

buzz

February 1, 2015

MLC Invites Gift Exploration

The Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) celebrates the giftedness that each person in our congregation brings and having those work together creates a rich tapestry in our life together. We continue to appreciate the work of the Gifts Discernment Ministry Team (GDMT) that works to invite and encourage people to use their gifts within or outside of the church and makes invitations for particular leadership needs in the congregation. Dan Bodiker recently joined GDMT alongside Vance Weaver, Rita Herrmann and Ken Otto – the last two serving as interim co-Lay Ministry Partners.

Pastor Neil joins in the work of this ministry team. MLC has the responsibility to appoint the GDMT members and just now we are asking the congregation to pray for the person whom God is calling to serve as the ongoing Lay Ministry Partner (LMP). This person works closely with the Pastoral Team Leader in providing leadership for the ministry team. As you pray, we invite you to be open to the Spirit should you feel yourself ready to serve the church by encouraging others to be using their gifts – one of the privileges of the LMP. Feel free to mention your interest to Tim Burkholder or pastor Neil or any member of the MLC.

Along these lines, we are also bringing the opportunity to serve as our first Coordinator of Ministry Gifts to the person God is calling. As the congregation continues to enjoy the participation of new people, we want to have a way to tap into the passions they bring along with some of the passions many of us are not necessarily bringing to life in our church body. This person will experience the joy of matching people and their passions to many of the activities important in our life together that are served by volunteers. Indeed, we are launching this new position as part of our new administrative staffing structure on a volunteer basis but with some operating expense funds available to them. Does this opportunity wake up your imagination? If so, please contact Tim Burkholder, Mel Claassen or Vance Weaver who are on the search committee. The job description is available on the church web site or in the church office.

Unity and Variance in the Church

Most of you are aware that there exists heightened anxiety among many within Mennonite Church USA and Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference over how churches and pastors respond to persons in same-sex relationships. Pastoral team and Ministry Leadership Council want you to be aware of two important chances for you to express yourself on how or whether we can live together amidst our differences:

1. Within our conference there is a Unity and Variance Task Group appointed to lead a process through which conference members can “engage issues of variance and give feedback or direction to conference leaders.” The guiding questions for the group are “How can we be faithful to Christ as we address our differences?” and “How might we grow in the fruit of the Spirit while we passionately disagree?” This Task Group has recently sent out to pastors a survey they are requesting for church members and attenders to complete. The survey, in English and Spanish, asks what you think about the diversity of beliefs within our conference. We are asking you to complete and return this confidential survey by Feb. 21. Those of you with email addresses will receive a link to it in the coming week. Please return it directly to the conference office. Electronic completion is preferred, but paper copies will also be available at the Participation Station.
2. Because some of these issues will be addressed by delegates to MCUSA’s convention this summer in Kansas City, we want our congregational delegates (Helen Bowman, Luke Gascho, Eldon Stoltzfus, Cindy Voth) to have a better sense of the beliefs of their own congregation members. Therefore MLC is making plans for a congregational conversation in late April or early May, in response to whatever discussion or resolutions are planned for the delegates at Kansas City. That conversation will not be directly about homosexuality itself, but likely about larger church policy and authority questions. We invite your participation in that conversation. Look for more information about this in April.

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—Pastor Neil Amstutz

News from New Orleans

The churches in our MDS partnership (College Mennonite, East Goshen, Eighth Street, North Goshen, Waterford) are blessed by a recent letter.

I moved my belongings into the Buchanan St. property on Oct. 31 but was unable to take up residency until Nov. 26 due to the absence of electricity. However, on Thanksgiving my family celebrated the holiday with a wonderful dinner. We had much to be thankful for!

