

# buzz

September 21, 2014

## Important Staffing Developments

The Administrative Staffing Group (ASG) is pleased with the revised structure proposed for the front office of the congregation. We are continuing the work of exploring whom God is calling to serve the congregation in the administrative office positions recently established. This exploration began with a focus on the Coordinator of Administrative Ministries position with interviewing underway. Immediately following will be the Administrative Assistant–Bookkeeper and the Administrative Assistant–Receptionist/Communications. At the same time we have opened the Trustee/Facilities Manager position rounding out the new paid staffing position.

But wait, the ASG in its work also looked across various service positions that make our congregation work including many that are carried out by volunteers. We came to the conclusion that we could build a sense of confidence in the fulfillment of this important work by creating a new position that of Coordinator of Ministry Gifts. We learned of a similar position being used in a neighboring congregation and were able to build in some of the strengths of the position based on their successes. While this is set up to be staffed on volunteer time, we have avoided calling it a coordinator of volunteers as it is our belief that this is more than coordinating volunteers but rather coordinating the multitude of service ministries served by people volunteering their time.

The person serving as Coordinator of Ministry Gifts will develop a pulse on the various areas of service across the congregation and develop a sense of the gifts and passion that congregational participants have. By matching these we will operate with a sense of confidence that our service needs will be met on a consistent basis. Not only will they have a good grasp on the current activities, they will be in tune with the congregational leaders as new opportunities emerge. They will also facilitate training for congregational participants to enhance their giftedness, in conjunction with Gifts Discernment Ministry Team.

It is our sense that this position will be key to matching opportunities for service with the keen interest of people wanting to be involved in a meaningful way. We have a Ministry Position Description ready for this new and unique position and believe that there are a number of people in the congregation who could serve us well in this

way. Please check out this exciting opportunity to serve an important leadership role and submit your application to Timothy Burkholder who will be joined by Mel Claassen and Vance Weaver as the search team waiting to work with you in considering this ministry position.

—Timothy Burkholder for the  
Administrative Staffing Group

## Energizing Indiana Update

Thanks to 27 WMC households who have completed an energy audit for their homes through the Energizing Indiana Waterford Initiative! Participation in this initiative helps our congregation make a positive impact for the environment while saving money on our own individual energy bills. Most of the \$675.00 earned through this free program has been received already; but there is still time for a few more households to do the Energy Audit and earn \$25 each. The deadline for all Audits is September 30. If you have the time and just haven't quite made the appointment yet, NOW is the time!

This money earned is being used partially to purchase several Programmable Thermostats to install in areas where needed around the church building. If you'd like to schedule an appointment, pick up one of the Energizing Indiana postcards on the table outside the church office. For more information, contact Conrad Brenneman, WMC Creation Care Ministry Team, at 574-773-8130 or conrad.b.in@gmail.com. Thanks again for your participation and positive impact on various levels in this initiative.

## Weekly Bible Study

The Seekers Class is studying the resource for the Year of the Bible, "Dig In," which guides us as we explore 13 scriptures that have been important to Mennonites throughout our history. Some in our class want to delve deeper into these passages than the Sunday morning class period allows, and we are meeting every Thursday at 7:00 PM at the church for that purpose. Due to space requirements we will be in either Room 15 or Room 22. Anyone who wants to join us is welcome, especially those who are also studying this resource. We'll read and discuss the scripture as well as the corresponding section of the "Statement of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective." Join us for a lively and enjoyable time!

—Bill Swartzendruber

## What Does It Take to Be a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Leaders Lorna and Mel Claassen, and Bill Minter thank the congregation for its prayers, interest and encouragement in the congregation's Stephen Ministry. In preparation for the information sessions that will be offered during the **October 5th Nurture Hour**, and **October 8th Soul Food Wednesday**, the following questions and answers may help you consider your own sense of gifts and call to becoming a Stephen

**How much of my time will it really involve?** There are 50 hours of training during the January – May 2015 period. As a trained Stephen Minister you will visit about once a week, for about one hour, with the person you are caring for. You will also attend a 2.5 hour monthly meeting with your peer Stephen Ministers for group supervision and continuing education.

**How much money will this cost me?** Nothing. The congregation has budgeted money for the training materials, and other meeting expenses.

**Will our pastors still help and counsel people?** Most definitely! Stephen Ministers compliment the pastors' ministry and provide even more care for people who need it. Along with the class shepherds, this ministry has become an important part of how our congregation cares.

