



buzz

Read All About It!

As the newly appointed Coordinator of Ministry Gifts, I have eagerly anticipated the beginning of our church-wide focus on gifts and gifting. For three months I have been referring to today as *Launch Day!* Today we launch together our long anticipated trek called “Fanning the Flames.” For six of the next seven weeks we will, as a church family, be discovering (or maybe even uncovering) God-given gifts that exist in our family of believers. During this journey, there will be many venues to educate, encourage and experience our gifts. We kick off this campaign with Neil preaching the opening message and everyone receiving a gift. In the center of the sanctuary is a unique visual representing a flame that will grow each week. This centerpiece is symbolic of our collective gifts here at Waterford. You may add to this each week by naming gifts that you have discovered that God has given to you. You may also share how someone has possibly encouraged you to use your gift, possibly a gift you didn’t even know you had! Later on in the series you will be encouraged to list ways that you may have used your gift.

Each week here in the Buzz, there will be an update of upcoming events, and not just Sunday morning activities, but extra events designed to go with this series as well. The giant flame will receive another layer of “fire” and Lyle will be preaching from I Corinthians 12:12-17 and Romans 12:1-8 next week.

I would like to close with the purpose statement chosen for this journey: “God, who gifts everyone in the church, calls each person to offer their abilities and spiritual gifts to God and the congregation, and also calls them to fan the flames of others to utilize their gifts.”

—Greg Hire, Coordinator of Ministry Gifts



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

SFW Update

Plan on participating in our upcoming Soul Food Wednesdays! Below are the descriptions of the exciting and diverse adult activities that have been planned for our fall series as together we focus on learning new ways we are invited to Fan the Flames! Please stop by

the Participation Station to sign up for meals, childcare, and to participate in the adult activities.

September 30

Jonah was not the only one to ever run from God. Listen to how God took a man who, like Jonah, was on his way to Tarshish, and taught him that not only did he have value, but also had a job to do. Greg Hire shares his life-changing experience including his “whale” of a story, while he paints. Come and enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, humor and art.

October 14

Come to hear an intergenerational panel of Waterford members share about how they are living out their calling in using their gifts. Although these are humble people, the planning committee recognizes in each one very special ways in which they serve families, church, and communities. Through this discussion you may realize how you are also using your gifts and may be inspired to put them to use in other ways.

October 28

Guest Speaker Kathy Resler Chambliss (she grew up at WMC and is the daughter of Herb and Fancheon Resler) will be our guest speaker—“Treasure Hunt: Identifying gifts in community.” Kathy is on the pastoral staff at Kentwood Community Church in Kentwood, Michigan.

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Letter of Resignation

Since our fall schedule has us out of the country during a key time for the congregation (September 19-October 17, 2015), and some mitigating circumstances are calling for our discernment, I have visited with several congregational leaders and concluded that it is in my/our best interest for me to resign as chair of the congregation effective September 16, 2015.

As you may or may not know, Sharon and I moved to Goshen from Edmonton, Alberta in 1995 for me to work with Mennonite Board of Education and we are both now retired. Portions of our retirement income come from both countries and the main mitigating circumstance affecting us is that the Canadian dollar has dropped thirty percent in value for us living on the US side. We are exploring options to strengthen our retirement income. Since we are Canadian, an option would be for us to move back to Canada, saving the lost income on the dollar and eliminating our US Medicare costs. Staying here would call for us to downsize our housing and explore some part-time employment. We are in the process of selling our house with plans to downsize whether we stay in the Goshen area or whether we would move back to Canada. This may be more information than you want, but it may help give you a sense of our need to give this our devoted attention. Being relieved of my congregational responsibility will allow me that freedom. I do invite your prayers in this discernment process.

It has been my privilege to serve as your congregational chair for the past five years and I have always felt the support of the congregation as I carried out these responsibilities. You have been gracious with all of your leaders and I pray for your graciousness to continue with the future leaders as well. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

—Timothy Burkholder

Kirk Martin's New Address

Printed below is Kirk Martin's new address. He enjoys receiving letters and cards. Please remember the following: No return address labels and write your full name and complete address for the return address. Do not enclose money, gum, etc.; some newspaper articles and photos are acceptable. All mail will be opened before he receives it.

Kirk D Martin 169259
Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility
3516 E 75 S
Albion, IN 46701

Response to Letter of Resignation

We want to express our deep appreciation to Tim for the excellent leadership he has provided to Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) and to our congregation for the past five years. We have deeply valued his insight, caring presence, and visionary leadership. We will miss his presence and leadership on MLC.

MLC will appoint an interim chair during their meeting on September 15. MLC and Gifts Discernment Ministry Team will work collectively to begin the discernment process of finding a new chair for MLC. We invite the congregation to join us in prayer during this time of leadership transition. Please join us in prayer for Tim and Sharon as they discern their future for the next chapter of their lives; for MLC and Gifts Discernment Team as they work to find a new chair for MLC; and for us all at WMC as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus to each other during this time of transition.