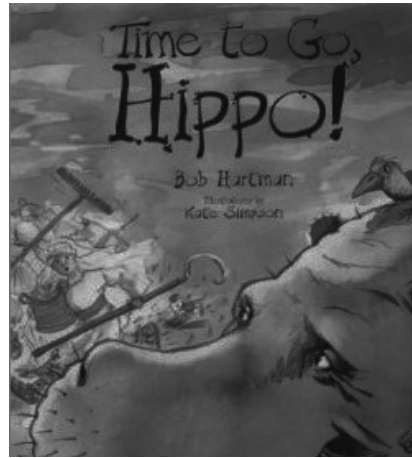
Faith Temple held its first service at Buchanan St. on Nov. 2. Buchanan St. was dedicated the following Friday night, Nov. 7. It was a very spirit-filled service consisting of singing, praying, anointing, and presentations with volunteers, church members, family, and friends in attendance. It is such a blessing from God to be back in our community of ministry. We will survey the community to ensure that we are addressing the true needs of the community and to build our membership. Just prior to going out with the surveys, Pastor Jerry and I will meet with each pastor in the area to express our reasons for the survey in an effort to allay any potential fears regarding our actions. We made the calendar of activities for the year and will print and give one to each member. We will celebrate birthdays with cupcakes and ice cream after church on the first Sunday of each month. We are creating visitors cards to get visitors' contact information.

We are looking forward to Goshen College Men's Choir (in which Steven is a member) coming to New Orleans in concert next month!

This letter confirms that Faith Temple is re-establishing itself and its ministry in the community that it served before Hurricane Katrina. This was made possible through volunteers and generous contributions from the partnership of our churches. Approximately \$21,000 is still needed to finish paying for the reconstruction. Donations are welcome. Please designate your donations for the "MDS Faith Temple Church" and remember our brothers and sisters in New Orleans in your prayers.

—Glacier Dalton of Faith Temple Church of God
in New Orleans

What are you bringing next week?



Lorraine Reinford will be sharing this children's story with the congregation next Sunday. Please bring a story (whether in your head, in a book or on a device) that profoundly influenced you or touched your heart.

MLC Explores Gifts continued from page 1

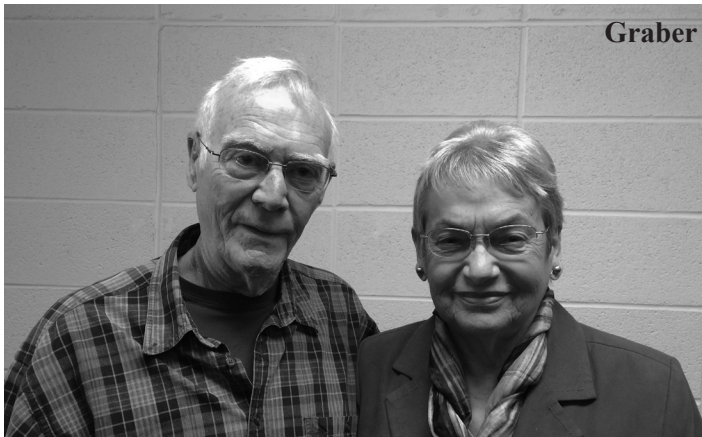
On a last note, we wanted to inform the congregation that we are in the process of identifying a Personnel Committee that will work to strengthen the work environment for our pastoral staff and administrative team. Some of the initial work for the committee will be to review and round out all of our human resource policies and organize to lead out in our regular pastoral review processes. Please pray with us as we put this team together.

—Timothy Burkholder, chair

Trail of Friends

Trail of Friends will be on Sunday, Feb. 8 from 5 to 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a short presentation about the letters of Paul, emphasizing the aspect of encouragement; the encouragement of new Christians and those struggling to be the community. People will then have the chance to make two cards and write their letters to people on a list provided of people who are on service assignment, home bound, or are in situations where it is publicly known that they need encouragement. All are welcome to this evening of encouragement. Trail Mix will be provided.

Introductions to New Attenders at Waterford Mennonite Church



Puerto Rico has been our home since 1965, where Ron became the first surgeon at the Mennonite Hospital in Aibonito, now an expanding network of Hospitals and Clinics in the central island. We spent our working lives in Aibonito, where we raised six children and were involved with the Mennonite School (Betania) as well as the Mennonite church.

Esther worked as an illustrator for Herald Press and then as a water colorist, painting scenes of rural Puerto Rico. She was also an accompanist at the Conservatory of Music in San Juan for some years.

