

## Recipe for Church Unity

On September 13, when we begin our Fanning the Flames journey here at Waterford, we will not only discover how to unlock our gifts but also some keys about unity. Gaining an understanding that each one's gift and the uniqueness of it are for the common good of the church (1 Cor. 12:7). That the varieties of gifts given to us are for a purpose.

Growing up, one of my favorite meals was tacos. Not restaurant tacos, but "made at home" tacos. My mother preparing all the ingredients for this was truly a "labor of love." She would brown the hamburger while she was grating some Colby cheese. Next she would chop some onions and dice the tomatoes. She would then shred some lettuce. I mentioned "labor of love," because in those days you actually had to do all this process by hand.

...See *Recipe*, Page 2

## New Introduction to an Old Activity

We are excitedly gearing up for our next series of Soul Food Wednesdays! However, we realized that some people do not know what this fun, formational, and fellowship-filled evening is all about. So, we wanted to provide a description so that ALL feel invited and intrigued to participate in the upcoming series! So, what is Soul Food Wednesdays (SFW)?

SFW is an opportunity for us to gather as a church family on Wednesday evenings, roughly four times in the fall and four times in the spring. We all meet first in the fellowship hall for an intergenerational, delicious meal that is prepared for us by WMC cooks. Food is available from 5:30-6:15 p.m., so come as soon as your schedule allows. (A suggested donation for the meal is \$4 for an individual and \$10 for a family. The donations help offset food costs and provide a thank you for the cooks. Please sign up for the meals in advance so our cooks know how many to expect.) Around the tables there are opportunities to connect with others from our church family (younger and older) that perhaps you don't always have an opportunity to do so.

...See *SFW*, Page 2

## New Locations for Adult Nurture Classes

I am thankful for a vibrant Christian education ministry at Waterford and for the vitality and gift of so many nurture classes for children, youth, and adult! Each fall Adult Nurture Ministry Team, Family Life Ministry Team, Facilities and Finance Ministry Team, and the Pastoral Team assess the needs of nurture classes in consultation with reports from our Space Study Task Force. We seek to stay current with needs of each of the classes and desire to match physical space within our church with the needs of each of the individual classes. As expected, changes and new needs emerge for our classes for a variety of reasons. We desire to respond to those changes and needs by providing spaces that best help to further the ministry among us all during our nurture hour. However, sometimes responding to these needs and changes mean that we need to rethink nurture class locations, which is the case for this fall.

Next week, August 30, there will be a bulletin insert that will show a map of nurture class locations which will officially begin on September 6. There are fourteen adult classes (Praise God!) and eight of the classes will be experiencing a new location this fall. The remaining six adult nurture classes (Coll.Age, Pathfinders, Gelassenheit, Open Door, Koinonia, and Praying Companions) will continue in their current locations for the time being. Next summer we will reevaluate the needs of the classes to assess if locations need to be changed again.

We recognize that with change comes an opportunity for growth, excitement, and new perspective. We also recognize that with change comes an opportunity for anxiety, frustration, and confusion. We ask that we all extend grace and hospitality to one another as we experience this transition together. It is our hope and prayer that these changes will better facilitate the needs for all of our nurture classes as we strive to faithfully and joyfully follow Jesus as a community of faith.

—Cindy Voth, Pastor of Community Life

## Recipe from Page 1

Nothing could be purchased that was pre-shredded or pre-chopped. Nothing came in a nice re-sealable bag for convenience. When she was ready and it was time for the meal, Mom would call us to the table and we would pray (well, I mean, at least pretend to pray). It's not that I wasn't thankful; it's just that it was hard to focus on anything else when the aroma of your favorite food is right in front of your nose!

Building a taco is truly a science. The first thing we would do is grab a corn tortilla that Mom had fried up in lard and begin to customize the construction of the ingredients to our own personal preference. For example, my brother believed that the hamburger went into the tortilla first, then all the other items, with the cheese last. This was so the cheese was not next to the warm meat, causing the cheese to melt. My mom believed that the tomatoes should be on top so their juice might seep through everything, adding to the flavor. My father was convinced that after each ingredient, a generous dose of Louisiana hot sauce should be added so that he could taste it on every bite. My sister said, "Hold the onions please." Now the correct way (my way) was to begin with the hamburger, then cheese, and then the onion. This was followed by the aforementioned Louisiana hot sauce. Then came the tomatoes followed by the lettuce. Fold in half and begin eating at either end. Mmm, good!

As I think back about this, it didn't really matter what order the goodies went on. When it was done, it was a taco! We all had our personal preference because our tastes were different. This is much like the church. The ingredients (variety of gifts, 1 Cor. 12:4) and the order (variety of ministries, 1 Cor. 12:5) and the cheese melting or not (variety of effects, 1 Cor. 12:6) may vary but when it's done, it is a taco (the common good, 1 Cor. 12:7). I am encouraged that even though there are a variety of gifts, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling" (Eph 4:4). I am looking forward to September 13. Mmm, good!

