

## 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:** Acts 3

Peter and John bring healing

- 1 | Read Acts 3:6–8. What did Peter give that was better than money?
- 2 | Talk about good things God has done for your family or friends.
- 3 | Look online to see an oil painting by Nicolas Poussin called “Saints Peter and John Healing the Lame Man,” painted in 1665.

### Did you know?

Jews, like Peter and John, recited three prayers each day. Shacharit (morning), Mincha (afternoon), and Arvit (nightfall).

### Prayer for the week

*God, we can't wait to see what you will do next in our family and community! Amen.*

## Interfaith Hospitality Aug 3–10

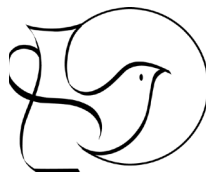


Thank you all for the support shown during our previous IHN hosting in June. We have another hosting week Aug 3–10, which is sooner than usual because we had a longer than usual gap between our March 2–9 and June 15–22

weeks. Again, any help with the week will be very much appreciated! The sign-up sheets will be available at the church, and also online at <http://tinyurl.com/Waterford-IHN-Hosting>

## Library Announcement

Eight new children's books were purchased for the WMC Library. The new book, *God Loves Me More Than That* by Dandi Mackall, became missing before it was properly cataloged. It was in the library in a box on top of the card catalog. It would be appreciated if the book would be returned for proper cataloging and checkout.



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##### Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz  
Pastoral Team Leader
- Lyle Miller  
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- Velma Swartz  
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voth  
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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.

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## Year of the Bible

READ IT STUDY IT PRAY IT LIVE IT

Do you enjoy gathering around a table and sharing a meal or dessert with others from within the congregation? Do you enjoy expanding your knowledge and exposure to various biblical characters? If you answered “yes” to both of those questions, then you need to be sure to sign up for **Bible Character Meals** as part of our YOTB! Bible Character Meals will take place from September 2014-May 2015 (except for December). Each month small groups, which will remain the same throughout the year, will host a different guest from the congregation who will come and represent a biblical character. Perhaps for the evening you will share soup with David or dessert with Rehab or a casserole with Elisha or ice cream sundaes with Mary & Martha.

How do you get in one of the small groups to host biblical characters? Great question!

Existing small groups are able to sign up for this new ministry, and therefore once a month they would host a different biblical character. Not currently in a small group or your current small group would prefer to not participate? No problem! Individuals or households can also sign up beginning in August, and then the planning group (Ruth Hollinger, Cynthia Kauffman, Cindy Voth) will form small groups that will function for this role during the next year.

Do you find yourself excited about this new ministry and specifically excited about being one who rotates between the small groups and represents a biblical character (it would be the same biblical character each month—so if you are Hannah you would represent Hannah eight times to eight different small groups)? We, the planning group, would LOVE to hear from you!

We are still in need of individuals to sign up to represent the biblical characters. Stop by the Participation Station today to pick up a Ministry Description for the biblical characters to read additional information. Resources are available to help with your planning!

—Cindy Voth, pastor of Community Life

## WMC's 2nd Annual Summer Picnic

The Mission and Service Ministry Team invites our congregation to a summer picnic 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 24 at the church. Who will come to the picnic? We hope that you will help us with our guest list! Just like last year's picnic we are hoping to host our local community. It will be a potluck dinner (drinks and paper products will be provided) with lots of time for fellowship and special activities for all ages, games and crafts for children, and lawn games for adults. We hope that you will come and bring along some guests!

We encourage the households in our congregation to prayerfully consider inviting one or two other non-WMC households to join us for our picnic. Who could we invite? Our vision is that this event will provide the opportunity for us to demonstrate Christian hospitality by creating a warm and inviting atmosphere to get to know someone new as we strive to build positive connections with church. Who in your life might enjoy such an evening and be blessed by participating?

What about a neighbor who is not connected with a congregation? What about the family of your child's teammate/classmate/childcare friend? What about one of your coworkers? What about ...? Who in your life could you invite? Who could you share this invitation with: "My congregation, Waterford Mennonite Church, is hosting a picnic to celebrate the end of summer. I would like to invite you to be my guest for the evening. There will be activities for children and lawn games for adults. The activities begin at 4 p.m., and we are planning on eating around 5 p.m."

