

# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

**April 10, 2012**

*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) -  
Congregations/Pastors - Pastoral Openings*

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Lead Pastor

Goessel Mennonite Church, KS - Pastor

Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS - Lead Pastor

West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS - Pastor

Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS - Pastor

## **News and Transitions**

1. Karen Andres, Associate Pastor at Tabor Mennonite Church, is on sabbatical from April 9 through May 31. During April 20-30, she will go to Honduras with the MCC Learning Tour.
2. Baby congratulations to Peter and Katherine Goerzen upon the birth of their daughter Sophia Grace on March 30. Peter and Katherine are Pastor and Associate Pastor (respectively) at the Grace Hill Mennonite Church in Whitewater, KS.
3. Val Krehbiel, retired Mennonite pastor, died on March 31. The funeral service was hosted by First Mennonite Church, McPherson, KS, on April 4 where Val and his wife Consuelo were members.
4. Sympathy to Joel and Kay Schroeder upon the death of Joel's mother, Judy Schroeder on April 1. Joel is the Pastor of Youth/Young Adults and Kay is the Pastor of Worship at First Mennonite Church in Newton, KS.

## **WDC Announcements**

1. Hello all! Camp Mennoscah is gearing up for another exciting summer program and are ready for you to come out and join us. Our cabin mattresses, however, are not. Camp's 20 year old mattresses have finally bit the dust and we're ready to replace 'em. Please join us Sunday, May 6 at 7 pm at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS for "Mattress Melodies". Camp song leaders from years past will lead us in favorite camp songs as we raise funds to replace cabin mattresses. Please note the youth group who raises the most money (\$500 minimum) for the cabin mattresses will earn a pool party at Camp Mennoscah!! Be ready to test your knowledge of Camp Mennoscah with a fun trivia game, sing favorite camp songs, and have a good time! Camp style popcorn and generic pop will be served outside the building following the Camp Sing.
2. Almost, but not quite! The Retirees' Relaxation Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is just 2 weeks away. There are still a few spaces in the Retreat Center and a few more in our bunk/staff houses. We'd love to have you join us as we "travel" through Paraguay and other assorted topics. Contact us at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) for more information.
3. Skilled cooks and potato peelers needed! Camp Mennoscah is looking for skilled cooks to lead a willing group of kitchen helpers for our summer youth camps. Not quite sure you can do it alone? Grab a friend and be co-head cooks! Olivia is happy to talk to you and help with planning. And for all of you who would rather peel potatoes and bake cookies--we've got places for you, too! Contact us at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290).
4. We only host it, but we know you're invited! The Mennonite Men of the Plains are having their annual Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah on April 20-22. No reservations are necessary. Meals can be purchased for Saturday night, Sunday morning and lunch. You are welcome to come out Friday and plan your own meals and entertainment. Contact Camp Mennoscah at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) with questions and we'll put you in touch with the right folks.
5. Hooray and Yippee Skippee! The final steps have not been taken, but Camp Mennoscah is so absolutely close to finishing up the incorporation process. The Camp Mennoscah Association now officially exists! Thank you for all your prayers and support as we tidy up these last ends and quickly figure out all the new paperwork stuff.
6. Mark your calendars, Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is April 20-22. Brett Klingenberg will be our speaker for the weekend. Bring your chainsaw; we'll have a service project from 1:00 to 3:00 on Saturday removing trees that died in the heat wave last summer. Saturday supper through Sunday lunch will be provided. No pre-registration is necessary. Come on out for a weekend of fun, relaxation, and fellowship!

## **Mennonite Church USA Announcements**

1. Friendship Week—On July 18-22, Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (Mt. Pleasant, Pa.) will host Friendship Week: A retreat for families, friends and persons with

disabilities. One of Laurelville's longest running programs, this retreat is tailored to the needs and interests of individuals with a wide range of disabilities as well as their caregivers. Scholarship assistance is available, and new families/group homes receive 20% off the cost of registration. Learn more at [Laurelville.org/friendship-week](http://Laurelville.org/friendship-week) or by calling [724.423.2056](tel:724.423.2056).

2. Great Whitewater Connection—Come to the Great Whitewater Connection at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (Mt. Pleasant, Pa.) on July 6-8 and see what 200 Mennonite youth experienced last summer before and after Pittsburgh 2011. This Sr. High retreat features a guided rafting trip on the Lower Yough River (Class III rapids) as well as team building activities, worship led by Kent Miller & Jeremy Kempf and other fun times at Laurelville—all for the incredibly low price of \$50/person. Youth groups interested in doing service work this summer can also opt to extend their stay before or after the weekend retreat. Visit [Laurelville.org/whitewater](http://Laurelville.org/whitewater) or call [724.423.2056](tel:724.423.2056) to find out more information.

3. From AMBS Church Leadership Center:

Please join us for the final webinar of this season: The Story in the Sermon (Previously Embodying (the Story)

Presenter: Allan Rudy-Froese

April 19, 2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT

Preachers are tellers of short stories. Whether a sermon has a narrative, three-point, or verse-by-verse form, preachers often tell a short story or two somewhere, for some reason. This webinar explores the kinds of stories we tell, what motivates us to include them, how stories function, and best practices for writing and telling short stories within the larger arc of the sermon. [Early registration deadline is April 15.](#)

Volunteer Coordinator role open

AMBS seeks an individual or couple to serve as Volunteer Coordinator(s). Housing and small living stipend provided. Participation in chapel, forum, lectureships, and community life is encouraged! [Learn more](#) or contact [Jewel Gingerich Longenecker](#) for details.

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