—Greg Hire, coordinator of ministry gifts

## SFW from Page 1

There is often laughing, catching up, and an opportunity to get to know others in our church family in a new, and perhaps deeper way. Following dinner, there are activities for all ages from 6:30-8:00 p.m. These activities challenge us in our faith, broaden our understanding of who God is and who God has called us to be, urge us forward in our faith formation, and create opportunities to bond with others in the congregation.

- Adults are invited to participate in electives during this block of time. We have had elective options in the past on themes such as creation care, spiritual disciplines, food in the Bible, genres in the Bible, game nights, financial stewardship, concerns related to end of life, etc.
- Infants through second grade: there are adults present to spend time with children in this age group as they play and interact together.
- Venture Club (students in grades 3-5) and Junior Youth Fellowship (grades 6-8) meet for their regular faith formation activities.
- Mennonite Youth Fellowship (high school students) meet together and in regular faith formation activities, beginning at 6:30 rather than their typical 7 p.m.
- Our Fall 2015 Soul Food Wednesdays will take place on September 30, October 14 and 28, and November 11. The adult elective will focus on our theme of "Fanning the Flames" and will have a variety of activities throughout the course of the series. More details and sign up sheets will be coming!

Please mark your calendars, and plan on participating in these fun, formational, and fellowship-filled evenings. Been a WMCer for decades but never attended SFW before? Please come! New to Waterford? Please come! We look forward to spending these Wednesday evenings together!

—Cindy Voth, pastor of community life,  
on behalf of Adult Nurture Ministry Team:  
Aaron Lehman, lay ministry partner;  
Laurina Graber-Ditzler, Chris Judson, and Ken Otto

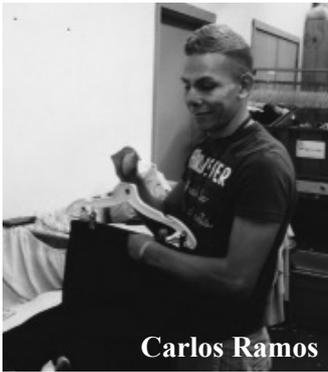
## Past Church Activities



MYF, JYF, and Sunday School classes all participate in a variety of activities—including Soul Food Wednesdays!



## MCC Update — Part 2 of 2

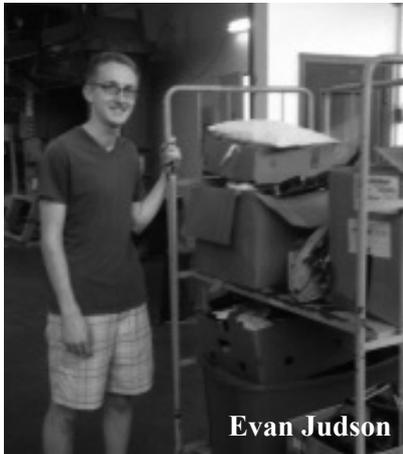


**Carlos Ramos**

Several women from the Seekers class stay in the Christmas spirit all year long by sorting and pricing Christmas decor at The Depot. Carlos Ramos sorted and hung used clothing several days a week, while Galen Yoder weaves rugs and Darrel Sommers serves in the Material Resource Center

(MRC) as a volunteer. This summer, Vicki Weirich brought a grandchild along to help bag purchases at the checkout counter. Bill Swartzendruber works with audio, video and stereo equipment donations. This summer, Evan Judson worked in the warehouse sorting donations and recycling clothing, books and cardboard. Our youth have visited the warehouse and served in a variety of capacities. Many more of you have donated your time and goods.

I grew up hearing about “MCC”, but serving in the role as Great Lakes Thrift Shops Coordinator this past year has expanded my knowledge. Did you know your donations and volunteer hours working at The Depot have contributed over \$300,000 to MCC this past year? Overall, thrift shops in the US and Canada have contributed over \$16,000,000 this year to surpass a total of over \$200,000,000 since their beginning. To put it in perspective, donations for 2 months from our local MCC thrift shop provides a teacher for 430 children at Menno Kids Academy in Kenya, along with providing shoes and clean drinking water for a year. In addition, a family in Guatemala is supported in raising flowers and fish to sell at the marketplace, keeping the family intact in their own home with beds and food to eat! Women are harvesting honey from their bee hives and sand dams help provide water through the dry months.