**What if I get over my head with people who need more care than I can provide?** You will never knowingly be assigned persons who might be in that situation. The Stephen Ministry training also helps you to know exactly when and how to help your care receivers get professional help when necessary. The peer supervision group, the Stephen Leaders and the pastors will also help you make such decisions.

**How might I personally benefit from this experience?** You will learn many skills that will be valuable in your personal life as well as in your Stephen Ministry. Also, the satisfaction of helping another person is a wonderful blessing.

**Who will be the care receivers?** Participants in our congregation who are experiencing times of special need, and other acquaintances within our community who may turn to us for help. Thus, Stephen Ministry is also a way to reach out to others who do not have a church community.

**Will the care receiver really want my involvement?** Yes. A Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator will meet first with the potential care receiver. Only after the care receiver understands Stephen Ministry and has agreed to meet with a Stephen Minister of the same gender will you be contacted.

**Are there other people as unsure as I am about this undertaking?** Probably so! But the training will eliminate much of this anxiety because you will not only learn how to respond to people but also, and much more importantly, how to listen.

**Are there persons I can talk to who have gone through this training?** Yes. Hearing about the experiences of current Stephen Ministers in considering this call can be most beneficial. Please feel free to talk to current or former Stephen Ministers: Denise Diener, Len Harms, Connie Haarer, Cathy Hochstetler, Claramae Klink, Kay Miller, Mim Meyer, Gary Shetler or Elmer Wyse.

**How do I express interest?** Come to one of the two "Considering Being a Stephen Minister?" information sessions that are listed at the beginning of this article. You can also talk to Lorna, Mel or Bill. They will have forms available for you to indicate your interest. After completing an Application of Interest, you will then have the opportunity to meet with these Stephen Leaders, ask any questions and make a final decision together.

—WMC Stephen Leader Team

## OWLS Meeting

For many in the Waterford community, the acronym "OWLS" might not have much significance. However, the group of Older Wiser Loving Sisters enjoys their time together once a month, sharing a meal, stories, and fun!

In 2002, Blanche Hartzler began the group as an activity for older, single or widowed ladies to participate in once a month. They went to lunch to eat and visit, with varying locations, even venturing to Merry Lea once for an informative tour. Now the group mostly meets at Juniper Place in Greencroft because of the easy accessibility.

The group, which varies anywhere from six to a dozen women, eats lunch together on the first Wednesday of the month. Pastors from WMC sometimes join, and the group encourages women from Waterford, if interested, to come!

The group was started as a way for women with similar experiences to get together and share their time and stories, and the hope is that it will continue to be so. If you are interested in joining this group of ladies for a lunchtime of visiting, contact Pastor Velma Swartz.





## I Was in Prison, and You Visited Me: Meet Douglas Cuney

I would like to introduce Douglas Cuney to you again. Douglas, 44, is from Ft. Wayne and has been an inmate at the Elkhart County Jail and the Plainfield Short Term Offender Program Facility in Plainfield, Indiana. Kirk Martin introduced us about a year ago. Douglas became a Christian after meeting Kirk. He feels that this and the support of a church is the only way he can overcome his alcoholism. I have visited him each week in the Elkhart county jail and been in touch by letter while he is in Plainfield. Several people from Waterford Church have been writing to him and have received letters from him. He sent a picture this past week so that those of you that have not met him can see what he looks like. Douglas is a licensed electrician who had his own business which he lost because of his problem with alcohol. Douglas asks for the prayer support of fellow Christians to help him grow and stay true to his new found faith. He is looking forward to attending Waterford when he is released. His birthday is September 17 and it would be great if some of you would send him a birthday greeting at his current address:

*Douglas Cuney #242706  
Plainfield S.T.O.P  
501 West Main St  
Plainfield, IN 46168*

He may be transferred to a jail in Noble County in mid-October. I am looking for several people interested in joining me in forming a support team for him when he is released which may be soon or in a year or two. See his personal note to the Congregation.

—Russ Hochstetler

My birthday is 9-17-1969. I am 5'8" and about 165 lbs. I am a licensed electrician by trade. I have one daughter; she is 22 years of age and a college student at the University of Anchorage, Alaska. Thank you for all your prayers. I look forward to sitting with you in church.

—Your friend, Douglas



## We Welcome Leon and Esther Farmwald



Leon and Esther Farmwald moved from Nappanee to College Green in Goshen in June 2011. They owned and operated Farmwald Lumber and Home Center in Nappanee for 20 years. Then Leon worked at Miller Brother Builders and Esther started working for Menno Travel as a tour guide taking tours across the U.S. When Menno Travel discontinued bus tours, she began working for S & S Travel in Kendalville. She also has her own business, Tours Plus, in which she is a step-on guide for tour buses that want to tour Michiana.

