

## Update On MDS New Orleans Project

The people of Faith Temple Church of God in New Orleans are taking more steps to reestablish their congregation and ministry. Brandi Morris writes: This month we have decided to appoint church officers. As we are outreaching in the community we want to be organized for the people that God will send. We held a short meeting after church and the following people have been appointed: Bro. Charles Dalton is our deacon, Sis. Brandi Morris is the historian, Talisha Dalton is the recording secretary and the Sunday School superintendent and Sis. Renee' Dalton will be the church facilitator. We have confidence that the people that have been chosen will fulfill their duties and will ultimately draw people to Christ.

We have updated our surveys! Next month we will be putting them in our target areas. Thanks be to God! Besides the surveys, we have some other things that we would like to do in the community. We have talked about doing community service. That would include taking in slightly used clothes, shoes, toys and coats. We are praying that the community service will help many of the less fortunate in this area. We also would like to start a clean up committee. There are numerous blighted lots in our neighborhood and we would like those areas clean. At the end of this month we will be starting the cleaning process. We pray that all of our efforts will encourage the people around us to see what Faith Temple is all about. We know that this can only happen if we fully trust and believe in God.

Gifts continue to come in for the cost of the Mennonite Disaster Service reconstruction of the house on Buchanan Street involving the partnership of our five Mennonite Churches: College, East Goshen, Eighth Street, North Goshen, and Waterford. This house is now the base for Faith Temple's ministry. Currently, \$17,500 is still needed. Please designate your donations "for the MDS Faith Temple Church" and please remember our brothers and sisters in New Orleans in your prayers.

## Holy Week and Easter are coming!

Although in our Sunday morning worship we're already going through the events of that first Holy Week in Jesus' life, that annual week in church life is only a few weeks away. Here are some things to note in advance:

**Maundy Thursday meal and service** including footwashing will be offered again at **6 pm on April 2** in the fellowship hall. Look for signups in the foyer, and more details next week.

On **Good Friday**, like last year, the **stations of the cross will be set up in the sanctuary from noon to 7 pm** for you to quietly walk through at your own pace. This will also be available following the Maundy Thursday service.

**Easter Sunday** will have our **two worship services at the regular times, with an Easter brunch happening at 9:30** instead of regular Sunday School time. Pre-service singing of Easter hymns will happen at 7:40 in the Remembering LIFE Garden, and in the sanctuary about 10:30.

## Stephen Ministry Training Continues

Stephen Ministry Training Continues This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class will be considering the subject of ministering to those experiencing grief. During this session they will be helped to realize that grief can be healthy and taught to recognize and help people through the various stages of grieving.



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### Staff Team

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*Secretary*
- Tony Miller  
*Interim Administrative Assistant for Communications*
- 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)*

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## Thank You

The Hess family wants to express deep gratitude for the beautiful orchid Dale received at the hospital and then the lovely plant for his funeral. It is such a warm expression of WMC's love and care.

We have appreciated all your cards and meals, your expressions of condolences and prayers, your sharing of grief and shock and your intention to walk with us and with me into the future. God is reaching out to us through your words and deeds.

—Ursula Hess

## Letter from Kirk Martin

I am really enjoying “The Year Of The Bible,” and I am elated to be at the half-way point. God has spoken to me throughout this process of making and keeping this daily commitment. Knowing that I am doing this in sync with the entire congregation has given me a real sense of connection with Waterford Mennonite Church.

To the people that continue to write to me and send me cards to encourage me, it means more than words can say. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. In Christ’s love, to my church family.

—Kirk Martin, writing from the Westville Facility. *Kirk's address is available at the Participation Station.*

## Thank You from Mennonite Education Agency

Mennonite education is strengthening the church and raising leaders for local congregations who have made a choice to claim Mennonite faith and values as their own. Your congregation’s financial commitment to Mennonite education fosters a positive, life-transforming education that prepares students for a life of faith and service. We appreciate your help in making faith-based education a reality for a new generation of students.

—Carlos Romero, MEA executive director

## Senior Reflections

*Some Thoughts about Aging*  
by Dave Leatherman

Aging is not a second childhood.

Aging is not a disease.

Everyone needs God and most people know it.

Old age is the home of grace renewal.

11 million adults live alone. Of the U.S. population, 75% die in institutions and of those, 25% die in long term care.

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.

Death is a spiritual experience with medical implications.

Stress is a factor in all diseases.

Your thinking has an enormous effect on your body.

Instead of talking about cancer in remission, talk about cancer cured.

The language we use is so important.

The world becomes more rewarding when you look beyond yourself.

Be engaged.

Life is not so much about age, but how I bring myself to it.

People do not remember what I say, but who I am.

We do not change when we get older; we just get more of who we have been.

I don’t want to come to the end of life and find out I missed it.

Life often doesn’t make sense.

Be in an attitude of choice.

Be there. Make people feel good.

Be aware of other people’s unmet needs.

Well-being goes deeper than happiness.

Why do people do what they do?

Keep in touch with neighbors.