



# buzz

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## Night at the Ballpark fundraiser set

Erik Kratz (at right in photo) is fired up to take part in “A Night at the Ballpark,” a fundraising activity to support MYF faith formation activities. Mark your calendars for Monday, January 18, for an evening of Kansas City barbecue and other ballpark favorites.

Following supper, Erik will tell stories of his Christian faith and playing as a member of the 2014 American League champion and 2015 World Series champion Kansas City Royals. Information on purchasing tickets will be available soon.



## Seven-month generosity update

As of November 30, we have reached the seven-month point in our congregation’s fiscal year. Our giving through the first 31 Sundays of the year has been about 6.9 percent less than it was in the same number of Sundays a year ago. By contrast, 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.

Our Facilities & Finance Ministry Team continues to monitor giving and expense patterns. Recognizing that December is a month that often includes additional giving, we have decided to wait until January to make decisions about whether adjustments will need to be made in our expenses for the remainder of the year. We invite your prayerful consideration of additional giving during the coming weeks and months.

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

## Senior Reflection

As I look back, my greatest joy in life has been raising our five children along with my husband, Fred. There were many responsibilities but also many happy memorable hours including adventures in camping. We also helped our twelve grandchildren, watching them as their parents worked. We took them on outings, to dramas, or to the zoo. And later we worked together with lawn care and cleaning chores. We also have wonderful memories of attending baptismal services for some of them.

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### Staff Team

#### Administrative Ministry

- Greg Hire  
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- Michelle Lehman  
*Secretary*
- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*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.

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## Thank You

Christmas is around the corner, and as I was thinking about how grateful I am to God for all His help and blessings, the Holy Spirit reminded me about you all.

2010/2011 was a very difficult time for my family and me. I moved to Goshen with a heart broken and nobody to talk to, except God. I spent long days and nights praying with all my heart. I was feeling lonely. My husband stayed in Illinois while I helped my daughter with her son.

One Sunday morning Daniela told me to get ready, we were going to Waterford. I already spent several Sundays going to different churches, but I did not feel welcome. When I arrived, not only did you greet me with a smile, but you gave all your support. I remember the sister who came to visit us with brownies for my soul.

My Sunday School class was a blessing and they helped us when we moved back to the farm. They drove four hours from Goshen and worked for an entire day to help fix up the old farmhouse. Also, the Young Adult Sunday School class helped us with Daniela's wedding. Oh how blessed we are!

I remember a brother coming to us with a big train before Christmas. It was for Micah and he was so happy to play with that train. I thought, how wonderful it is to have such a great Christian family.

We went through difficult times, but in our journey, God put brothers and sisters like you to help us. God had a plan for us, and now we are in Orrville, Ohio. Daniela is married and living in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She and Daniel have an eight month old baby, Arianna, and she is wonderful.

We are so grateful for everything. May God bless you and keep you, and give you peace, the same like He gave us.

—Lidia and Doug Zehr

## Thank You

Thank you for your support of prayers, concern, flowers, and meals during my knee replacement. It's a great comfort knowing that so many people care!

—Anita Myers

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I also enjoyed sixteen years as a school nurse in the Rittman Schools in Wayne County OH. There were many tasks as I visited the four schools. Kindergarten to 12th grade. My work included assuring that immunization records were up to date, many home visits, caring for students who were ill or injured on the playground and teaching family living. A pleasant memory was of the secretary telling me of children who would come for help after scraping a knee and would be sad, but coming out of my office with a smile.

A major change for me was when my husband, Fred, was diagnosed with cancer in Oct. of 2003. He received care at the Cleveland Clinic for a month without improvement and so he came home the day after Thanksgiving of that year to Hospice care and my and the family's care. We celebrated a belated Thanksgiving with him but he continued to decline until Dec. 31.

Fred had sung the Messiah with our Oak Grove choir for a number of years. We received a tape of the 2003 rendition that was given earlier in December. The evening of his death we were playing the "Messiah" and my youngest son noted that his Dad's breathing had changed. Just as the Hallelujah chorus was ending, Fred took his last breath. Though we were very sad that Fred/Dad could no longer be with us on earth we rejoiced that God had provided such a wonderful home going for him and that we were privileged to observe it.

Now as I am older and go forward I want to find God given purpose for each day.

I appreciate the opportunity to be part of Stephen Ministry and Thursday morning prayer times at the church.

My sister, Sylvia who had muscular dystrophy since birth, taught me many things. She was an artist with paints and words. She was limited physically in her activities, but she helped many, many people over the years. In her diary she wrote that she wanted to relate in helpful ways to "each one who crosses her path."

As I go forward into my sunset years, I also want to listen to Jesus's voice as I relate to "those who cross my path."

—Mim Meyer