

Office Administrative Ministry Update

We are writing with an update regarding office staffing and the administrative ministry of Waterford Mennonite Church.

Over the past months, an Administrative Staffing Group and others have spent significant time reviewing the office structures we imagined would best support ministries at Waterford. After developing job descriptions, we have hired a Coordinator of Administrative Ministries (CAM) and a Facilities Manager (FM). Though we conducted several interviews, these conversations have not led to hiring persons for the Administrative Assistant positions we sought to fill.

We have been grateful for the wonderful ways that Angela Ingle and Jan Oostland have stepped into the CAM and FM roles. Those of us who work regularly with them have been struck by the professionalism and expertise each has brought to their ministries. We have particularly noted the non-anxious presence Angela has provided in the office and the significant progress on numerous facility projects that Jan has coordinated.

As we have begun to live into the presence of Angela and Jan in their new roles, we have also recognized that we may have underestimated the efficiencies that have been gained in developing these particular job descriptions. We have also been grateful for the continued excellent ministry that Elvina Schmidt and Michelle Lehman have provided in their roles as bookkeeper and secretary, respectively.

As a result, we are choosing to fully allow Angela and Jan to engage with their roles before actively seeking to hire other ongoing personnel. Elvina and Michelle have agreed to continue in their roles. To help this engagement, we are grateful that Tony Miller has agreed to a temporary position (up to six months) in the office.

Tony has been an active participant at Waterford throughout his childhood and as a student at Goshen College. He has recently completed his degree at GC, where he majored in communication. He will typically work 10-12 hours per week, generally on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. His primary tasks will be communication activities,

including the weekly bulletin, Life Beyond Waterford email, announcements, web updates, working with Buzz editor Katie Hurst, and preparing weekly PowerPoints for worship. We are thankful for his availability, which allows him to continue in his half-time position as sports information director at GC. Please welcome him to this position.

Sometime this spring, we will take the opportunity for a smaller revisiting of administrative ministries, determining whether further changes are in order. We appreciate your flexibility and invite your prayers for all involved in Waterford's ministries.

—Neil Amstutz and Lyle Miller



Children are pictured at the` annual children's Christmas program.

My Coat

A number of years ago I bought a new leather coat. It was soft and warm and I looked pretty good in it. Or rather, I thought it made me look good. It was something that I could wear to church, or to school, and was quite comfortable. I had it for a

year when I accidentally tore it on our front door latch. It was a sad day when I realized I could no longer wear that coat to church. But I was not ready to get rid of it. I took Duct tape and taped over the torn spot. Within a few months I had other accidents with the coat and added more tape. Now I have a coat that I still use, but I use it differently. I wear it to work on my car. Even though I continue to get a lot of use out of the coat, it is probably not wise to wear it to church.

We have some hymnals in the sanctuary that are like my coat. They are 22 years old and have been used a lot. They have been taped and repaired. But we can still use them if we give them a new coat. That is why we would like to purchase covers (sleeves) for our hymnals. If you would like to donate \$ to the cause, this would be appreciated. Our hymnals are an important worship resource. A new cover will give them new life and hold them together for many more years of use.

—JD Smucker



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Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Angela Ingle
*Coordinator of
Administrative Ministries*
- Michelle Lehman
Secretary
- Tony Miller
*Interim Administrative
Assistant for
Communications*
- 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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Holiday Buzz Information

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

Holiday Office Hours

For the holidays, the church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25, and Thursday, January 1. We will be open regular office hours all other days.

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve Service— Plan to attend the Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols **Wednesday evening December 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

Christmas Worship— Christmas worship services will be **Sunday, December 28 at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**

Christmas Brunch— Plan to bring a breakfast entrée or two to share at the Christmas brunch **December 28 at 9:30 a.m.** hosted by the Sojourners and Open Door classes. There will be no nurture classes.

Winter Weather Cancellations

The decision to cancel worship will be made Sunday morning by 6 a.m. All other weekly activities will be decided two 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.

Reading Club Volunteers

Mrs. Donna Sherck, a sixth grade teacher at Goshen Middle School (GMS), is looking for volunteers to read with students.

The Reading Club will meet from 4-5 p.m. on February 4, 11, 18, 25 at GMS. Interested in making a difference? Contact Donna at: dsherck@goshenschools.org

—Melanie Hire

Christmas Eve Prayer Requests

Kirk Martin and a group of men in the Westville Correctional PLUS Program are holding a 24-hour prayer vigil on Christmas Eve. He would appreciate receiving prayer requests from our congregation which the group will pray for every hour. Please send your requests to joyyoder2@gmail.com before Monday, Dec. 22 or put in Joy Yoder's church mailbox on Sunday and she will forward them to Kirk.

Senior Reflections

Waterford Mennonite Church is blessed with a delightful group of senior adults. This group has not only years of life, but comes with a variety of experiences and brings much wisdom from where they've been and what they have learned. We would like to tap into that wisdom.

Senior Adult Ministry Team along with Velma are excited about adding a new feature to the *Buzz*. Hopefully we will have one article per month. I (Velma) will be asking you seniors for reflections on a particular subject. We are looking for articles with around 300 to 400 words with a specific focus in mind. We have ideas for a focus that you could choose from but we are also open to you deciding what you want to write about. Ideas could include "this I believe," "a childhood learning," "as I look back," or "a favorite scripture and why." We have many more ideas if none of these strike you.

These articles can be serious, challenging, and inspiring, but they can also be light and humorous or a combination. The idea is to hear from you. What would really be delightful is if you asked to write an article rather than waiting to be asked.

To you seniors: You may respond with "I'm not a writer" and feel like you cannot contribute. If you are asked to write, and that is your reply, we will help you with your dilemma! I/we will find someone to write for you, making sure we communicate what you want us to hear.

We anticipate hearing a wide variety of stories and wisdom.

—Velma Swartz