

buzz

January 4, 2014

Worship Plans Between Epiphany and Lent

Within our Year of the Bible emphasis, “Life and Teachings of Jesus” will be our particular focus for the six weeks from Jan. 11 through Feb. 15, as Christmas helps us move from Old to New Testaments. We will move from Jesus’ childhood to the opposition he faced in his ministry, which culminated in his death and resurrection.

One special way we plan to have you connect with these worship themes is for you to **bring a specially chosen tangible symbol from your own life**. Each week’s symbol will have a different focus, and you will be encouraged to share with someone else the personal meaning or story behind your symbol. Within worship, the children’s time and the sending time will highlight these symbols.

Here is a summary of the upcoming Sundays, themes, and the kind of symbol you are invited to bring on that Sunday.

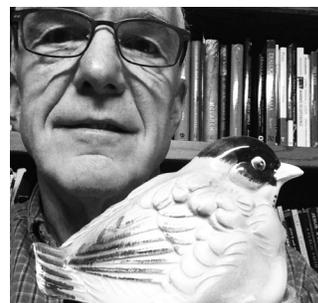
Date	Theme	Symbol
Jan 11	<i>Jesus – childhood</i>	A fond item from your childhood
Jan 18	<i>Jesus – preparatiom for ministry</i>	Something from your youth that prepared or pointed the way toward your later vocation or ministry
Jan 25	<i>Jesus – his mission</i>	Something that embodies your own personal mission or motto of faith
Feb 1	<i>Jesus the teacher</i>	Something representing a lesson you have learned from Jesus
Feb 8	<i>Jesus the speaker of parables</i>	A story (whether in your head, in a book or on a device) that profoundly influenced you or touched your heart
Feb 15	<i>Jesus’ resolute ministry in the face of opposition</i>	Something symbolizing your own tenacious commitment to Christ

Stephen Ministry Training Begins

Wednesday, January 7th marks the beginning of 50 hours of training for John Birkey, Lorna Claassen, Cynthia Kauffmann, Jane Otto, Everett Thomas (College Mennonite) and Doug Baker (Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church) as they commit themselves to learning the skills of caring ministry. This first week’s training concerns “The Person of the Caregiver”, during which they will consider five foundational characteristics of a caregiver. Stephen Leaders Mel Claassen and Bill Minter, former Stephen Leader Cheryl Snyder, and Stephen Leaders from College Mennonite Church and Berkey Avenue Fellowship will be leading the weekly training sessions.

A Christmas Gift

On December 25th at 10:03 and 10:06 respectively, Luke and Cindy Voth welcomed Lydia Elaine and Jeremiah Emerson into the world. Join in the celebration of new life!



On Jan. 11, please bring to worship an item representing a fond memory from your childhood. Luke Gascho, leading children’s time on Jan. 11, shows the item he will bring.

February 2015 Trip to Benin Postponed

The planned February 2015 trip to visit Benin Bible Institute and other locations in Benin, has been postponed due to the uncertainties associated with the West Africa Ebola outbreak. The group, which had been planning to travel early next year, included several Waterford members, a group from Ontario with several members of St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, and several Mennonite Mission Network staff members. Tentative plans are to try to make this trip in February 2016.

—Rod Hollinger-Janzen

Message from Theophane Boko



Dearly beloved, the way that you received us during our visit to the USA last year is an unforgettable thing. The warm welcome from the entire church remains engraved in our hearts. We want to thank you for your openness and availability in many ways. May the High One return it all to you one hundred fold, and strengthen you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Housing Opportunity

Grace Komuesa is the daughter of one of my Congolese work colleagues, Pastor Komuesa Kalunga. She has studied at Hesston College the past 2 years, and is transferring in January 2015 to Goshen College to begin the nursing program. She is looking for off-campus housing within walking distance of the College. She will need a room for herself plus access to a stove and fridge for meal preparation.

