

# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

**October 10, 2011**

A weekly communication for:  
WDC Churches and Pastors

WDC Executive Board, Commission, Committee and Task Force members

Any content may be used in bulletins and newsletters and forwarded to congregational leaders and members.

WDC E-Memo is also available at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) (Conference Life / Publications)

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## **Pastoral Openings**

(Congregational Information Forms can be viewed at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org), Conference Life / Pastoral Openings)

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Lead Pastor

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Youth Pastor

First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK - Pastor

First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS - Pastor

## **News/Transitions**

Zachary Gleason (Interim Pastor at Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City) and his wife Britney welcomed Zoe Clare into their family on August 18. Congratulations!

The WDC office is closed this afternoon and all day tomorrow while WDC staff from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas meet together for Staff Retreat at Camp Mennoscah.

## **WDC Announcements**

1. OUT OF THE PEW! January 7, 2012. Save the date. Out of the pew is an event for high schoolers to understand and explore their call to service. The day will include opportunities to meet with many Mennonite mission and service agencies, worship and inputs, as well as time for hands-on service projects. This event will run from 9:30 to 5 and will be held at Journey at Yoder, KS. More details and registration info coming soon.

2. Something New! Reading Day for Pastors and AMBS-GP Seminary students: Thursday Nov. 10, 8 am to noon. Features: Free coffee, tea and coffee cake at 10 AM break. Hand-picked resources by vintage library director, Marlene Bogard. Opportunity to reflect and dialogue about your readings with other pastors. Wireless connections! 12,000 resources literally, folks....at your fingertips. Lunch out with friends and peers in diverse Newton, KS. Reservations are being accepted NOW. Primo

seating includes A. Fluffy Red Couch, B. Giant Red Chair, C. Giant Floral Chair, D. up to 10 folks in AMBS-Great Plains Classroom (wonderful seating and spacious tables). E. Additional space in Rooms A and B. If you let Marlene know exactly what you will need, she will create a resource pile for you. Handpicked! What's not to love? Sign up today by emailing Marlene B at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org)

3. Pastors and Worship Planners: Thursday, Oct. 20 from 7 - 9 p.m. at Trinity Mennonite Church in Hillsboro, KS. Join others in sharing ideas about the upcoming Advent Worship season using materials from FALL 2011 LEADER. Marlene Bogard, WDC Minister of Christian Nurture, will facilitate and Pastor Jeff Wintermote will host us. RSVP to [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org).

4. New Advent Studies from the Thoughtful Christian - Remember teachers and pastors - we have a free subscription to this on-line Resource Center. Any downloadable study can be yours because of your connection to the WDC Resource Library. Visit [www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com) and then request it directly from Marlene B at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org).

**Adult Advent Study: From Longing to Receiving** by Patricia Tull leads participants through the Old Testament and the Gospel lectionary texts for four weeks, tracing important Advent themes of longing for God's help, anticipating God's presence among us, recognizing God's work among us, and receiving God's new gifts to us. Each week's handout is filled with important information about the texts, yet written for personal devotional use for group discussion. The Leader's Guides will assist a volunteer leader in organizing a forty-five-minute group session filled with activities and discussion.

**Youth Advent Study: Walking and Waiting with Biblical Figures** by Kathy Wolf Reed. For youth, the Advent season can be easily overtaken by the festivities and gifts of Christmas. One of the greatest gifts the church can offer youth is the chance to explore and reclaim the season of Advent as a time of preparation and watchful hope for the coming of Jesus Christ. This year's four-session youth Advent study pack is focused on the study of Biblical characters experiencing spiritual growth in their own times of waiting. Participants will study Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, Isaiah's reflections in the wilderness, the story of John the Baptist, and Mary the Mother of Jesus.

5. All are invited to the ordination service for Peter and Katherine Goerzen on Sunday, October 16 at 7 pm at Grace Hill Mennonite Church, rural Newton. Come at 6:40 for a prelude hymnsing!

6. Seagoing Cowboys: Don Zook of Pitkin, Colorado will present a program at Whitestone Mennonite Church on Sunday, October 23, 6:30 PM about the Seagoing Cowboys who were caretakers of livestock shipped to Europe after World War II. At the close of World War II men, including many Mennonites and Brethren from Central Kansas, were recruited for "Heifers for Relief" to care for the cattle and horses (and other animals) shipped by sea to war-devastated Europe. Known as "seagoing cowboys", thousands of volunteers from many denominations served at sea during the

first year of the program's operation. There were likely more than 300 Mennonites among the attendants. Common destinations were Poland, Italy, Greece, and Germany. Sixty-five years ago, Don Zook was a 16-year-old high school student at what was then the Hesston Academy in Hesston, Kansas. He took advantage of an unusual summer opportunity to become a seagoing cowboy for 6 weeks on the S.S. Stephen R. Mallory, transporting more than 800 horses destined for Poland. His presentation at Whitestone will include stories about his experiences in 1946. For more information, contact the Whitestone Mennonite Church, 629 Crescent Dr., Hesston, KS 67062; [620 327-4123](tel:6203274123).

Western District Conference  
2517 North Main, PO Box 306  
North Newton KS 67117  
[316-283-6300](tel:3162836300); FAX: [316-283-0620](tel:3162830620)  
Email: [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org)  
Website: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org)