

Additional Stephen Ministers to Train in Winter-Spring 2015

The Stephen Leader Team (SLT) has affirmed the lay caring ministry gifts of John Birkey, Cynthia Kauffmann and Jane Otto, and has invited them to train for serving our congregation as Stephen Ministers. SLT member Lorna Claassen will also be trained, along with Everett Thomas, a Stephen Leader from College Mennonite Church. Their training will occur January–April 2015. Upon training and commissioning, John, Cynthia and Jane will join the current six Stephen Ministers in providing one-to-one care to individuals experiencing difficulties in life. The SLT is grateful for Claramae Klink, Denise Diener and Connie Haarer, each having recently completed their service as Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministry training combines sound theological principles with contemporary psychology. The skills Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a very high level of Christian caregiving. The training is intense because it explores some serious life issues, but it is also a growth-producing and enjoyable experience. The 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training is broken down into fourteen 2 1/2 hour weekly evening sessions and two daylong Saturday retreats. Among the training topics are:

- Feelings: Yours, Mine, Ours
- The Art of Listening
- Distinctly Christian Caring
- Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly
- Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving
- Confidentiality
- Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

More than a 600,000 people have gone through Stephen Ministry training in more than 12,000 congregations worldwide since the ministry began in 1975. This ministry is complementary to WMC's larger caring ministry that includes class shepherds, small groups and pastoral care.

—WMC Stephen Leader Team:
Bill Minter, Lorna and Mel Claassen

Update on Douglas Cuney

Doug was released from the Work Release Center to move into an apartment last Wednesday Dec. 3. He has an ankle bracelet so his movement is restricted outside of work. He is wanting to be able to attend church and I would like to hear from someone that would welcome him to their Sunday school class. A number of people have helped supply his present needs as he is starting to set up housekeeping from nothing. His employer, Moyer Electric, has gone the extra mile to help him in many ways. Many of you have also helped. I will keep you posted as to his additional needs. Doug would welcome a call, a visit, an invitation for a meal and or a card from any of you. His cell number is (574) 354-7514 and his address is 22386 1/2 CR 45, Goshen, 46528. He is working most Saturdays as well. Continue to pray for Doug, Kirk Martin and Waterford as we journey together.

—Russ Hochstetler for the Jail Ministry Team

Welcoming Tony Miller to the Office Staff



We are happy to announce the hiring of Tony Miller for the position of Interim Administrative Assistant for Communications. Starting December 16, Tony will be in the office with Angela Ingle, Coordinator of Administrative Ministries, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Tony's primary responsibilities, in addition to answering phones and greeting the public, will be with church publications such as the bulletin, website, and Buzz. This is a temporary position for several months, supplementing Tony's other job at Goshen College. During this time secretary Michelle Lehman will continue at her current hours. More updates about the rest of this staffing model will appear in a future Buzz.

—Neil Amstutz, Lyle Miller,
Angela Ingle, Veronica Berkey

Due to the holiday there will be no *Buzz* on December 28th. Also, for Jan 4 *Buzz*, please make sure you get us your articles by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 26th.

Shoebox Greetings

What do you say to a family member you haven't seen in months? "Welcome home!" (insert hug here) or maybe "My how you've grown" or "Is that a beard you are trying to grow?" Whatever the case, we have an opportunity to reconnect with our college students who have been away at their schools of learning for the past few months. They will be coming home for Christmas break soon. You will notice a special welcoming area for our students near the library, and you are invited to stop by and welcome home those who are back from college. A hug, a smile, a greeting, are all welcome.

If you happen to have a shoebox at home that you could spare, please bring this along too. We will be sending care packages to students in February to remind them that they are a part of our church family, even during those times when they are away from us.

Winter Weather Cancellations

The decision to cancel worship will be made Sunday morning by 6 a.m. All other weekly activities will be decided 2 hours prior to scheduled event.

We will post Sunday morning cancellations, and those of other activities, on WNDU (TV and online), WFRN radio, on our Website home page, and our Facebook page. If we cancel 1st service, there will be no nurture hour, but we may still have 2nd service, depending on conditions. Be sure to check the posting to obtain the proper information.

Audio/Visual Thank You

Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with the AV team! We look forward to being blessed by your work behind the scenes.

Address Change

Carol and Lester Bauman have moved to assisted living at Millers Merry Manor in Wakarusa and welcome your visit and your cards.

The address is:

Millers Merry Manor
Apt. 252
303 N. Washington Street
Wakarusa, IN 46573
Tel. 574.862.1917, ext. 252

Health Care Reference Group

As a family medicine resident I always dreaded being on hospital rotation during the month of December. It usually meant long days, not enough sleep, and relaying bad news to too many patients. Maybe it just seemed like I had to tell more people that that they had an awful disease because I knew I would be away from my family for the holidays or not see the sun shine for a month, but I really think I diagnosed more terrible illnesses during the month of December than I did any other time throughout the year.

If you're thinking this is a horribly morbid *Buzz* article for this time of year, you're right. But I wanted to remind people that even when we were are busy preparing for Christmas, whether it's shopping, prayer, or decorating, people still get sick. If you need some help sorting out the maze that is health care in this country, the Health Care Reference Group is here to help. There are brochures at the information station with a list of our members, our phone numbers, and our specialties.

—Mandy Schmidt



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- Angela Ingle
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- Michelle Lehman
 Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
 Bookkeeper
- JD Smucker
 Worship Coordinator

Custodial Ministry

- Judy Kniesly
- Jan Oostland
 Facilities Manager
- 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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