If you have space available and would consider having her in your home, or if you have an idea as to where she might lodge, please contact me at 612-6091 or by email at rod@aimmintl.org.

—Rod Hollinger-Janzen

Heading to Honduras



“Emily, we know you didn't apply, but regardless, we've shortlisted you for a position in Honduras that we think you could excel at. Let us know if you're interested in the next 24 hours.”

It was the last week of summer camp in the temperate rainforest mountains of coastal British Columbia and I had a lot of other things to think about. As a Program Director for over 60 staff and 100 teenage campers, I was already inundated with a myriad of logistics, meetings, photographs, end of summer celebrations and, well, hormones. Not ideal.

I gathered a posse of friends for prayer. And all that any of us heard was a resounding: Yes. Sometimes, when a door opens, you just have to keep walking and trust God that it will shut on its own if it's really not a path you should follow.

The Yes didn't fade and within two weeks, I had accepted the 3-year position: Connecting Peoples Coordinator with Mennonite Central Committee in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. I leave for training on January 23rd and for Honduras on February 4th. Once I settle in and get some Spanish training, I will begin to work as a connector and ambassador between the Honduran Mennonite and North and South American Mennonite churches. This will include serving the young adult internship programs (SALT, IVEP and YAMEN), leading learning tours and working as an advocate. I am thrilled.

I'll be around for most of January, so make sure you say hi (I'm the Bowman with curly hair). You can follow my adventure on my blog, treeonacrag.blogspot.com, or via email, emilybowman@mcc.org. I welcome your prayers for my Spanish, for intercultural dialogue skills, for wisdom, joy, senses opened to all around me, and that I can dive into the river of God's movement in our world. And do keep in touch as God continues to move in this church and community. MCC takes care of my basic needs, but if you would like give financially to this mission, you can either support MCC generally or support me specifically by sending checks to MCC Akron with a note: For Emily Bowman's PDA. Thank you, Waterford, for being a home base for this wandering soul. For not all who wander are lost.

—Emily Bowman

Two-Way Mission Update

Thanks be to God! The Ross Richer family and the Ecuador Ministry Support Team (EMST) have had much to be thankful for during the Holiday season. Jerrell, Jane, and their family have had a busy time with grading papers, last minute church visits, and figuring out how to pack for life in the mission field. At the December 16 EMST meeting, we had a chance to learn of some of the ways in which God has recently provided.

Firstly, due to the generous commitments from many at Waterford, in addition to multiple church congregations across the country, we have reached enough commitments to attain our funding goal. The Ross Richers are extremely grateful to have this important task behind them.

Secondly, the director of the Nate Saint Mission School in Shell has offered the family accommodations for the first month in the guest house located in the Nate Saint Museum. This will give them a great opportunity to connect with indigenous people in the Pastaza region as they seek God's leading and become acquainted with the communities in which they will learn and serve during these six months. It is an enormous relief to the new missionary family to know that these two things have been provided for.

Throughout the journey of hearing, discerning, and now acting on God's call, Jerrell, Jane, and the children have felt the support of their Waterford brothers and sisters through prayers and conversations and are eagerly looking forward to the work in Ecuador. By the time of this printing, the family will have arrived at their new home. They traveled from O'Hare airport to Quito (the Ecuadorian capital) on January 1st where they were to spend the first night. Afterward they should have traveled to the town of Shell in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The family will write a bimonthly newsletter featuring updates on their mission and prayer requests. The newsletter will be distributed by the EMST via email and, for those who prefer it, printed copy. The family has also set up a blog at www.twowaymission.net with photos and stories that the EMST invites you to follow during their time in Ecuador.

In closing, the EMST would like to remind all who have committed support to begin sending their contributions in the new year if they have not already. More information on how to give can be found on the MMN website, www.missionnetwork.net or by asking Dave Leatherman.

Please keep the family in your prayers as they embark on this two-way mission with Ecuadorian peoples.

