



## Hesston Mennonite Church

A community of God's people, seeking and following the way of Christ, experiencing and sharing the good news of healing and hope.

### Introducing Gordon Scoville

Gordon Scoville joined the pastoral staff, as interim pastor, on February 12, 2017.

Gordon was born and raised in Wolf Point, Montana (about an hour from Saskatchewan). He graduated from Wolf Point High School and then attended Montana State University, where he earned degrees in Political Science, Guidance and Counseling, and Higher Education (with concentration in American History). He tested and then yielded to the vocation of pastoral ministry by attending Vanderbilt University Divinity School and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Gordon is married to Montana rancher, Marie Scoville.

Prior to the call from Hesston Mennonite, Gordon has specialized in interim ministry while traveling to and from the ranch in Montana. His travels have taken him to Mennonite churches in South Dakota, New York, Nebraska, Ontario, Idaho, Ohio, Washington, Iowa, and three previous times to Kansas.

Gordon's philosophy of ministry grounds in the understanding that the way of Christ expresses first and foremost as *gelassenheit*, meaning "yieldedness" or "letting it be." This is not philosophical passivity, but instead is a posture of receptive listening that waits for the Holy Spirit-inspired time to act.

*This year at Hesston Mennonite I am looking forward to what the Holy Spirit will disclose to us. This will make for a year of keen anticipation!*

G.S.



We are looking for about 20 ladies to each decorate one table for the Spring Ladies Brunch. If you're interested in helping, contact the church office or sign up in the foyer! You are also invited to sign up if you're planning to attend.

### Student Financial Aid Deadline

**Hesston Mennonite Church Student Financial Aid** (for students attending Mennonite colleges and for students attending other than Mennonite colleges) policy information and applications for the 2017-2018 school year are available in the church office or by emailing [hesstonmc@hesstonmc.org](mailto:hesstonmc@hesstonmc.org). Applications are due in the church office by **February 20, 2017**. *Students receiving the grant during the past year must re-apply for the coming year.* Applications received after the priority date will be processed, and grants given based on availability of funds.

### Attention *Rejoice* & *Purpose* Readers

Readers of *Rejoice* (devotional guide) and/or *Purpose* (stories of faith) magazine are invited to renew their subscription(s). If you are not currently receiving a subscription, you can begin now. Annual costs are \$29.00 for *Rejoice* which comes out quarterly and \$26.00 for *Purpose* which is a monthly publication. Both are published by Mennonite Publishing Network for our denomination.

**Subscription payments are due in the church office by Sunday March 12.** Since you receive a tangible benefit, payments are not tax deductible. You may place a check in the offering written to Hesston Mennonite and designating *Rejoice* or *Purpose* on the memo line. We will keep track of subscriptions and place the publication(s) in the literature boxes of those that subscribe. If circumstances do not allow you to pay a full subscription, partial payment would be appreciated. We have included a modest amount in the church budget to help cover the difference.

### Dorcas Circle



**Thursday, March 2, 2017  
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

**Project:** Work with Quilters Corner  
**Meet at MCC Center**

**Meal:** Committee

**Offering:** Harvey County Safehope

*Dorcas Circle meets the first Thursday of each month. Come all or part of the day. We invite you to come chat, encourage each other, sing, work, pray and eat together.*

## Elder Minutes

February 2, 2017

Chairman Jay Unruh opened the meeting. The opening prayer was given by Renae Alison.

The devotions by Barb Kaufman centered on a lesson from **My Grandfather's Blessings**, by Naomi Remen. The teaching was some thoughts about how friction is helpful in life, to acknowledge the painful corrections toward a goal.

The minutes of the Elders meeting January 5, 2017 were read and approved. The minutes of the joint Church Council and Elders meeting January 19, 2017 were also approved.

Amy Nissley Stauffer's pastor's report included information on planning with Christian Education for Wednesday evenings, committing to the care of all ages. Amy notes the Hesston Ministerial Alliance has been planning a service to observe the anniversary of the shootings at Excel Industry. This service will be Feb. 19 at 5:00 p.m. at Hesston High School. Planning continues for MCUSA Church Convention, which includes the Future Church Summit. It will be July 4-8, 2017 in Orlando, Florida. We discussed how our pastors could be involved. The Vacation Bible School committee is considering new ideas as they plan for this summer.

