



buzz



Fanning the Flames Update

Today is October 4 and we are taking a break from our Fanning the Flames journey. Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday with Christian churches around the globe. Even though we step away from the FTF verbage during this day we cannot escape the theme. As was pointed out on the launch day message, FTF isn't just about gifting, it also deals with unity. Last week's message by Neil reminded us that gifts were given to "...build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to unity in our faith..." (Eph. 4:12-13). I can think of no greater act of unity than when all across the world, saints unite in communion to proclaim our Lord's death until he comes again! (I Cor. 11:26.)

The FTF flame sculpture in the middle of the church is beginning to have a nice "glow" to it. Each week we add our individual items and it grows with all the various gifts and ministries that not only support our work here, but minister to our whole community. I can hardly wait to see what the next color will be!

The next Lord's Day, October 11, will be filled with many activities. We start by beginning the second half of the FTF journey. We will begin to focus on using our gifts in service. As I mentioned in last week's BUZZ, this is the transition from SMOUSCH to SPLASH—discovering how we are to "make waves" with our gifts. The message is entitled "10 ½ EEE," and the scripture comes from I Timothy 4:12-16 and II Timothy 1:1-10. Also next week is the church-wide bonfire with the 3K run/walk prior to the event. Make plans now to be a part of this big day.

Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful plant at the funeral of Galen's mother. She will be greatly missed. Your prayers, cards and many kind words of support are greatly appreciated.

—Galen and Cynthia Kauffmann

"People using their gifts"

The committee is complete. We are very grateful for the good work the "funeral meal committee" is doing. Karen Hostetler & Deloris Wyse are using their gifts for the planning of meals and determining the amount of food needed for each meal. Esther Helmuth has graciously agreed to be the person calling the rest of us to fill the food needs. They have used their gifts twice in the past two months in this capacity and have done a wonderful job. I/we are so grateful for their good work and the cohesiveness with which they use their gifts. Thank you so much.

The committee will be working from a list of names from the congregation. If and when you are called, please feel free to decline graciously if you are unable to participate—thankfully, we have had an overwhelming response when the need is presented. Again thank you!

When you do participate by bringing food, please put your name on your container. After the funeral, please pick up your container in the kitchen. We want to make sure you don't lose track of your containers.

The committee is also interested in knowing who would be available to help serve on the day of the funeral. If this is a gift you could offer please contact Deloris Wyse or Karen Hostetler.

I'm also delighted to announce that Audrey Oostland has agreed to organize the visitation meal in the event of the death of one of the members in the Berean class. Normally nurture class members do this for the bereaved family; however, in the case of our oldest members, we will give this service as a church body.

I/we are so grateful for the ministry of this team. We are blessed. These four women will serve for a two-year term, and then we will evaluate.

Blessings to all as you use your gift to minister to the body of Christ and to the world.

—Velma Swartz, on behalf of the pastoral team

Update from Facilities and Finance Ministry Team

The end of August marks the four-month point in our congregation's fiscal year which began May 1. At this point in the year, Facilities & Finance Ministry Team is reviewing our giving and expenses for the year to date, focusing primarily on places where either might vary from our spending plan.

So far, combined giving to the Operating, Mennonite Education and Either Funds is quite similar to the same four months from a year ago, increasing by only 0.7 percent. We are working with a spending plan that has expenses about 3.4 percent above last year's plan and about 7.0 percent above last year's final giving.

In the Operating Fund, we are aware that a much-needed computer upgrade for our staff will be somewhat more expensive than what was budgeted for, and we are also aware of several other line items that will be above expected.

In the Mennonite Education Fund, the timing needed to prepare for the mutual aid practice of supporting students at Mennonite schools always requires us to use incomplete information about enrollment and other factors. This year, we have the opportunity to support 14 percent more students at Mennonite schools than we did a year ago, meaning our total will be above the figure expected in May when the spending plan was approved. Though this year's final MEF increase of about 19 percent is substantial, the percentage of our total plan used for Mennonite education is actually less than it was four years ago and is slightly below our historical average. This year's larger increase reflects the more variable nature of mutual aid support, where the previous three years had flat or even slightly decreased budgets for Mennonite education. This was a significant factor in allowing us to meet expenses in recent years.

In looking forward, we also want to alert you to a potential large unanticipated expense. You may recall last spring when we experienced problems with our septic system. Following testing this summer, we plan to do additional pumping this fall in an effort to make it through the winter, but it seems likely that we will need to replace the system next spring.

This type of repair is typically covered through our deferred maintenance fund, which has had a balance as large as \$30,000 in recent years. However, with high-cost repairs such as roofing portions of the sanctuary and nurture wing and

resurfacing the parking lot in the past several years, this fund balance is currently less than \$8,000. Each year we budget several thousand dollars for deferred maintenance and receive several thousand dollars for rental use of the building. However, the amount available next spring could well be less than what is needed for the project, where we have very preliminary estimates of \$20,000 to \$25,000.

FFMT remains committed to managing the resources that God has entrusted us with at Waterford. We invite your continued ongoing financial support as we live out the vision of God at Waterford. If you have questions, please feel free to contact a member of the ministry team listed below.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of FFMT (Jim Fisher, lay ministry partner; Tom Yoder, treasurer; Alan Zimmerman, assistant treasurer; Dave Hostetler; Lyle Miller, staff)

Solar panels at Waterford?

Over the past few months, a Solar Panel Task Force has been exploring the possibility of installing solar panels on Waterford's building. This practice of ecological stewardship could benefit both the environment and our spending plan by replacing up to 80 percent of our congregation's electrical expenses.

The task force, appointed by the Creation Care and Facilities & Finance Ministry Teams working together, has summarized its work with these two teams and with Ministry Leadership Council, and we are now ready to share with the congregation.

The task force will present its proposal at two information sessions on Sunday, Oct. 11, sandwiching our Fanning the Flames special event. Please join us in the sanctuary at either 4:30 or 6:45 p.m. for a presentation, likely to last about 45 minutes. We will have information about our proposal, where the panels would be located, how they would be financed, the opportunities they provide, and more.

In addition to panels likely making sense for our congregation, there are tax and other benefits that make it potentially even more advantageous for individuals to consider installing panels on their homes. If you would like to hear more about these opportunities, please come to the session as well.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of the Solar Panel Task Force (Jan Oostland, facilities manager, chair; Mark Bowman, Josiah Graber-Ditzler, Aaron Lehman)



Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
p: 574 533-5642
f: 574 533-0879
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Greg Hire
Coordinator of Ministry Gifts
- Michelle Lehman
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
Interim Coordinator of Administrative Ministries
- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland
Facilities Manager
- Courtney Shetler
Custodian
- Irma Perez
Custodian

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.

Katie Hurst,
editor; 574 312-0125
buzz@waterfordchurch.org