—Ecuador Ministry Support Team

see photo of Ross Richer family to right

Senior Reflections: Jerry Detweiler Faith Story

Many years ago an evangelist came to my home church in Kansas for a series of revival meetings. One evening as I was sitting through the children's meeting (this was back when children were older than they are today) the evangelist was giving us a lesson in faith. He told us that he had a quarter that he would give to one of us if we were willing to come up on the platform to get it. Most of us just sat there but my cousin, who was sitting beside me, got up and got it. I was miffed because I was sure that I needed that quarter more than he did, but I had not made a move to get it.

Several months later I was attending a series of revival meetings with my father at a neighboring church. There was a different evangelist but during the children's service he too was giving a lesson on faith and he said that he had a dollar bill for the person who was willing to come up and get it. I was out of my seat in a flash to get that dollar bill. The evangelist said it was the fastest anyone had ever responded!

On the way home my father asked me if I really understood the significance of what the evangelist was trying to teach us by this illustration. Well, I understood that a dollar was enough to buy me 10 bottles of Pepsi Cola but I did then think about what the evangelist was try to teach us. Several nights later during this same series of meetings the evangelist gave an invitation to anyone who wanted to accept the message of salvation and to follow Christ. At that moment it all clicked in my brain and I understood what the message was that the evangelist had been illustrating in the children's story. I knew then what I needed to do and made a step of faith to accept Christ into my life.

Now many years later through the Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry, I have been privileged to witness many others take this same step of faith to receive the message of salvation and to follow Christ. Ahhhh, can there be any greater joy in life?

—Jerry Detweiler





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Facilities Manager
- Jan Oostland
Facilities Manager
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- 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 (on maternity leave)

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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Mennonite Women's Fellowship

MWF meets this Thursday, January 8. Come anytime from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and join in knitting, knotting, and quilting. We will share our lunch together. Soup will be provided, so bring along something to share with the soup and each other.

Poinsettias are Available

The large poinsettias used in the front of the sanctuary are available for a suggested donation of \$10 each. Feel free to take one or more after this morning's service (first or second) and make a check for your donation to Waterford with flowers in the memo line.

Fellowship Hall Floors

We will have the Fellowship Hall floors stripped and waxed Monday, January 12 through Wednesday, January 14. During this time, we will not be able to have any events in the Fellowship Hall.

Meat Canning

Plans for canning meat for relief will be held on January 8-10 and 12-17 at the Depot in Goshen. Canning will start at 7:00 a.m. and will end roughly at 9:00 p.m. daily. We will be canning turkey this year so help is needed to cut up meat all day. Waterford's specific date is January 16, but you are welcome to help any other days that would work for you. You will need to wear clean clothes and something for your heads as the Federal Inspector will be there.

If you cannot attend but would like to donate, please send contributions to:

MCC Great Lakes
C/O MCC Goshen Meat Canning
1013 Division St.
Goshen, IN 46528

—Loren Stauffer



MDS Partnership Continues

With the Mennonite Disaster Service work in reconstructing of the house on Buchanan Street in New Orleans now complete, one piece of the partnership of five churches (College, Eighth Street, East Goshen, North Goshen, and Waterford) with Faith Temple is also complete. No more volunteers are needed. But the financial piece of our partnership is still continues. The \$47,000 that have been contributed have been vital to the reconstruction, but \$27,000 is still needed to pay for materials and personal items. Your contributions are welcome any time. Please designate them for the "MDS Faith Temple Church."

The Buchanan Street house is now in use as the meeting place of Faith Temple and as the home for Gladier Dalton and her granddaughter Brandi Morris. It will also become the base for Faith Temple's multi-faceted ministry. Already, the congregation is developing plans to assess the needs of the community as the first step in its strategic planning. Please keep our brothers and sisters of Faith Temple in your prayers.

Christmas Orchestra

The Waterford Orchestra played together once again at the Christmas worship service. A combination of generations, the orchestra provided prelude and offertory music for worship. See pictures below.