On retirement we moved to Nashville, Indiana, to be close to our eldest daughter, Jane, and now have moved to Goshen to be closer to more of our family—Ann, wife of Keith Graber Miller, Sibyl, wife of Winston Gerig; and Ellen, wife of Nelson Kraybill. Jane, married to Scott Davis, is now in Frankfort, Michigan. Susan, wife of Michael Hunsberger, lives in New Zealand, and our youngest son, Steven, lives in Phoenix, Arizona. We have twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ron enjoys building miniature furniture, mainly cabinets to display Jane's miniature pottery. Esther is the author of the cookbook, "The Daily Feast," along with her daughters and daughter-in-law.

We both enjoy reading, doing crossword puzzles, visiting art museums, and attending concerts, and each year a return to Puerto Rico to renew our ties there.

—Ron and Esther Graber



We are both retired ordained Mennonite pastors. We pastored congregations in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Final retirement was in 2003 when we moved from Orrville Mennonite in Ohio to Middlebury, Indiana.

We have two children, Elaine (Linford) Martin and Carl (Stephanie) Horner. Between the two of them we have 7 grandchildren and one great grandson. Carl is pastor of Shore Mennonite Church and Elaine works for Everence as a financial consultant.

In July 2013, we moved to Maple Court at Greencroft, Goshen. Glen likes to read and play golf; Thelma enjoys cooking, sewing, knitting and piano playing.

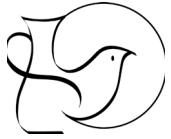
At the time of writing this, we are planning to attend Waterford membership classes. We look forward to building relationships and becoming a part of this congregation.

—Glen and Thelma Horner



Born in Oklahoma, **Jean Oyer** moved to Illinois for nurses training at West Suburban School of Nursing in Oak Park. She met her husband, Bernie Oyer, in the Chicago area where he did his 1-W service. They were married 51 years before he died in 2011. Jean moved to Goshen on February 14, 2013 and lives in Manor IV at Greencroft. She and Bernie have two children, a son, Clifford who lives in Goshen with his wife Lois, and a grandson, Dirk, who is a student at Goshen High School. They also have a daughter, Carolyn who is married to Bill Russell. Their son Eric recently graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Bernie was an electrician and Jean worked as a nurse at West Suburban in Oak Park where she received her training. Jean enjoys reading and visiting with people. She is a member of the Sojourners Nurture class.



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Interim Administrative
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- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

Facilities Ministry

- Judy Kniesly
- Jan Oostland
Facilities Manager
- Courtney Shetler

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
(on maternity leave)

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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Care Packages for College Students

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a severe yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71. Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out including Mrs. Butterworth, Uncle Ben, Hungry Jack, Betty Crocker, and Captain Crunch.

The graveside was covered with flours. Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy, describing Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Doughboy rose quickly in his career, but his life was filled with many turnovers. He wasted much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he was, even as a crusty old man, a role model for millions. He is survived by his wife, Play Dough; two children John Dough and Jane Dough, plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 350 for about 20 minutes.

If you managed to read this entire story, and wonder why it is in the Buzz... then you are invited to bake cookies for our college student care packages. We hope to fill 30 care packages delivered/sent before Valentine's Day. Cookies can be dropped off at JD's office Sunday, Feb 8. Let's share a smile with our WMC college students.

—JD Smucker

Thank You

Waterford Church family, thank you for your many expressions of love and care at the death of our father, John Lehman. We are enjoying the beautiful flowering plant. All of this has been a great gift to us. We feel blessed to be part of this caring church community.

—The families of Becky & Luke Gascho
and Mary Ann & Jon. Wieand

Update on Ryan Miller

As most of you know, in August of 2014 Ryan Miller made a commitment to do a nine-month service term at Camp Menno Haven in Tiskilwa, Illinois. In November I had a chance to visit Ryan and see firsthand the work he is doing at Camp Menno Haven. Ryan is learning a number of new skills such as framing, installing windows and hanging drywall to name a few. Being away from home in a new environment can be challenging and Ryan has embraced this challenge. During the next few months many campers will keep Ryan very busy. Please keep him in your daily thoughts and prayers. He would welcome cards, letters, care packages from WMC. WMC has made a financial commitment of \$2,000 to support Ryan in the work he is doing: to date, we have raised \$785. Any donations to his work at Camp Menno Haven would be greatly appreciated.

—Jim Fisher

Ryan pictured on right

