



buzz



On Sunday, October 25, we spend our last Sunday morning together on our Fanning the Flames (FTF) journey. During this walk together we have been experiencing new ways to discover our gifts. We've been challenged to use our gifts, to encourage / affirm others and their gifts and to understand how our gifting is for the common good of the church. Even though we move on in our Sunday morning objectives, we are not leaving the FTF principles. In fact, even though there are still some FTF events planned, we will never stop fanning the flames. If we have learned anything at all on this journey, we've learned that we are to continually be about the common good of the church.

The Pathfinders class has been discovering some fundamental keys to gifting and unity through the Thom Rainer book, *I am a Church Member*. During this series the class will be participating in the two surveys that Neil mentioned last Sunday. The first is a way to help identify areas of what your gifting is (SMOUSCH) and the second survey will help to assess where your particular gifts might fit in (SPLASH). Some of you will be studying this book at a later time and will have the opportunity to use these surveys then. These tools are also available to those of you who do not attend a Sunday school class or would like to do these surveys independently. I would love to help you with this. Seek me out.

I would like to focus for a moment on the third point of Neil's message last week: Conversation—an opportunity where some of the people who know us best can give us honest feedback about our gifting and using those gifts. This is a resource that is already in place for many of us. As Neil mentioned, this can happen in Sunday school classes, small groups, or any gathering of trusted people. He also mentioned that the pastoral staff and I are available to help with this. I have already had the opportunity to meet with several of you in discovering or confirming God's gift(s) in you. Later during the winter, I am planning on a series of evenings that will be dedicated to this purpose. I will speak more to this in future issues of the Buzz.

As I leave you and our FTF walk together, I am reminded of the words of Paul to the saints at Ephesus as they parted for the last time. "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32).

—Greg Hire

Tree Planting Event at Waterford through Leaves of Faith

As one small step toward continuing to add beauty, health and other benefits to our church property (while replacing some of the trees recently lost to the emerald ash borer), there will be a tree planting event at Waterford Mennonite Church on Wednesday, October 28 at 4:45 pm.



All are welcome to join Andrea Nichols (regional arborist, pictured with Grace College students) and our Creation Care ministry team in a 15-minute tree planting presentation. The group will then go outside to watch or help plant 3 trees on our church property. The event will start in the MYF room for a brief powerpoint on "Tree Planting 101."

Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, a state faith organization promoting a faith response to climate change, introduced this "Leaves of Faith" program. Our Creation Care Ministry Team evaluated the program and decided to take advantage of a simple partnership between Indiana churches and the Indiana Urban Forest Council (IUFC). For a \$100 annual fee, Waterford will receive up to 3 four-year-old native trees per year (for 3 years) to plant on our grounds. IUFC receives funding from the Dept. of Natural Resources, which explains how the value of the benefits to Waterford far exceeds the cost.



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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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MYF Recent Activities

The 11th and 12th grade Sunday school class recently took a walking field trip through our “outdoor sanctuary” to the Elkhart River during Sunday school. Luke Gascho has been leading the class for several weeks, exploring issues related to creation care and the environment. On the way back from the river, the class discovered a wolf spider that was coming along the ride, perched on Luke’s pants pocket.



MDS Representation Update

Waterford’s representation to Mennonite Disaster Service is changing. For years, Loren Stauffer has been our congregation’s connection with MDS. When a natural disaster happened somewhere in the USA, and MDS was set up to help with the cleanup, repair and rebuilding, Loren would inform our congregation and help organize those who wanted to help. Loren also attended local and regional meetings to inform and update our congregation about the activities of MDS. Thank you, Loren, for your faithful service to our congregation and to MDS!

When Loren indicated he was ready to turn over these responsibilities to someone else, we discerned that someone could well be Dennis Myers. Dennis, as a part of the MDS team, locally built a prefab home here in Goshen to be sent to Wisconsin after a storm there. Then Dennis joined others to go to Wisconsin to help set up and finish the home on site. Dennis has accepted the invitation to become our Waterford representative to MDS. Welcome, Dennis! God bless you both for your service to others and to our congregation.

—Eldon Stoltzfus, Lay leader for Missions and Service Ministry Team

Mennonite Youth Choir Festival

Lola Gingerich is working with the planning committee for the 2016 Mennonite Youth Choir Festival. The mission of the festival is to both train young voices in grades 3-9 to sing and to teach them to appreciate the music of the church. It brings together young people from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois and introduces them to professional musicians who model a love for the Lord. In the past, numerous Waterford young people have participated in this festival. This is the 25th anniversary festival and if you have attended before you are invited back. Bring a friend with you, and you will receive special recognition. This year we will again include a men's choir made up of choir member's fathers and grandfathers to sing with the choir. If you have questions or would like to talk with individuals who have participated in the past please talk with Lola Gingerich.

The 2016 guest conductor is Brent Hyman from First Mennonite Church in Berne, IN. January and February rehearsals will be held on Saturday morning January 9, 23 and February 6, & 20 at Waterford Mennonite Church from 9:00 - 11:00. Festival dates: Practice on Saturday, March 5, 2016; concert performance on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 2 p.m. (free and open to the public). Cost per Child: \$35 early registration (ends November 15), \$45 regular registration. Location: The Goshen College Music Center, Sauder Concert Hall, in Goshen, Indiana. You can learn more about this event and register your child online at <http://mennoniteyouthchoir.com>.



Thank You

Thank you for all the ways you supported us when our dad, Frank Kauffman, passed away. The wonderful songs sung by the quartet were especially meaningful to us as we recalled Dad’s life. Thank you for the lovely mum plant that will remind us of you when we plant it.

—Maryann Shultz and Pat Yoder