

buzz

May 24, 2015

Senior Reflection

When I was a student at Lancaster Mennonite High School, one of my teachers who taught, of all things, English and some Bible courses, became, over the course of time, one of my most appreciated and trusted confidants. He had already reached his late twenties and certainly had more life experiences than I did. I learned much from him by word, but especially by example; his students were also his friends. J. Lester Brubaker was one of the reasons I later became a teacher.

Here is an example of advice I received from him: When you are facing a question you don't know how to respond to, pray about it. Honestly examine your motives. Tell God about your hopes and fears: "I want to do the right thing. I really am uncertain and I am trusting you to direct me." After this soul-searching you may already have your answer; if not, delay the decision as long as practical. When the time comes that you must make a decision, tell God that you really are uncertain and that you are trusting God to direct you. Go ahead and make that decision and never look back to second-guess it. The most significant decision I made this way was right before Ruth and I got married. I shared this style of decision-making with Ruth and she was willing to work with it.

We had two invitations for service, both from church agencies. One was a farm situation where we would serve on an institutional farm as managers, the other was to move to Philadelphia to serve as program leaders in a struggling mission church. I had been working on a farm; Ruth had been raised on a farm. We visited both places. We were being pressured for a decision from the farm committee. On the way home from our visit to the farm, we stopped in a rural church yard and prayed for God's leading. Someone else was waiting for the farm job if we declined it; no one had been found to consider the city job.

We moved to Philadelphia, never looked back to ask if it was the right decision, but have often asked: what if? Our work in Philadelphia led to the need for college, which led to Goshen College, which led to Bethany, which led to the Goshen community, a place to raise our family and where a bicycle hobby became a business, and to Waterford as our home church for over 50 years.

—Wilmer Hollinger

Word Crafters Wanted

As we head into summer and worshipping into the books of Psalms, Proverbs and the other wisdom literature, we are reminded of the connection many of us make with these books; the many verses we have memorized, and the inspiration they have offered and continue to offer for our lives. Wisdom literature is where many of us have found personal connection points with God; where we have found encouragement, freedom, and hope. These books speak to us about human life and all the pain, mystery, and need we carry within us.

As we begin this series, Worship Ministry Team invites the writers among us to share with the congregation their own psalms of lament, of praise, of connection with the wisdom of God. The Psalms speak into our lives, and calls some of us to find our own words to respond, to tell our own stories in psalm-like ways. It is the teams' hope that each Sunday this summer we might hear from one or two of our members as they read or have read their psalms, poems, or prose, and thus be encouraged through these words of today. All ages are welcome, well, writing is necessary, so that leaves a few ages out...but the rest of you, are welcome, and don't let reading it up front scare you off. We can get creative about that part if needed. If you have interest in sharing your words with us this summer, please talk with Loanne Harms soon. You'll put it off if you don't, and we all know how quickly summer flies.



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Be Ye Prepared

I was reading the dictionary the other day and read about the word “gift.” Gift: a thing given willingly to someone without payment; a present or a natural ability or talent. Synonyms would be: present, handout, donation, bestowal, bonus, award, endowment, talent, flair, aptitude, facility, knack, bent, ability, expertise, capacity, capability, and faculty. I know what you’re thinking: why was he reading a dictionary? To be honest, I don’t read one very often. Only when I need to research the definition of a word that is unfamiliar to me. Yeah I know, how unfamiliar can the word gift be? It’s not like we don’t hear that word used at Christmas time, or birthdays and holidays such as Valentine’s Day, Easter or Columbus Day. (I’ll be able to tell how many people read this article by the feedback I get on “Columbus Day.”)

I figure that with my new role as Coordinator of Ministry Gifts and the forthcoming Fanning the Flames promotion, which happens to be about gifting, not fire, I had better be prepared.

Speaking of prepared, I want to encourage you to be prepared for a truly sizzling summer at WMC. We are entering the final stages of the Year of The Bible series with a celebration scheduled for early September. We are also planning a very unique VBS (vacation Bible school), which takes place over a weekend. (More to come about this later.) This might work well for parents and children to attend as well as for those who may want to be a part of it somehow. The summer is shaping up to be exciting so be prepared to be part of it!

—Greg Hire

Thank You to Judy and Carl Kniesly

We are grateful for the 18 years of janitorial service provided by Judy Kniesly in helping to provide welcoming and workable space for the ministry of God at Waterford. For many of the years she was joined by her husband, Carl.

As she moves into retirement and increases the time spent in caring for Carl, we invite you to send a card of thanks or word of greeting to Judy. You may place cards in the church mailbox or send them directly to the address listed on page 2 of the church directory.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of staff and
Facilities & Finance Ministry Team

Thank You

It is with deep gratitude that I remember all your kindnesses during this year of transitions. Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits; flowers and food. I am enjoying my new home with my daughter Dee Birkey and her husband John at 1332 Pebble Court.

—Mary Helmuth

Birthday Recognition

Just a note to let you know that it is Kirk Martin’s birthday on May 30. He enjoys receiving letters and cards. Please note that you **may not use a return address label on the envelope and must write your name and full address in the return address position.** His address is:

Kirk D. Martin #169259
Westville Correctional Facility
5501 S 1100 W

Contact Info for Ron Guengerich, Interim Pastoral Team Member

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