekly volunteers from Oct 7 – Dec 13. We are also looking for volunteers who would cook for a week or two in October or December. Call MDS at 1-800-241-8111 for more information about volunteering.

**The annual MCC Flatlander Bicycle Ride** will be held on Saturday, September 21, originating at the MCC offices in North Newton. This year's ride will raise funds for a MCC water development project in Vietnam. Rides of approximately 35, 45, and 65 miles, as well as a shorter family ride, are planned. Informational brochures are available through the church office. The brochure is also available on the MCC website: <http://centralstates.mcc.org/programs/flatlander>. Or you can register on-line at that website.

**New People & New Hours - Mennonite Central Committee Central States** has several new people to introduce to you! Michelle Armster is our new Transitional Executive Director. Michelle currently lives in Lancaster, PA and is Associate Pastor of Community Life at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church. She will move to Kansas and work from the North Newton office. Also in North Newton, Anna Yoder is Donor Relations Coordinator, Megan Upton-Tyner is Office Manager and Dan Stucky is Warehouse Coordinator (he works daily from 1-5pm). New Hours! The North Newton MCC Center is once again open Monday-Friday, 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm. Please stop by and see us 121 E. 30th in North Newton or call [316-283-2720](tel:316-283-2720)!

**Headed to the Rocky Mountain MCC Sale in Rocky Ford, CO in October?** If so, we're looking for volunteers to bring MCC School Kits back to the MCC Center in North Newton from Colorado. If you're planning on going to Colorado and are willing to bring back a few boxes of school kits, please contact Maynard Knepp at [316-283-2720](tel:316-283-2720) to work out the details.

All Are Invited to Participate in the **Loss of Turtle Island** on Friday, September 27 at Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, KS at 10am. The Loss of Turtle Island exercise provides an opportunity to interactively explore the historic relationship between Europeans, specifically Mennonites in the Central States region, and the Indigenous nations who inhabit the land we now call the United States of America. The exercise uses blankets to represent the lands of what is now known as the United States, and the distinct cultures and nations which live on those lands to this day. Following the exercise all who attend are welcome to stay for lunch with MCC Central States board and staff to learn more about MCC's current work. Shalom Mennonite Church is located at 800 E. 1st St, Newton. Please RSVP for this event to Tina Schrag [attinaschrag@mcc.org](mailto:attinaschrag@mcc.org) or [316-283-2720](tel:316-283-2720).

The **Bethel College Women's Association Market on the Green Committee** is asking for donations of ethnic foods, poppy seed rolls, zwiebach, homemade noodles, pies, and other baked goods and home grown produce for the Bethel College Fall Festival on Saturday, October 5. Please bring your items to the large tent on the north side of the green anytime Saturday morning after 7:30 a.m. Also available for sale will be gift items that include the NEW! Hot off the press, "A BC ABC Book", a limerick book of Bethel life and lore with illustrations by alumni artists. This along with anniversary picnic baskets and T-shirts, pewter Christmas Tree ornaments, stadium seats, cookbooks, Lithuanian candle house replicas of Goerz House and the CD "Nights of Wonder", which features music selections from previous BC Christmas Fests. Come start your Christmas shopping early!

**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary-Great Plains** invites you to a Simple Supper on Friday, Sept. 20 at 6:00 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton. The supper will be followed by a report of the recent survey data and discussion concerning the future of the AMBS - Great Plains extension program. No cost; RSVP by Sept. 16 to Marlene Faul, [316-283-7098](tel:316-283-7098) or [mfaul@ambs.edu](mailto:mfaul@ambs.edu).

**MEDA's Kansas Chapter** invites you to join us for dialogue about chapter activities in addressing business solutions to global poverty and integrating faith into the workplace. On Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m. we will hear a report on MEDA's Ethiopia project, with Ann Gordon, Senior Consultant/Project Manager. Buffet dinner at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 77 W Hickory St, Hesston, \$25 for dinner and presentation / \$5 for students / \$15 for beginning entrepreneurs. RSVP by Sept. 13 by email to [carlawedman@harperindustries.com](mailto:carlawedman@harperindustries.com) or phone Carla Wedman at 620-896-7381.

#### **Job Openings:**

**The Harvey County Homeless Shelter, Inc.** is currently seeking an individual to fill a role in our ministry. The position of office assistant is a full-time position with clerical duties along with coordinating the weekly volunteer schedule. If you have a heart for the ministry of the shelter and feel called to be a part of this exciting and loving ministry then please apply. Familiarity with Microsoft Office, email, and FaceBook are a plus. We are seeking someone with great communication skills and a willingness to serve not only our residents but our volunteers also. Email your resume to: [james@hchs-ks.com](mailto:james@hchs-ks.com); Mail or deliver your resume to: Harvey County Homeless Shelter, 209 East Broadway, Newton, KS, 67114; Or, fax your resume to: [316-283-6764](tel:316-283-6764)

**Job Opening: Director of Prison Ministries** - Offender/Victim Ministries is seeking applicants to oversee its M-2 Prison Visitation and Prison Arts programs at Hutchinson Correctional Facility. This position is half-time, salaried and based in Newton, Kansas. Interested candidates should submit resumes and cover letters to [libby.ovm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:libby.ovm@sbcglobal.net).