

buzz

May 3, 2015

Supporting Our School (SOS) Mission Thank You

I want to tell you thank you for the recent SOS contribution of tissues our Congregation made to Prairie View Elementary School. As the SOS liaison, it was my privilege to inform staff that the tissues had arrived, and then watch the boxes quickly disappear from the office.

Perhaps like you, I consider my occupation to be my mission field. As the school counselor at Prairie View, it is a daily honor to tend to the spirit of students. We are accustomed to hearing how the one “serving” ends up being served. I’d like to share such a story.

Recently a student who is often in trouble earned the reward of being able to invite a friend to join her for lunch in my office. The two girls arrived and sat at my table while I finished a task. With my back to them, I realized that one was praying. Before I knew it, I found myself gawking at the “naughty” girl praying. Then as if she couldn’t wait to offer her own thanks, her friend took up the prayer where the first left off. And these weren’t rote, “God is Great” or “Johnny Applesseed” prayers. These were spontaneous and elaborate words of thanks for food, family and friends. I couldn’t help myself. I said, “Where did you learn to pray like that?” The girl who is often in trouble said, “Oh, my family and I pray every night.” Her friend said: “I go to a Bible study that my neighbor invited me to.”

I am reading a book right now about the importance of being thankful in all circumstances. I think I should be happy for the challenges this misbehaving student offers me, as it was her misbehavior that brought me such a blessing. That day I was ministered to by a child and her family whom I am likely to judge. That praying child is one who frequently needs tissues to dry her tears when she comes to my office for being in trouble. Some days God’s children at Prairie View need tissues and some days God’s children at Prairie View cause me to need tissues.

Thank you for your SOS tissue ministry!

—Marge Gingerich

Open Up the Waterford Welcome Wagon!

Galatians 6:9 tells us, “...let’s not get tired of doing what is good.” Waterford Mennonite Church will get abundant chances to put that into practice, assuming it is a good thing to warmly welcome new church members. From April 26 through May 17, every Sunday will see several people received into membership at Waterford, either by membership transfer or affirmation of faith. Eighteen people so far have been recommended by pastors and Ministry Leadership Council for membership. What a joy to welcome people more fully into this body; some having been worshiping with us for over three years and others for just a few months.

- **April 26** (with apologies for this appearing after the fact): in second service we received Krista Allen, by transfer from Aurora Mennonite Church in Ohio, and Glen and Thelma Horner, by transfer from Pleasant View Mennonite Church, north of Goshen.

- **May 3:** We will receive in second service Andrew and Ruth Hartzler, by affirmation of faith, and Bill and Jan Swartzendruber, by transfer from Pleasant Oaks Mennonite Church, a Middlebury congregation now closed.

- **May 10:** We will receive in second service Chris and Lori Judson, by affirmation of faith, and Bob and Leah Shetler, by transfer from Scottdale Mennonite Church, in Pennsylvania.

- **May 17:** We will receive in first service Leon and Esther Farmwald, by transfer from North Main Street Mennonite Church of Nappanee, and Harold and Esther Helmuth, by transfer from Arthur Mennonite Church in Illinois. We will receive in second service Scott and Michelle Richer, by transfer from Clinton Frame Mennonite Church of rural Goshen, and Jean Oyer, by transfer from Lombard Mennonite Church in Illinois.

The welcome will be even fuller on May 3, as Luke and Cindy Voth bring themselves and their children for a parent-child dedication in the first service. Yes, this will be a four-for-one, with Jeremiah and Lydia joining brothers Thomas and Elijah, who had not been previously dedicated in church. What a blessing for all of us!



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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.

Save the date for Bible school

This summer, our Family Life Ministry Team and Children's Cluster will be leading an experimental model for offering a variation of Vacation Bible School. Perhaps you'll think of it as Vacation Bible Camp as we gather on Friday through Sunday, July 17-19, likely with two sessions on Friday and two on Saturday. These dates were chosen because they avoid conflicts with our church schedule, school and church camps, Little League, and many of the structured summer opportunities that tend to be bunched toward the beginning of the summer. Stay tuned for more details.

—Lyle Miller, pastor of family life

Welcoming Questions

Waterford is a warmly welcoming church to many of our new attenders. But can we be more original? You are invited to think outside the "Big 3" Mennonite Game questions: Which Mennonite town are you from? Which Mennonite schools did you attend? Who do you know from Ohio? Those who do not grow up Mennonite would like to play too!

—Adult Nurture and Care Ministry Team

Welcoming the Christophels

James and Mary Christophel moved to Goshen from South Bend in 2011 and live at Greencroft. James and Mary have four adult children who live in Tennessee, Maine, and Texas and one son, Steven, who lives in Goshen. They also have six grandchildren. James has been a pastor, school teacher and since retirement does volunteer work including Meals on Wheels at Greencroft. He enjoys reading in his leisure time and reads through the Bible every year. Mary was a sales rep for a food broker, a homemaker and did some photography. She enjoys reading and flowers. Their contact information is as follows: 1801 Greencroft Blvd., Apt. 327 (Manor IV), Goshen, Indiana 46526. Telephone: 574 537-4345.



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