Leon and Esther have three adult children, Kevin (Goshen), Hal (Wakarusa), and Leanne (Elkhart) and four grandchildren. Leon enjoys collecting Matchbox, Hotwheels and farm toys and has a large collection. He also enjoys woodworking. Esther loves to read, quilt, and entertain. They attended and were members at North Main Street Mennonite Church in Nappanee. Now at Waterford, they are a part of the Sojourners' Sunday school class.

Their address is 1414 Hampton Circle, Goshen. Their home phone number is 971-8195. Leon's cell phone number is 536-4942 and Esther's is 536-3304. Their email address is [ldjfarmwald@comcast.net](mailto:ldjfarmwald@comcast.net).



## We Welcome the Richer Family

Scott and Michelle Richer and their family live in New Paris. Scott works at Bethany Christian Schools as Director of Advancement and Michelle is a librarian with Goshen Community Schools. At this stage of their life, their interests involve following their kids' activities.

Noah is a junior and Mason is in 8th grade at Bethany Christian Schools. They both enjoy playing soccer and basketball and both are in band. Noah plays the euphonium and Mason plays percussion. They also have a daughter, Laken, who is a sophomore at Hesston College.

The Richer's address is 18910 Wild Rose Road, New Paris, IN 46553. Their home phone number is 831-6597.

—Karen Sommers



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### Staff Team

#### Administrative Ministry

- Sharon Burkholder  
*Transitional  
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*

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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## Fall Soul Food Wednesdays

This Wednesday (September 24) is our first evening as part of our Soul Food Wednesday Series. Our Fall Soul Food evenings will be on Wednesdays Sept. 24; Oct. 8 & 29; and Nov. 12. We will gather first at 5:30 p.m. for dinner (suggested donation is \$4 per individual, and \$8 per family) followed by activities for all ages (childcare is provided). Be sure to stop by the Participation Station today to sign up for one of our diverse and exciting adult electives: “Biblical Food for Thought” led by Fancheon Resler, or “Introduction to Inductive Bible Study” led by Don Blosser. Also at the Participation Station you can sign up for childcare, as well as to help with clean up following the meals. Have you never been to a Soul Food Evening before? Then this is a great time to come and join in the evening of fellowship with others from your faith community!

—Cindy Voth, on behalf of  
Adult Nurture Ministry Team

## Mill Stream Singers

Dressed in period costumes, ten Waterford members sang their way around the Bonneyville Mill celebration on the 13th of September with a mix of gospel and period music. A favorite was “Down By the Old Mill Stream” as a barbershop quartet number. They were so inspired, they are even thinking of calling themselves the Mill Stream Singers. (Waterford Mills...get it?)



The group from left to right: Bob Brenneman, Ed Swartzendruber, Rachel Brenneman, Loanne Harms, Sharon Burkholder, Barb Hodel, Ruby Hochstedler, Joan Walsh, Glen Hochstedler, and Paul Hodel

## A View from the Pew

“Heaven is for Real” is a first hand experience of an out-of-body journey of a pre-school boy as recorded by his father. It has been made popular through print and film. We are tempted to smile condescendingly and go on with our busy lives. Oh, we believe in heaven and the after life but we prefer to set it aside—except for the terminally ill and the aged.

But Jesus does not allow us to pass it by so easily. Even though we are blessed with all the resources to maintain life, He still persists. He spells out his intentions to describe his preparing our heavenly home as part of his family. He speaks of returning to take us unto himself—even before our death or after our death. What more must he do or say? Well, check Matthew’s gospel, chapters 24 and 25. Add to this the writings of Paul and Peter. They describe the signs of His coming—to be compared to signs indicating the changes of our world. They have happened, are happening now, and will continue to happen. All of them are happening now at the same time. Do we hear them as the sound of the alarm clock? And are we, indeed, responding to them as to being shaken from deep slumber?

To respond to these signs is to prepare—with joy—for that final journey. This includes making sure we are up to date with our relationship to Christ. Be sure you have received, by faith, all that he came to do through his death on the cross. We celebrate that especially in the Lord’s Supper, and His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Be sure this is as firmly fixed to your faith in Jesus. I hope to see you then. Stop by for an eternal chat.

—John C. King