



buzz

Estate gift thank you

Waterford recently received a gift of more than \$16,000 from the estate of Wayne Sommers, who died August 19, 2015. In a note in his Bible, daughter Lorraine Reinford found the statement, “the basic motivation for giving is gratitude.” As a congregation, we are grateful for the generosity represented in the way that Wayne and his late wife, Susie, included Waterford in their regular giving and in their estate planning.

Based on input from the family and a recommendation from the Facilities & Finance Ministry Team, the Ministry Leadership Council has taken action to place half of the gift into Waterford’s Endowment Fund. Wayne and Susie had a heart for missions, and we sensed that he would be glad to have his gift contribute to the annual distributions that support local and global ministry efforts. A decision regarding the remaining half will come at a future point.

The gift was the remaining amount of a series of Charitable Gift Annuities that Wayne and Susie established over the years with the Mennonite Foundation. A Charitable Gift Annuity involves an agreement between a donor and a qualified charity, whereby the donor transfers cash or property to the charity in exchange for a partial tax deduction and a lifetime stream of annual income from the charity. When the donor dies, the money remaining in the account is distributed by the Mennonite Foundation to the charities selected by the donor. In the Sommers’ case, some of the annuities may have been established as far back as the 1980s.

A Charitable Gift Annuity can be particularly effective for those households in retirement seeking to make a charitable contribution while receiving a steady stream of income. The amount of the income is dependent on several factors, including the age of the donor, but is significantly higher than one can receive from Certificates of Deposit, for example. Feel free to contact me, or Kim Kelsey from the Mennonite Foundation at 533-9511, if you would like to include Waterford in your estate planning in this way.

—Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life
& Financial Stewardship

Hope-filled acts in hopeless times

Neil’s November 29 sermon touched on several important points regarding our hopeless times. Our news media outlets and social media venues make the world seem like an unsafe place to live and if our only focus is on the brokenness of our world we will definitely think we live in an unsafe world. I appreciated how Neil helped us understand Advent not as God sending Jesus to rescue us from this wretched world, but rather, our life in this world is to “Keep Awake” to identify the hope Jesus brings. Indeed, this is the true message of Advent and Christmas!

Reflecting further on Neil's sermon I came away with three hope-filled acts that speak boldly to keeping awake during Advent.

1. The decision of Hispanic Mennonite Church to stay in MCUSA is good news! That the Hispanic Mennonite Church leadership decided to stay with MCUSA even in the midst of disagreement over the sexuality issue is something to be hopeful about. Hispanic Mennonite leaders have chosen to live and engage in difference. Our congregation should also pray for congregations who are a part of Hispanic Mennonite Church. **This was a hope-filled decision!** <https://themennonite.org/daily-news/iglesia-mennonita-hispana-meets-to-discern-future-with-mc-usa/>
2. Several Mennonite congregations and community organizations sent Governor Mike Pence a letter stating their disagreement with him halting the resettling of Syrian refugees in Indiana. The letter below underscores that Indiana should be a welcoming place for refugees, immigrants, and anyone else who wants to make a life in our Hoosier state. **This is a hope-filled letter!** http://immigrantjustice.org/sites/immigrantjustice.org/files/2015_11_23%20Indiana%20Refugee%20Sign-on%20Letter.pdf

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3. On November 25 over 200 students, faculty, and administrators at Goshen College gathered for convocation for a difficult discussion on race and racism. It was powerful to see the college community engage in a hard conversation on race and racism. Action plans will be created to address institutional racism at Goshen College. **This was a hope-filled convocation!**

Indeed, our world is broken and at times it can be an unsafe place to live, yet even in this brokenness we see the Spirit at work. The above hope-filled acts show that the Spirit is praying for us and that hope is present in hopeless times.

Keeping awake,
Gilberto Perez, Jr. (edited by Pastor Neil)

Emergency Action Plan

Next week you will find in your mailboxes a copy of a newly-created Emergency Action Plan. It's an explanation on what to do in case of an emergency such as a tornado, fire or medical emergency. It also includes a map to show the location of the fire extinguishers and tornado shelters in the building. We encourage you to review the information and to share it with your children. While much of this may be common sense, it's helpful to review the information occasionally for your own safety and for allowing medical and fire department personnel to do the best job possible. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Oostland.

Venture Club Hayride Photos



Health Corner

This article is a repeat from last year but during this last week as I have been faced with discussing bad news with patients or having to prepare families for the worst, I realized it warranted reiteration.

As a family medicine resident I always dreaded being on hospital rotation during the month of December. It usually meant long days, not enough sleep, and relaying bad news to too many patients. Maybe it just seemed like I had to tell more people that that they had an awful disease because I knew I would be away from my family for the holidays or not see the sun shine for a month, but I really think I diagnosed more terrible illnesses during the month of December than I did any other time throughout the year.

If you're thinking this is a horribly morbid *Buzz* article for this time of year, you're right. But I wanted to remind people that even when we were busy preparing for Christmas, whether it's shopping, prayer, decorating, etc, people still get sick. If you need some help sorting out the maze that is health care in this country or sort out the complexities of a medical decision, the Health Care Resource Group is here to help. There are brochures at the information station with a list of our members, our phone numbers, and our specialties.

Recognizing the spiritual component of this season of increased illness and loss is a part of why we will gather together in a Longest Night Service on December 20. For more information, see the Advent schedule card that was placed in your boxes last Sunday.

—Mandy Schmidt



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