



buzz



5T's of Stewardship

If you think “stewardship” is only about money, think again. In a five-Sunday worship series beginning January 10, we will explore five distinct arenas of life to which God calls us to be managers. In our normal ways of speaking, we would refer to these five as time, spiritual gifts, money, creation, and our physical bodies & health. We hope it makes it easier for you to remember them in 2016 as “The 5 T’s of stewardship”: Time, Talent, Treasure, Trees, and Temple. (“Temple” refers to the 1 Corinthians 6:19 description of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.) Aiding our memory and visual recognition of these themes will be five simple circular logos created by Jordan Graber Kauffman, each corresponding to a theme.

Last fall we gave an indepth focus on our gifts and talents in the “Fanning the Flames” worship and Soul Food Wednesday series. That subject will get a brief refresher on Jan. 17 only, but in keeping with the FTF emphasis on using a variety of gifts of God’s people, the sermons (or primary verbal sharing) in this series will come from Waterford members other than the pastors. On some Sundays, two people will share the sermon time, or it may even be reflections from a panel of three people. The table below summarizes the basic information for the series.

—Neil Amstutz, Pastoral Team Leader

Date	Theme	Preacher
Jan. 10	“Time” (focus for panel: “How has God’s gift of time and your own sense of time changed in your life?”)	Panel of 3 members sharing reflections: Rachel Stoltzfus, Lorraine Reinford, and Chris Judson
Jan. 17	“Talent” (revisiting FTF about gifts)	JD Smucker
Jan. 24	“Treasure” (emphasizing money)	Vyron Schmidt
Jan. 31	“Trees” (emphasizing creation care)	Luke Gascho
Feb. 7	“Temple” (linking our bodies as “temples of the Holy Spirit” [1 Cor. 6:19], both physically and emotionally, to our spirituality)	2 people working in health-related fields: on physical health (to be determined); & Sheldon Swartz on emotional health

Thank You

Thank you for the lovely African violet plants that were brought to me when I was in the hospital and learned I have mantle cell lymphoma. I also want to thank you for the many cards of encouragement that were sent to me plus the many prayers said on my behalf. I especially want to thank Pastor Velma and my Sojourners class for the calls and visits.

I am home now and on a five month journey with chemo and so I would continue to covet your prayers as I journey toward healing.

—Shirley Toole

IRA Charitable Rollover Law Extended

There's good news and there's better news for those seeking to use traditional and Roth Individual Retirement Accounts to make tax-advantaged gifts to charities, including Waterford.

The good news is that the IRA charitable rollover legislation passed by Congress last week has been signed by the president. Persons over aged 70½ are now able to make a direct transfer from their IRA to an eligible charity by December 31 to count against their required minimum distribution for 2015. In addition, direct transfers from IRAs to an eligible charity made earlier in 2015 in anticipation of the IRA charitable rollover being extended will also count. To qualify, the IRA owner must be age 70½ or older, the annual limit is \$100,000, and donor-advised funds and supporting organizations are not eligible – the gift needs to go directly to a charity.

The better news is that this law now has no expiration date, meaning that those eligible will be able to incorporate this strategy into their future giving plans with the knowledge that the charitable IRA rollover is available. There's no need to wait until late in the year to find out if the legislation has been renewed.

Several households at Waterford have already taken advantage of this program in past years. If you have further questions, please contact your tax preparer or the organization holding your IRA. Elvina Schmidt (bookkeeper@goshen.edu) or Lyle Miller (lyle@waterfordchurch.org) in the church office can also provide assistance.

—Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life and Financial Stewardship



MDS Volunteers

Have you thought of volunteering for Mennonite Disaster Service? Here is your opportunity. MDS is calling for helpers in the Detroit area for a week at a time from the middle of January to June. They are looking for people with knowledge (a little or lot of knowledge or the desire to help) in framing, dry wall, electrical, plumbing, flooring and painting. Most of this work is in basements that were flooded in 2014 that have been cleaned out. There are numerous openings in April and May. We have three men already interested in going the week of April 18-22.

If you are looking for warmer weather for a week this winter, MDS needs 4-5 framers in Bastrop, Texas, for January 11-16, 25-29 and February 22-26 (There is one person interested in going the Feb. week). It can be 2-3 people, small groups, SS class or families. Maybe Spring Break would be a good time for you.

Do you hear the call? If you do, give me a call.

—Dennis Myers, MDS Rep

Meet John and Julie Zehr

John grew up in Eureka and Hopedale, Ill, and Julie grew up in Belleville, Pa. They both graduated from Goshen College, which is where they met. John completed his master's degree in education from Ball State; Julie completed the Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Colorado. They spent two years in Voluntary Service in San Juan, Puerto Rico and then returned to this area. John taught for 32 years in the Westview School Corporation, retired five years ago, and then returned to work at Westview as a special education aide. Julie worked for 36 years at River Oaks Ob/Gyn Associates in Elkhart as a Women's Health Care nurse practitioner, retiring in September of this year.

John and Julie (pictured at left) attended College Mennonite Church for 14 years, then moved to Lagrange County, and for the past 20 years have been actively involved at Emma Mennonite Church. A year and a half ago they decided to downsize and built a condo in a retirement community in Shippshewana. They live just five minutes from their daughter and her husband and two young grandchildren. John and Julie both enjoy reading and sports, and John enjoys singing and playing the piano. They spend a great deal of time with their two grandchildren, Blake who is five and Sadie who is two.



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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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