

Senior Reflection: The Bald Giants Who Influenced My Life

In 1948 I was baptized at Maple Grove Mennonite Church in Topeka by two bald men, both of whom impacted my life more than I would realize until many years later. One of them I had known all my life: Pastor Edwin J. Yoder, the “preacher” at my church and father of Galen Yoder and the late Gerald Yoder, members of this congregation. The other was Bishop John C. Wenger, who visited our church regularly and under whose tutelage I was later to study Mennonite History and Mennonite Principles at Goshen College.

These were somber-looking men in black suits and clerical collars, but I already knew they were also kind, friendly men with great senses of humor. I probably knew Edwin better than many of my peers at Maple Grove because he also owned a 40-acre pasture right across from our home southeast of Topeka. His sons Gerald and Galen often came with him out there to check on the cattle that grazed on the grass and drank from the artesian well that still flows to this day. While I was still a child my father bought that land, and it became part of the heritage of our family.

It was from the preaching of John C. Wenger that I raised my hand to become a Christian and a member of the church, and thus, a few months later, to be baptized. It was under the teaching of Edwin that I went through instruction classes and learned what it meant to be a Christian and a Mennonite. Neither of them was tall in stature, but both were giants in the church. I especially remember how John C. would get to laughing until he cried as he told stories of the church when he taught those classes at Goshen College. When talking of the long-held belief of women not cutting their hair, he told of his sister whose hair had been so abundant that she was forced to cut off some of it be able to take care of it --- and we all laughed when he pointed out that it might be hard to believe that someone in his family had lots of hair when he had so little!

A lesson our son Kraig learned from John C. Wenger had nothing to do with being in a church or preaching. When Kraig was 11 or 12 years old, he and I had gone to Everett's Grocery in Linway Plaza after a snowstorm. As we were getting out of our vehicle, we saw a lady with her car stuck in the snow bank there in the parking lot. She was trying to rock the car back and forth to get out when John C. in his long black coat and black hat came out of the store. Immediately, he signaled to Kraig and said, “Come on, son, let's get her out of there.” Of course Kraig had no idea who this man was, but between the two of them pushing, they soon had the car dislodged and the lady on her way. John C. shook Kraig's hand and thanked him and was also on his way. Kraig was a little puzzled but happy to have been treated like a man and wanted to know if I knew that guy. “Why that was the Pope!” I told him, and then I related my stories of how I knew and admired that bald giant, Bishop John C. Wenger.

—Fancheon Resler

Year of the Bible Scavenger Hunt



Ready for the Year of the Bible scavenger hunt? Greg Hire makes it look pretty easy. Simply match a key word or phrase from a select Bible verse to something in our Goshen/Waterford community. For example, if the verse was Luke 7:10 and the key word was “Health,” Greg has found the word “health” on a sign. What could be easier? We will be going out in groups on Sunday, April 19 at 5:00 p.m. to see

how many we can find. Each team will need a vehicle, a driver, and some sort of camera, so bring one if you have one. Or are one. Prizes and refreshments will be provided. Come and learn something about the Bible, something about our community and something about your navigational skills and creativity!

Stephen Ministry Training Continues

Last week the Stephen Ministry training class was learning how to make the first caring visit with a new care receiver. During this session they were receiving nuts-and-bolts information on how to get a visit with a care receiver off to a good start.

Thank You

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, emails and calls. I am improving and hope to be back to church soon.

—Julia Leatherman

I just want to thank WMC for all your church does for The Window. Opening your doors to us these many years has given us the opportunity to continue to serve the Goshen community. Your example of kindness deserves many praises and much thanks.

—David Kindy, board member

I want to thank the Waterford Church for the prayers and plant given to me during my recent hospitalization.

—Frank Kauffman

Address Change

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15654 College Line
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Ross Richer Update

There is a new prayer newsletter from the Ross Richers posted on the bulletin board.

Goodbye Friends

Another year of life experiences together and now, our Goshen College seniors are graduating. Our lives have grown closer through sharing meals together, conversations about the future of the church, laughter and tears, offering our personal stories that become faith connections. The desire to grow in faith together has been the glue of our Waterford coll-age class.

The college age class is in a constant state of growing and changing. Life changes at a rapid pace during these years. Having a place where we can listen, learn, support, and be supported, has become the role of our church. Members of our congregation have prepared many meals, shared in conversations, and given of themselves in many ways. And in return, the gift of relationships, optimism, spiritual growth, and extending the family, has been a blessing to us as a congregation.

In the coming weeks as we say “goodbye,” let’s also send our students with a blessing, acknowledging that when God is the center of our relationships, the future will be more fulfilling than even our best made plans.

—JD Smucker

Hosting Mennonite High School Choir Festival Students

Twelve households from Waterford hosted students from the Eastern Mennonite High School choir, which joined 15 other Mennonite high schools for the 53rd annual MSC Choral Festival. Pictured are Bailey Rhodes, left, and Erin Hostetler, right, who were hosted by Gary and Carol Shetler.



Also pictured below is the combined choir in Sauder Hall at Goshen College in the culminating performance of the weekend.

What is it like to host choir students for a weekend? Following are a couple of comments from those in our congregation who did.

One host said, “Yes, it was a commitment of a weekend, but I think if people realized the fun and blessings of this relatively short time, more would volunteer. No matter what the initial anxiety or preparations may be, we’ve always been blessed by hosting this type of event.”

Another host’s comment was, “We also enjoyed hosting and hearing the chorus at our church and at Sauder Hall.”



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- Courtney Shetler

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- Velma Swartz
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- Cindy Voth
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