



buzz



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

We are ready to begin the second half of our Fanning the Flames journey. Typically what happens at halftimes, the marching band takes the field and the coaches meet with their teams to discuss second half strategies. Well, last week I met with Coach Amstutz to discuss the “game plan” for the second half of FTF. You see, this isn’t just any old game, this is the championship! The concept of Fanning the Flames has been over a year in prayerful planning. I personally believe that this FTF effort will change our church and that we will be a unified body of saints serving God in ways that HE desires. So you see, the “second half” is important.

With that in mind, here are some things in store for the second half. We begin today, October 11, with our FTF Bonfire. The highlight of this event will happen at 6:30 p.m. when we, as a body of believers, will light 23 Chinese lanterns representing the 23 spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible. It will be a symbol of commitment to use our God-given gifts, not only for the building up of the body, but for our community as well. Later in the week on Soul Food Wednesday, there will be a panel of people that will share how they use their God-given gifts in “every day” ways. Next Lord’s Day, October 18, Neil will be preaching from I Corinthians 12:8-11, 27-31a and I Peter 4:7-11 and of course we will be adding another layer of “Fire” onto our flame visual.

Let me encourage you as we “kick-off” the second half of our series to be prayerfully involved and active in the game, “Making the most of your time...” (Eph 5:16a). Truly God’s Spirit is at work here in this place! God Bless,

—Greg Hire, Coordinator of Ministry Gifts

Spring Break Opportunity

As many of us are settling into this new season of autumn, the members of the Mission and Service Ministry Team are busy thinking about opportunities for Spring Break 2016! We are excited to announce that there will be two inter-generational service-learning opportunities the week of April 2-9, 2016 (exact dates to be finalized). One group will head to sunny and warm Mashulaville, Mississippi and another group will head to sunny and hot Honduras.

Over the past several years many from our congregation have made the trek down to Mashulaville to serve alongside of Larry and Maxine Miller. Our MYF has chosen Mashulaville as the location for a service trip, multiple families have also served there together, and most recently, an inter-generational group spent time in Mashulaville during spring break 2014. The Millers are excited about our group coming and engaging in some hands-on service projects while also having opportunities to learn more about the cultural context of Mashulaville. Participants will stay together in the dormitory. Costs will include travel and food. Fancheon Resler is the point person for this trip (she participated in the trip in 2014) and this group is open to the first 25 people.

We currently have two young adults serving with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Honduras: Emily Bowman (three-year term) and Jesse Amstutz (one-year term). One of Emily’s roles with MCC is to help organize service learning trips and she has joyfully invited us to send a group down to Honduras during spring break. We will visit different locations in Honduras (including both cities where Emily and Jesse live) and learn more about the Mennonite Church and culture of Honduras. Costs will total around \$1,000 per person: airfare (~\$600) plus \$50 per day which will cover food, lodging, and transportation while in country. The point person for this trip is yet to be determined (it could be YOU!) and this group is open to the first 12 people.

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Please stop by the Participation Station and sign up if you are interested in receiving additional information about either of these service learning trips! Mission and Service Ministry Team is very excited about these opportunities and wants to help make it possible for all who are interested to be able to participate in these great service-learning trips. To that end, please contact Eldon Stoltzfus or Cindy Voth if you are interested in participating in one of the trips and would welcome financial assistance from our Short-Term Service line item.

—Cindy Voth, pastor of community life,
for Mission and Service Ministry Team
(Eldon Stoltzfus, lay ministry partner;
Ann Burkholder, Ruth Hartzler, Russ
Hochstetler, Deloris Wyse, Cindy Voth)

Venture Club photos from recent activities



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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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Relief Sale Thank You

Thank you very much for the Waterford Mennonite Church contribution of \$382.98 to this year's My Coins Count drive! Congregations have raised over \$43,000 this year. In addition we have a \$60,000 donation which brings the total to approximately \$103,000. All of this money will go toward feeding hungry families through MCC. Children will be healthier because of the fresh vegetables from their family gardens in Congo, Syrian refugee families will have the food they need so they don't need to risk dangerous journeys across open waters, families in Gaza will have the food needed to survive this winter, farmers in Zimbabwe are getting drought resistant seeds so they can harvest good crops even in challenging climate conditions. Thank you again for your generosity and creativity in sharing the love of Christ around the world through Mennonite Central Committee, by providing food for the hungry through My Coins Count.

—Bruce Glick and Les Gustafson-Zook, My Coins
Count Coordinators, Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale