

# buzz

June 29, 2014

## A Glimpse from Conference Annual Sessions Worship

The following readers theater script was part of the Friday evening worship time on June 20 at Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Annual Sessions, held at Goshen College. Within the Annual Sessions theme “Broken, beloved,” Pastor Neil Amstutz was the worship leader for the first service of worship after delegates had become more aware of the reality of Clinton Frame Mennonite Church leaving the Conference effective the end of June. As a way to help honestly acknowledge the range of images and reactions to “Conference” with which people were coming, Neil prepared this Readers Theater, inviting Ruth Hollinger, Liz Gingrich, and Aaron Lehman to symbolically represent as readers three different generations of people within our conference. Look for more reflections from Annual Sessions delegates in Buzz next week.

**Reader 3 (younger):** We gather here under the umbrella of an artificial construct ...

**Reader 1 (older):** a human-made “thing”

**Reader 2 (midde) :** that we call the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

**Reader 1:** Some of us have helped develop this “thing” and give birth to its structural offspring. We have given years of our lives in service to this “thing.”

**Reader 2:** Some of us were not around at its beginnings, but we’ve grown up with it and taken it for granted.

**Reader 3:** Some of us have only recently moved here or paid attention to this “thing” at all.

**Reader 1:** Some of us have the fondest memories of our Christian lives associated with Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

**Reader 2:** Some of us have been wounded in or through this conference. (brief pause)

**Reader 3:** Some of us have found this “thing” to be a breath of fresh air or an encouraging affiliation of kindred believers.

**Reader 2:** Some have experienced it more as lethargic or irrelevant. (brief pause)

**Reader 1:** This “thing” to some of us has been felt as a channel of the Holy Spirit, making possible what individual congregations could not accomplish on their own.

**Reader 3:** To some at times it’s felt more like a roadblock to the Spirit. (brief pause)

**ALL:** And to a large number of people, this “thing” has been a mixture of these responses.

**Reader 2:** For over a hundred years, this “thing”, for better or worse, has been a vessel for God’s movement among Mennonite congregations in Michigan, Indiana, and even Kentucky and Tennessee.

**Reader 3:** It has helped us to see God doing greater things than just what’s happening in our local congregation.

**Reader 1:** For this we are profoundly grateful to a gracious and loving God.

**Reader 2:** And whatever the future of this “thing”, we trust it to God,

**Reader 1:** because in the end, this “thing” we call Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference does not exist for its own sake.

**Reader 3:** It exists for God’s glory through the strengthening of Mennonite churches in this part of the country.

**ALL:** O God, help us always to keep YOU as the main thing.

There will be  
no *Buzz* next  
week Sunday,  
July 6.



### Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15  
Goshen, IN 46526  
p: 574 533-5642  
f: 574 533-5642  
office@waterfordchurch.org  
www.waterfordchurch.org

#### Staff Team

##### Administrative Ministry

- Heidi King  
Interim Office Manager
- Michelle Lehman  
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt  
Bookkeeper
- JD Smucker  
Worship Coordinator

##### Custodial Ministry

- Judy Kniesly
- Courtney Shetler

##### Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz  
Pastoral Team Leader
- Lyle Miller  
Pastor of Family Life and  
Financial Stewardship
- Velma Swartz  
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voth  
Pastor of Community Life
- Mike Yordy  
AMBS Pastoral Intern

The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Tuesday preceding publication.

Katie Hurst,  
editor; 574 312-0125  
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

## In the Nurture Wing ...

Today in Sunday school, children in preschool through eighth grade explored this lesson. Consider using this information for conversation that nurtures your child's faith.

**Text:** Luke 19:1–10  
Zacchaeus

- 1 | Read Luke 19:2–5. Why did Zacchaeus so much want to see Jesus?
- 2 | Many people were angry at Zacchaeus. Jesus showed friendship instead. Who needs your love and friendship?
- 3 | Gather your coins. Calculate the total amount of money and multiply it by four. Give that much money to someone in need.

### Did you know?

Who is the world's shortest man? According to the Guinness Book of World Records 2013, it is Chandra Bahadur Dangi from Nepal, who is 21.5 inches tall.

### Prayer for the week

*God, change our hearts so we love joyfully and give generously. Amen.*

## Summer Plans for Several WMC College Students

**Cory Bowman**, *Hesston College graduate* — This summer I am working at Timber Ridge Golf Course and enjoying life around the homeplace. I will be studying agronomy at Purdue University in the fall.

**Tyler Brenneman**, *EMU sophomore* — This summer I am working as an intern for the city of Elkhart conducting fish population surveys of many of the local streams and rivers. This takes up a lot of my time, but the other time I do have is usually spent trying to stay in shape for soccer this fall and hanging out with friends and family.

**Trey Christner**, *Purdue University senior* — This summer I am working as an Accounting Intern in West Lafayette for a biopharmaceutical firm called Endocyte. I will be looking forward to visiting home on weekends to hangout with family and friends and spend time on the lake.

**Femi Hollinger-Janzen**, *IU junior* — I am in Bloomington doing recovery for my knee. I have about 2 weeks left till I am able to practice and workout fully. I will be here all summer working soccer camps and helping out with the in-coming freshmen. Thank you for your concerns and prayers. I wouldn't be where I am without the Waterford church community!



## Year of the Bible

READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT

1,189 chapters. Around 31,100 verses.

It seems like a daunting book, and so many of us return to the same Bible passages over and over. That's great—we find words of comfort, challenge, and encouragement in different ways. But what would it be like to read the entire Bible in a year, including what we perceive to be the boring parts? That's a goal a reading task force is encouraging you to think about.

As an aid, you will receive a bookmark outlining a potential reading plan, based on reading six days each week and roughly following a

chronological reading of the scripture. However, you are also invited to follow a reading pattern of your own. We welcome your reading from any version.

We are also excited about *Shine On: A Story Bible*, part of the new "Shine" children's curriculum that will be introduced in the fall. We hope to make this book available to all families, along with a reading plan that will allow families to "read" the entire Bible in a year as well.

And you'll also want to mark your calendars for a date in the fall of 2015 when we throw a party and distribute "I read the Bible" t-shirts to all who have completed a reading of God's word. Along the way, we encourage groups to think about how they can encourage each other. Might your Sunday school class or small group plan its own motivational tool—a camping trip or evening out together—for all those who take this exciting journey?

—Lyle Miller, pastor