**Evan Judson**

Do you have a few spare hours a month or extra pocket change? Would you like to get involved in meaningful work? Why not join other church members who use their talents to benefit MCC? If you have a specific area of interest, your skills could be used or you could contribute funds specifically for material for comforters or receiving blankets (must specify for MRC fabric), sew school kit bags or crochet the ropes for the bags. Many of the children and youth from WMC have helped pack kits, worked in the popcorn or ice cream booth at the relief sale or made items to sell. Others have contributed to “My Coins Count” (formerly Penny Power) which currently provides clean drinking water to thousands of people. With the help of many volunteers, MCC is able to provide resources to support a wide range of programs.

When I hear the words, “It takes a village,” I am reminded how one small task of one individual added to another small task by another person, can turn into a beautiful comforter, a colorful school kit, or a soft receiving blanket. Many of these items we take for granted. For someone living in despair, these gifts can bring a ray of sunshine, a beacon of hope and a blessing of comfort.

—Joy Yoder

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## Church Construction

Ed Swartzendruber, Arnold Roth, and Loren Stauffer work at deconstructing the planter in front of the main entrance.



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## First-quarter Financial Update

The end of July marks the conclusion of the first quarter of our congregational fiscal year. Total giving to the Operating, Mennonite Education and Either Funds was down about \$6,200 from the same time period a year ago. This represents a decrease of about 3.8 percent. For context, our revised spending plan (taking into account final enrollment at Mennonite schools) is about 3.4 percent above last year’s spending plan and about 7.0 percent above last year’s actual giving. Facilities and Finance Ministry is thankful for the generous way that we ended the 2014-15 fiscal year, allowing us to come within several hundred dollars of having gifts match expenditures. We invite your continued generosity in helping us to live out God’s vision as a congregation in this new year.

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



## Waterford Mennonite Church

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### Staff Team

#### Administrative Ministry

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- Michelle Lehman  
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt  
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker  
Interim Coordinator of  
Administrative Ministries
- JD Smucker  
Worship Coordinator

#### Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland  
Facilities Manager
- Courtney Shetler  
Custodian

#### Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz  
Pastoral Team Leader  
(on renewal leave)
- Ron Guengerich  
Interim Pastoral Team  
Member
- 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

## Prairie View Chocolate Sale

From August 28 through October 2, Prairie View Elementary School will have its annual chocolate sale fundraiser. This takes a lot of volunteers, so any help is appreciated. Listed below are ways to help out.

- Thursday, September 3 at 3:00: Prepare candy for distribution. This will include labeling and distributing over 600 boxes.
- Each morning of the fundraiser: Collect money and give out more candy. Two people should be at the school each morning from 7:35-9:15 to collect money and give out more candy to students. Volunteering to help for anywhere from one morning to all mornings is appreciated.

Contact Len Harms by next Sunday in person or by any of the following ways if interested. Thanks!

email: lenharms@frontier.com  
phone (call or text): 574-238-5918

## Thank You

Thanks to those many people who sent notes/cards to our mother, Ruby Hostetler, for her 100th birthday. They gave her an opportunity to reminisce about the sender. The cards were truly “the gift that keeps on giving” as she re-reads them time and again.

—Marilyn Hostetler Friesen  
and Clair Hostetler

## Thank You

Just wanted to say thank you to my Waterford Church family for the beautiful plant and your prayers on my behalf during my surgery. Recovery has been remarkably great! I feel good and am working towards getting back to normal. There are a few limitations I am working with; as the doctor has said, I have significant mileage on my spine. My return date to work is September 1. Thank you again and keep us in your prayers.

—Joanna Yoder

## Missing Library Items

There has been a complete inventory done of the materials in the church library. The following items that were found to be missing. Please check to see if you happen to have any of these items and return them to the library. Remember to put the year when writing the date on the checkout cards.

### Adult Fiction

*Calm Before the Storm* by Janice Dick  
*On Every Side* by Karen Kingsbury

### Adult Non-Fiction

*Handbook of Denominations in the US*  
*The Hebrew Prophets* by James Newsome  
*Guilt is the Teacher, Love is the Lesson* by Joan Borysenko  
*God's Family: Stories of God and His People: Genesis* by Eve MacMaster  
*Even the Demons Submit: Continuing Jesus's Ministry of Deliverance* by Loren Johns  
*Land, Piety, Peoplehood* by Richard McMaster  
*A Hundred Camels: A Mission Doctor's Sojourn and Murder in Somalia* by Gerald Miler  
*The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for People Who Have Alzheimer Disease* by Nancy Mace  
*His Name was John* by Barbara Coffman

### Junior Books

*Tell Me Why: Eternal Answers to Life's Timeless Questions* by Michael Card  
*A Light in the Dark* by Carter  
*The Student Atlas* by Tim Dowly

### DVD'S

Show Me the Funny: The Skit Guys  
Lazarus Lives: Animated Stories from the New Testament

### CD

Meet God on the Mountain