

Introducing Pastor Ron Guengerich



Pastor Neil Amstutz, as announced in Buzz on April 5, will be gone from the congregation on a sabbatical leave beginning May 25, and returning to work at church August 31. Providing sabbatical coverage on a half-time basis during this time will be pastor

Ron Guengerich, who we are happy to introduce below. With other pastors also preaching, Ron will preach here about as often as Neil normally would. Ron will overlap with Neil at church already starting the week of May 19. More information on Ron's expected office hours and contact information will be in next week's Buzz.

Ron Guengerich has just retired after serving as a pastor at Silverwood Mennonite Church (7½ years). Ron began pastoring at Whitestone Mennonite in Hesston, Kansas (10 years) and then pastored at Zion Mennonite in Archbold, Ohio (11½ years) before moving to Goshen. Ron graduated from Eastern Mennonite College (now University) and served in Japan with his wife Ruth (Lapp) Guengerich for 3 years, where their two children, Thom and Lisa, were born. Ron graduated from AMBS and did doctoral studies in Old Testament at the University of Michigan. Before beginning to pastor Ron taught at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and Hesston College (where he had Neil Amstutz as a student and lived to tell about it).

Ron and Ruth have two adult children, Thom in Socorro, N.M., and Lisa in Evanston, Ill. and eight delightful grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 28. Currently (until the end of June), Ron is the president of Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

The Junior MYF led the service last week, providing worship and thoughtful reflections for congregation members. Pictured on the right are several JYF members presenting to the church.

While Neil is Gone on Renewal Leave

Two common questions for pastors beginning a sabbatical are "How should we relate to you when you're gone?" and "How will your family be involved at church during this time?" When you see me around town, don't hesitate to strike up a conversation. But it will be helpful to not bring up church activities, both to allow for a break and to give freedom for Ron Guengerich and other pastors who are providing coverage. I'll be praying regularly for the congregation, but from a distance, and I ask that you do the same for me. Please note you'll get a bounce-back message if you send an email to my church address.

In a typical renewal leave year, you would not see me at any church activities. But this is not a typical year in my son Jesse's life, so I will probably be here for a few special worship services, such as senior recognition and times when he may be sharing about his upcoming year in Honduras. At those times, I will be here as an average worshipper, minus my "pastor hat." Aside from those Sundays, I will worship elsewhere. Because of our travels, you will see much less of our family, although Janette and Jesse will continue attending worship and activities as they can. You might occasionally see Leah, although as a young adult, she too is free to worship where she wishes. By the time September 6 rolls around, I will probably be showing symptoms of "Waterford worship deprivation" in my desire to worship with you again.

—Pastor Neil

Junior MYF Led Service Last Week





Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
p: 574 533-5642
f: 574 533-0879
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Greg Hire
Coordinator of Ministry Gifts
- Michelle Lehman
Secretary
- Tony Miller
Interim Administrative Assistant for Communications
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
Interim Coordinator of Administrative Ministries
- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

Facilities Ministr

- 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

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.

Katie Hurst,
editor; 574 312-0125
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Concluding Year of the Bible

Since Labor Day weekend of 2014, we have been on a long journey through our Year of the Bible (YOTB) emphasis, beginning with God's holy interpreted history ("Heilsgeschichte") in the Old Testament in the fall and then continuing in winter and spring into the story of Jesus and the early church. On May 24, we will conclude this extended view of God's big story in our worship services and in a joint adult and youth nurture hour in the fellowship hall, led by Pastor Neil. This Sunday will try to bring together much of what we've covered, focusing on hermeneutics (how the Bible is interpreted). The assumptions we make in interpreting the Bible determine what the Bible says to us and what we understand God's will to be.

Pastor Ron Guengerich will be joining Waterford temporarily at the tail end of YOTB. But the themes that the congregation will see and hear over the summer will fit nicely into Ron's special interest and studies in the Old Testament.

- The months of June and July will have a worship focus on Psalms, Proverbs and wisdom literature (overviews of Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Job).
- Beyond some anticipated baptisms on August 2, the rest of August will wind down YOTB with another Dwelling in the Word series, in which we stay with a single Scripture text for several Sundays. This year's Dwelling in the Word will feature the 6th chapter of Deuteronomy. The message of God is not merely words contained in a thick book, but must be lived out in our lives far beyond one year of special focus on the Bible. So Deuteronomy 6 is especially fitting to remind us to live out God's story today.
- September 6 will be a special concluding Sunday to celebrate the past Year of the Bible. Instead of a sermon, we will hear stories of YOTB's impact on Waterford people, and we will "sing through the Heilsgeschichte."

Prairie View Serving Our Schools

Join our partnership with Prairie View Elementary School by stopping by the Participation Station on Sunday to sign up to provide muffins/grapes for Teacher's Appreciation at PVES, as well as to state your interest in being involved in this outreach this fall through providing food for faculty/staff and/or opportunities to relate to students during the school day.

Judy Kniesly Retires as Custodian



For an almost unheard-of 18 years, Judy Kniesly has been cleaning up after us at Waterford Mennonite Church. Since 1997, Judy has been

a custodian at our church facility, with all but the last 5 years

of that time doing so alongside her husband Carl. When his health deteriorated enough that he had to stop working here, Judy continued on, as we found several other people to work with her in recent years. Now Judy's own health needs are catching up with her, so her last scheduled custodial day was May 16. We thank Judy and Carl for all their dedicated service over the years and wish Judy well as she continues to care for Carl and to take care of herself.

In the immediate future, our other custodian, Courtney Shetler, has agreed to take over all the custodial responsibilities until the church can hire someone else to share the job with him. We are now applications for this part-time custodian position, which averages 13-14 hours per week. Please send inquiries and applications to the church office in care of Janet Shoemaker

Custodial Opening

With the retirement of Judy Kniesly, Waterford seeks to hire a part-time custodian to assist in the ministry of providing welcoming, clean, and safe facilities for God's work at Waterford. We are grateful that custodian Courtney Shetler has agreed to pick up additional responsibilities for a time, but we would like to continuing our pattern of sharing the work between two part-time people so they can provide coverage for each other and assist each other with larger tasks. The position comes with variable hours, ranging from 10-15 hours per week and averaging about 12. The schedule is somewhat flexible, though it would typically involve work on several days throughout the week. For a copy of the job description or to express interest, please contact Janet Shoemaker in the church office (533-5642; office@waterfordchurch.org). She, facilities manager Jan Oostland and pastor of financial stewardship Lyle Miller will lead the hiring process.