

buzz

April 26, 2015

We Watch and Learn

*by Rosalie Yoder as she observed
her parents, Galen & Esther Yoder*

January 5, 2015

Surprisingly small they seem
To eyes that once looked up
At them from below their pockets.
Frail, they stand side by side,
Supporting each other
Weakness melding them
Into a new kind of strength.

‘Praise for the day’
Has long been their message,
Her songs of hope gently rising
As her vigor wavers,
Waxes and waned.

This new life-lesson
Comes harder for him.
When obstacles
Formerly overcome with ease
Become hills that labor the breath.
Hurry faster, push through!

This should be easy
For the problem-solver,
The quick-witted Innovator,
The relied-on one.

What? Glory in infirmity?
Count these trials as joy?
Depending and having peace
In slow and cautious gait,
Sorting thoughts as others wait.
Serenity in place of anxiety, giving
Grace in the face of humble frailty.

And we, your children, watch and learn
Knowing that one day it will our turn.

Mystery of Worship

Sometimes God speaks profoundly in worship. Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks in a small voice deep within. Sometimes our emotions are awakened, and at times the mind is expanded by some new insight. When we plan for worship at Waterford, we use what God has given us at the moment. In all cases, God takes our best plans and shapes them into an experience that goes beyond what we had planned. Two weeks ago, we had the Eastern Mennonite High school choir and Sara Wenger-Shenk as guests who led us in worship. Krista Allen was the worship leader, and Vyron Schmidt was the song leader with Elvina accompanying. Over 50 people joined to share their gifts in leading us in worship. When we add the visual reflections, the service became a feast for our senses, a time of praising God (with people we have never met before). I am grateful that our God speaks to us in worship in ways that I will never fully comprehend. And this is just one of the reasons I give thanks to God for mystery in our worship together.

—JD Smucker

YOTB Scavenger Hunt

The Year of the Bible program continued on Sunday evening. The object of the night was to find as many “key” words or phrases from select Bible verses as possible. Over 25 people braved the cold and rainy elements to participate in the YOTB scavenger hunt and there was a nice mix of youth and adults. The people were divided into teams consisting of at least one driver and one camera. They then had to go into the Goshen/Waterford community and identify as many “keys” as possible. Once locating something that represents the “key” word or phrase, they then had to photograph it with a team member. For example, if the verse was Mark 1:4 (John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness...) and the key word was baptist, the team had to find something that said or represented baptist. They might take a picture of the sign in front to the First Baptist Church on the corner of Indiana and Plymouth with a team member to complete this task. The team that got the most done and returned to WMC first would be the winner. With “key” words like olive, gold, beer, honey and bowl, someone figured out that it would be quicker to go to Walmart than to drive all over the community. I won’t say who it was but her first name starts with Cindy and her last name starts with Voth! The evening was to conclude with a “drive-in” root beer stand but due to the weather we enjoyed root beer floats in the church thanks to Audrey Oostland. This was a nice mix of the Bible, community and team-building. *See photos on back.*

— Greg Hire, Coordinator of Ministry Gifts

Volunteers for Prairie View Elementary School Field Day

The Prairie View PTO would like for their Supporting Our Schools churches, including Waterford, to join them in a fun day of celebrating with the children on Friday, May 22. The rain date is Tuesday, May 26. The SOS churches, Waterford and Maple City, are hoping to be able to provide 15–20 volunteers to give leadership to Field Day stations. Volunteer assignments can be either a half or whole day. Lunch for volunteers will be provided by the PTO. Assignments include guiding children at various activities like the dunk tank, bouncy house, popsicle and snack distribution, relays, obstacle courses, and more. All teachers will be on hand, accompanying students from station to station. Your role would be to remain at the station, giving guidance and directions.

Last year was the first year of doing the field day. It was a huge success and was enjoyed by students and adults. Like last year, volunteers from Goshen High School and Goshen College are anticipated as well. An all day shift would be from 9:30-2:30; morning from 9:30-11:30; and afternoon from 12:30-2:30.

If you are interested, call, text or e-mail Len Harms at 238-5918 or lenharms@frontier.com by May 10. He will pass the names on to the school.

Partnering with the Everence Sharing Fund

Our congregation provided financial assistance to five families in need with a total of \$3,000 in matching funds from the Everence Sharing Fund. Everence's matching grants provided almost \$900,000 nationally to help people in need last year. Learn more about this program from our Everence Advocate, Miriam Stauffer and see following article.

Thank You

Thank you for the plant for us to enjoy during Leon's recovery. Thanks too for the prayers and words of caring from the congregation.

—Leon and Esther Farmwald

Samaritan Trust Fund Reminder

All checks for the Samaritan Trust Fund need to be made out to Samaritan Trust Fund and not to Waterford Mennonite Church. Thanks.

2014 WMC Sharing Fund Activity

WMC has an active Sharing Fund which is an extension of our pastoral care ministry as it provides financial assistance to active participants at WMC who are experiencing a financial hardship. The Pastoral Team is responsible to appoint two co-coordinators of the Sharing Fund. Our current co-coordinators are Miriam Stauffer and Jason Golden.

Our Sharing Fund is an above budget account, and therefore we are deeply thankful to all who contributed to this ministry in the past year. During 2014 we were able to share just over \$12,000 to 9 households from WMC who were experiencing a financial hardship. Also during 2014 \$3,000 was returned to the fund in the form of matching grants from the Everence Sharing Fund.

While the details of the Sharing Fund activity are kept confidential, we did want to share with the congregation the amount of money that was distributed last year. This is a significant ministry among us, and therefore we also wanted to make sure that all are aware of this resource. The fund is available to regular attenders experiencing financial hardship and can be accessed by contacting one of the coordinators, pastors, or class shepherds.

As this is an above budget account we also welcome contributions to our Sharing Fund at any time. We routinely receive an offering for our Sharing Fund when we observe Communion (usually four times a year); however, anyone can make a contribution to the account at any point by simply denoting Sharing Fund on their check and/or envelope.

—Miriam Stauffer, Co-Coordinator
for the Sharing Fund

YOTB Scavenger Hunt Pictures



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