If your guests offer to bring something for the meal, tell them that if they would like to they are free to bring something! It is a great gesture to our guests to help them feel like they are participating in an event and not just coming and being passive the entire time. Plus, it might help them feel some ownership in the event.

For the actual event, we are asking the congregation to participate by coming, inviting other households to join you, bringing plenty of food to share (main dish, salad/side dish, dessert) and lawn chairs, and serving as a host for your guests throughout the evening.

In August, we will have sign up sheets on the participation table for you to sign up for yourselves and your guest(s). We encourage you to begin to consider who you might want to invite to join us for our Summer Picnic.

We invite you to join in our excitement for this event as we ask God to grant us all a spirit of hospitality.

## Helping Build Homes in Millersburg, New Orleans, and Dominican Republic

The Mission and Service Ministry Team (MSMT) is excited about our opportunity to be engaged in helping support two different building projects. The first opportunity is to partner once again with our MDS partner congregations (College, East Goshen, Eighth Street, North Goshen, and Yellow Creek) to help build a home in New Orleans. The second opportunity is to join a local ecumenical team as we partner with Habitat for Humanity in the Goshen Building on Faith program, to build a house in Millersburg.

The various congregations of the respective teams are asked to contribute to the financial costs associated with the two builds. Since we are working on teams, WMC is invited to contribute \$10,000 (about \$5,000 given for each build). The MSMT already has \$1,000 toward this goal from designated surplus funds from the 2012-13 fiscal year, plus an additional \$1,300 from a WMC endowment grant.



**The unfinished house in New Orleans in the summer of 2012.**

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The house in Millersburg, partnering with Habitat for Humanity, will be a home for the Miller family—a father, mother, and their two daughters. The father is wheelchair bound following an accident. One local church has pledged about one half of the costs needed for the build, and other congregations have signed up as well. Habitat for Humanity anticipates starting on this house in October. As an ecumenical Christian organization, Habitat for Humanity believes in its affiliates tithing 10% of their unrestricted funds each year to another Habitat affiliate around the world. For every home Habitat for Humanity Elkhart County builds in our community, another home is built in the Dominican Republic. So not only will we be assisting in building a home in Millersburg, but by supporting Habitat we will be impacting a family in the Dominican Republic.



**The Miller family have already begun their sweat equity hours in preparation for working on their new home come October.**

The goal in New Orleans, partnering with MDS and five other local Mennonite churches, will be to complete a house severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. (These are the same congregations we worked with to complete the house



**The Dabon Family with members of College Mennonite Church in the Winter 2014**

in Minnesota.) Due to the hot summer in the south, various volunteers from our partnership began the New Orleans build already in March. The estimated cost of the New Orleans project is \$45,000. College Mennonite Church has pledged \$20,000 for the build. The additional funds need to be picked up by the other five supporting churches and any other interested groups that wish to contribute.

In addition to inviting the congregation to contribute, the MSMT has received WMC Endowment funds to help with the costs associated with these builds. In both builds there will be opportunities for a number of volunteers! For those of you interested in traveling to New Orleans, there is a MDS dorm near the building site which will be available to house volunteers. For those of you interested in volunteering on the Habitat build in October, please talk with Jordan Kauffman.

If you would like to contribute to the costs of building these homes, you may make out your check to WMC and include

“Building Homes” in the memo line. If you would like to volunteer on the house build in New Orleans, please contact Russ Hochstetler at 537-4747. We also invite us all to be in prayer for all of these building projects.

—Mission and Service Ministry Team:

Russ Hochstetler, lay minister partner; Ann Burkholder, Jordan Graber Kauffman, Eldon Stoltzfus, Deloris Wyse, Cindy Voth, Pastor of Community Life

## Welcoming Spaces Improvement

Working around television coverage of the U.S.’s World Cup game June 26, Aaron Lehman, Daniel Graber, and Mark Bowman pitched in to install solar tubes in the north portion of the fellowship hall. They assisted each other to complete the goal, with no yellow or red cards issued in the process. As a result of this win for the congregation, three points of natural light have been added to Sunday school spaces where the Seekers and Koinonia classes have most recently met.

The tubes were purchased as part of our Welcoming Spaces II campaign to make spaces at the church better able to welcome people to our physical spaces. Daniel also played a key role in bringing another part of the campaign to fruition. Over the past 18 months, he has installed carpet in the church offices, the nursery, and most recently in the nurture wing hallway and classrooms. Maurice Lehman, John Graber, former office manager Don Garber, and custodian Courtney Shetler also played key roles in the carpeting projects, including ordering supplies, moving furniture, and tearing out and disposing of old carpet.

