



buzz

Night at the Ballpark fundraiser set



Erik Kratz, a catcher for the two-time American League champion and 2016 World Series champion Kansas City Royals, will be in Goshen to speak at a dinner at Waterford and host a baseball clinic on Monday, Jan. 18—Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Gates for the meal will open at 5:30 p.m., with opportunities for autographs and the chance to win door prizes. Following the meal, Erik will share his story, including how he maintained faith and perseverance through a professional career that began after graduating from Eastern Mennonite University in 2002. Since then, he has played for nine different minor league teams in a journey that first led him to the majors in 2010. Most recently he played for the Kansas City Royals, serving as the backup catcher behind all-star Salvador Perez for parts of the past two years. For 2016, he has signed a contract with the San Diego Padres.

Audience members will also have the opportunity to ask questions about his experiences. Tickets for the dinner are \$25 for adults (\$20 for students) or \$200 per table of 10. To purchase dinner tickets contact the church office at 533-5642 or office@waterfordchurch.org. Proceeds from the meal will support MYF faith formation activities, including Winter Youth Retreat and our service/learning trip.

In addition, the Erik Kratz Baseball Camp will run 1-4 p.m. at Goshen College and is open to any youth high school age or under. Cost for the camp and the evening dinner at WMC of Kansas City BBQ and ballpark food is \$60. Cost of camp only (no dinner) is \$50.

To register for the baseball camp, contact Goshen College baseball coach Alex Childers at alexbc@goshen.edu or 535-7748.

Stephen Leader Team Expands



Our congregation is blessed with an active and growing Stephen Ministry. To better enable this ministry to carry out part of WMC's mission to "Call out each others gifts...and Minister to the needs of one another and our neighbors through the Holy Spirit..." Liz Gingrich has answered the call to train and serve as a Stephen Leader.

After Liz completes an intensive Stephen Leader Training Conference in Orlando, Florida, January 10-16, she will be commissioned and join the current Stephen Leaders, Bill Minter, and Mel and Lorna Claassen, in directing the lay-caregiving ministry provided by our congregation's nine Stephen Ministers.

—Stephen Leaders

Ordination request for Pastor Velma

The ministry licensing credential held for Pastor Velma Swartz by Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference has been extended beyond the initial two years pending a decision for moving toward ordination for her. Velma began her current pastoral position in November 2012. At the November meeting of Ministry Leadership Council, MLC was pleased to approve proceeding with a formal ordination request to the conference for Velma. MLC strongly affirms Velma's ministry among us. Along with Velma herself and her spouse, Sheldon, several congregational leaders familiar with her ministry will be completing response forms to the conference. Our expectation is that this process will eventually result in her approval for ordination, sometime later in 2016.

—Vyron Schmidt, on behalf of
Ministry Leadership Council



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
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

Pictorial Directory Photo Shoot

It is time, once again, for a new pictorial directory. This year, we will make use of some of the many talented people we have in our congregation to put it together from start to finish. That means no more not funny professional photographers, no more forcing heads and bodies into x-number of uncomfortable postures, no more high-pressure sales pitches to buy photos you don't want. Instead, you will have a quick, relaxed and painless photo session with one of our very own fun photographers on a Sunday morning when you're already all gussied up for church.

The majority of photos will be taken in January or February. But if there are those who will be around only during the Christmas break, such as college students, mission workers, or those who head south for the winter and won't be here in the first two months of the year, we would like to catch you while you are here.

On December 27, Loanne Harms will be set up to take photos between 9 and 11 a.m. If you know that you or a family member will not be able to be here in 2016, please come prepared to have your picture taken that morning. We will be making a list (and checking it twice) of those we know we will want to photograph, and we will contact you or your family ahead of time. If you are not personally contacted, please contact the office at office@waterfordchurch.org or 533-5642 if you will need an early shoot. More information about location will be forthcoming.

—Janet Shoemaker

Address Change for Lester and Inez Culp

Inez Culp's new address and phone number:

1801 Greencroft Blvd Apt 434
Goshen IN 46526
(574) 537-4822

Lester is currently in Healthcare at 1225 Greencroft Dr. Room 105W.

Senior Reflection

I remember a night during revival meetings at Marion Mennonite Church as an eight-year-old seated up front with some friends. When the invitation was given to raise your hand to respond, I glanced over my left shoulder to where my parents were seated. My mother understood my unspoken question and nodded her head encouraging me. So I raised my hand. Later before baptism, I had some sessions with the minister who was my dad's Uncle Willard. I still have the small booklet that he gave me explaining the Christian life. The only thing I recall from my sessions with the minister was a strong recommendation to marry a Mennonite girl!

My best friend in grade school, Stan, and I had riding horses. Mine was a bay gaited mare named Ginger. His was a large spotted gelding named Duke. We considered ourselves serious horsemen and read Western Horseman magazines. I raised three colts from Ginger. We both enjoyed our horses a lot and would sometimes ride together. When we were in junior high, Stan suggested that it would be fun to take our horses and camp out some night on a large nearby hill called Buzzard's Hill (which was much later developed into a ski resort called Mt. Wawasee). At the time there was a gravel pit on the hill and one section was the Elkhart County landfill. So we made our plans with some help from our parents to deliver some blankets and firewood for our campfire and some snacks for us and hay for the horses. It was late on a warm summer afternoon. We rode all around on the hill until dark and then settled into our campsite, built a fire, ate our snacks and enjoyed an evening under the stars with the horses tied nearby. With our saddles turned upside down as bed rests, we finally got to sleep. Sometime later we were suddenly awakened by the horses. They somehow had gotten loose and were trotting around. I remember Ginger coming right across what was left of our campfire. They didn't go far and we were able to catch them and retie them more securely. I don't recall if we got much more sleep that night, but we had some stories to tell about horseback camping.

—Darrell Sommers