Amy reported on the trip to Waxahachie, TX for a SCC pastors retreat with South Texas pastors. It was a good time of fellowship, worship, and information. Our pastors have been invited by the South Central Conference Executive Board to attend Equip to Lead, at Kansas Leadership Center, in Wichita. Clayton will attend in April and Amy in May.

In his pastor's report Clayton Gladish described some of the activities of "Know Jesus," a weekend at Hesston College for grades 6-8. Eleven youth from HMC attended and the total attendance was over 200. Basement repairs have started and next steps will be carpet, cabinets, paint and furnishings.

Preparations for Gordon Scoville continue as he will arrive here this coming week.

The elders considered possibilities for Vision Sightings in *InTouch* newsletter. Clayton closed our meeting with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Kaufman, Secretary for Elders*

## Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

**Why we do what we do**—The 49th annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale will be at the Kansas State Fairgrounds on April 7 & 8. Aside from seeing some beautiful quilts, amazing woodworking projects and hard-to-find antiques, eating a little more than we should and renewing friendships, what is the purpose of the Sale? All of the proceeds are directed to the global relief efforts of Mennonite Central Committee. Below is information on just one of the MCC projects:

Around the world, one in ten people don't have access to clean, safe water. Women and girls spend hours every day walking to collect water to drink or use for cooking and washing. Farmers lose crops when they can't access water for irrigation. With your support, MCC works with local partners to make sure people have access to clean water closer to their homes, both today and in the future. This includes projects such as:

- Constructing systems for collecting rainwater
- Digging wells and building dams for drinking or irrigation
- Training local people to construct/maintain water pumps
- Teaching sanitation and hygiene practices

Plan on partnering with MCC by attending the sale April 7-8. For more information, see [www.kansas.mccsale.org](http://www.kansas.mccsale.org).

## Did You Know???

The 3-4 year-olds from the Hesston Childcare will be using two classrooms in our Education Wing beginning March 13 during Schowalter Villa's building project.

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 25 MCC Community Engagement event**, 9:00-11:00a.m., Hesston Mennonite Church. Interactive presentation on Immigration Education and current issues. We will see the broad scope of MCC's Immigration work globally, nationally, regionally, and locally along with our partners.
- Feb 26 Camp Mennoscah Hymn Sing & Dessert Auction**, 4:00-6:00p.m., Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. All donations benefit the new playground structure ("the whale").
- Feb 26 "Singspiration"**, 7:00p.m., Spring Valley Mennonite Church. All are invited.
- Mar 5 Camp Mennoscah Benefit Concert**, 7:00p.m., Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita. *Hopeful Blues*, a 5 piece instrumental ensemble performing selections from MCUSA hymnals and songbooks.

## Everence College Scholarships

Consider applying for an Everence college scholarship for the 17-18 academic year. Applications accepted until **February 28**. Students (or a parent/legal guardian) who have owned/used an Everence product since 9/1/16, are eligible to apply.

Regional winners will receive scholarships of \$750, and three recipients will receive additional national scholarships – one of \$1,250 (total of \$2,000) and two of \$250 (total of \$1,000). Application and details: [everence.com/college-scholarships](http://everence.com/college-scholarships).

## MCUSA Convention Registration

**Early Registration ends February 24 for Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017.** The convention takes place July 4-8 in Orlando, Florida, with the theme "Love is a Verb." Learn more at <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/>.

## MCC Comforter Blitz 2017

Monday, March 6 - 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Tuesday, March 7 - 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Wednesday, March 8 - 9:00am to 4:00pm

**Journey at Yoder, 3605 E Longview Rd, Yoder, KS**  
Lunch available for a donation each day.

Fabric Kits are available at MCC for 60"x80" pieced tops.  
Questions? Contact Shirley Jost, 785-250-7437 [jostshi@cox.net](mailto:jostshi@cox.net)

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