The carpet installation is a “green” project. Because it uses .5 meter by .5 meter squares, there is very little waste compared to traditional rolled carpet. In addition, should individual squares get damaged, it is easy to swap individual pieces rather than needing to replace large sections. Finally, the carpet is affixed using small pieces of “TacTile” tape, rather than the adhesives used in traditional carpet. Thank you to the Creation Care Ministry Team for suggesting this option.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of  
Facilities and Finance Ministry Team



**Daniel Graber, Mark Bowman, and Aaron Lehman install one of three solar panels.**

## Annual Sessions Reflections

“Broken, Beloved,” the theme for the 2014 IN-MI conference sessions, offered a weekend of worship, reflection, and action that incorporated this theme. In the opening worship session, everyone was invited to reflect on their own individual brokenness, and then on their own individual belovedness. We were challenged to think about how our brokenness can add to the beauty of our belovedness. In the Friday evening service, Julia Gingrich invited all of us as broken people living within a broken social order to live into the beloved community. In one seminar, we considered how we learn to categorize and sort out people in many ways from very young; how categorization creates rivalry and an “us” and “them” mentality that separates human from human. If we recognize how we sort, we can begin to reframe our mental pictures of each other. We ended with a guided meditation in which we were led to encounter our beloved self, then our broken self, and finally both of them in the presence of Christ. In the delegate sessions, we were challenged to make our conflicts, that have the potential to create communal brokenness, acts of worship by making Jesus Lord over those conflicts. In the end, we recognized our communal brokenness by releasing Clinton Frame from the IN-MI Conference and blessing them in their call to ministry, and our communal belovedness by welcoming two new congregations into the conference, and opening dialog with two more seeking affiliation.

—Janet Shoemaker

The IN-MI Mennonite Conference met at College Mennonite Church on June 20–22. The theme for the annual conference was “Broken...Beloved” based on 1 John 4:7-12. It was good to be reminded throughout the weekend that God loves the human family so much that he sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for sin. As God’s dearly beloved, we should actively love one another generously as God loves. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us.

I confess that I have a tendency to set boundaries and withhold love from individuals or groups who disagree with what I believe, think, and practice. It’s easy to become defensive and judgmental. At conference I began to wonder if I am guilty of being a “scrawny lover” and if I am practicing “sloppy agape” in relating to people who are not on my wave-length.

To be set free from shame, guilt and fear, I was reminded at conference, to confess that I am “broken” and at the same time “beloved.” Jesus sets me free from shame, guilt and fear, to freely love, yet I have much room for learning and growth, to listen respectfully in order to understand, and to love people who are also “broken” and “beloved.”

These are some of my musings that were stirred up at conference and continue to be a part of my journey of faith.

—Elmer Wyse

## An Afternoon with Gustafson-Zooks

The Senior Adult Ministry Team invites all Waterford seniors (70 years and plus) to join with their friends in an afternoon of entertainment and fellowship over a cup of coffee and/or tea and dessert. Greencroft bus service will be provided.



Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook, an entertaining and energetic folk duo, will be performing at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, in the Waterford

Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. Les plays a variety of instruments while Gwen plays guitar and sings both lead and harmony. Their music reflects values gained in years of work with the Mennonite Central Committee in locations including Atlanta, Denver, Portland, and Kingston Jamaica, doing relief work with the Mennonite Church. Gwen is a licensed Mennonite pastor and is Minister of Worship at Goshen College. Les is a Constituent Relations Coordinator for the Mennonite Central Committee in the Great Lakes office in Goshen, Indiana. Check your mailbox today for your invitation. RSVP by Sunday, July 20.

## Hospitality Encouraged

“We should have them over.” “That’s someone I’d like to get to know better.” “Who is that new person?” Have you said any of these statements, or thought them in your head? Adult Nurture Ministry Team encourages you to listen to that inner voice and act on it! During the month of July, there is no Church Fellowship Meal (better known as “potluck”). Take this opportunity to invite another WMC person or family to your home. You decide the “who,” “what,” “when,” and “where.” You’ll be glad you did!

## Updated Contact Information

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