—The Pastoral Team: Neil Amstutz, Lyle Miller,
Velma Swartz, and Cindy Voth



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God has given each of us gifts for the good of the body of Christ. In other words, our gifts are to be used in and for the community. Identifying our gifts is also meant to be a community effort. Part of Kathy's story is the Waterford Mennonite community identifying and nurturing her gifts as a young person. Let's explore together how we can intentionally identify and affirm one another's gifts.

November 11

Think you know something about gifting? Think you know something about Waterford Mennonite Church? You can test your knowledge on both in an enjoyable "Game Show" style evening. "Who wrote the FIRST Buzz article?" Knowing the correct answer might be worth 10 points. You might choose to participate on one of the teams or to simply enjoy

“Intentional Friends”

Adult Nurture and Care Ministry Team wants young adults to know we care about them. As young people make the transition from MYF to college or service, we at WMC are interested in what they are experiencing during this new phase of life. There are people in their home congregation who want to stay in touch and who care about their spiritual life.

An “Intentional Friend” is an adult at WMC who makes a commitment to pray for a specific young adult, and stay in touch with them at least 2-3 times during their first year away.

Following is the list of Intentional Friends for 2015-2016 school year:

- Jesse Amstutz – Aaron Lehman
- Isaac Brenneman – Lowell Stoltzfus
- Erin Bontrager – Deb Brenneman
- Jack Gingerich – Gary Chupp
- Jordan Haarer – Brent Beck
- Evan Judson – Benji Hurst
- Ethan Miller – Conrad Brenneman
- Hans Miller – Mim Meyer
- Colin Samuel – Dave Gingerich
- Adam Yoder – Steve Fath

Relief Sale

The Relief Sale is just around the corner on Saturday, September 26. Be sure to check out the bulletin board for sign-up sheets and other sale information. Baking supplies are across from the mailboxes. There will be a dedication of sale items on Sunday, September 20. Bring items to the church and place in the front or back of the sanctuary no later than **Saturday morning, September 19.**

Where should you meet?

As Nurture Class locations have changed, so have the set up and configurations of some of our meeting space locations. If your group (ministry team or other group) wishes to meet at the church, please contact Janet Shoemaker (office@waterfordchurch.org) to 1) reserve a space and get your meeting/event on the church calendar, and 2) to decide with Janet’s input what space might work best for your group/purpose given the new configurations.

MYF Service Projects

The youth group activity this past week was service projects. Pictured below are two groups working at the church.



Health Corner

It's almost fall again and for me that means flu shot time! For those of you who have had influenza, you know you never want to have it again. Just so we are clear, influenza is not the stomach flu. Influenza is more like the worst head cold or bronchitis/pneumonia you've ever had. Not only is it a miserable 2-4 weeks of aches, fevers, exhaustion, coughing, snotty nose, etc, it can also be life threatening. The best way to keep from getting it, other than living in a bubble by yourself for 6-9 months, is to get the flu shot. There are several different versions of the shot, so see your doctor as to which one is right for you. There are only a very few people who can't get the flu shot (those younger than 6 months, those allergic to the shot).

As a practicing physician, I've heard about every excuse you can think of for not getting the flu shot. My favorite is probably the belief that the flu shot will give you the flu. This is not true. The vaccine is made from dead flu virus that cannot become alive and infect you, or not from the virus at all, or from a weakened virus that can only live in the nose (this is the nasal spray version) but not in the lungs. More often, when people think they got the flu from the shot, it's because they were already exposed to the virus before they got the vaccine or before their body built up enough antibodies to protect them from the virus. It takes about two weeks for the flu shot to work after you get it.

Another common excuse is, I'm generally pretty healthy, so I'm not going to get the flu shot. All I can say is: famous last words. Then, there are people who hear rumors that the flu vaccine isn't as good this year, so what's the point of getting

it? There is some truth to this, but not enough to not get the shot. The Center for Disease Control tries to predict which strands are going to be most prevalent during the upcoming season. Some years they do better than others. However, I would argue, and so would the CDC, that some protection is better than none and, even if the vaccine this year isn't a perfect match, it can still at least partially protect against some of those circulating virus strands. Different strands of the virus circulate each year, so you have to get the vaccine every year.

Obviously, you must do what you think is best for you and your family, but there are very few reasons to not get the flu shot. When you get your flu shot, you are also creating a bubble to protect those around you who either cannot get the flu shot or for those who may have a weakened immune system and don't get as much protection from the vaccine.

If you do come down with symptoms of influenza (temperature over 100.3, body aches, running nose, cough, fatigue, headache), see your doctor within 48 hours so that they can consider Tamiflu (anti-flu medication). It's more effective if given within 48 hours of symptom onset. It's not cheap. (Most insurances cover the influenza vaccine for free as preventive care versus Tamiflu that will either cost you your prescription co-pay or full price towards your deductible, sometimes over \$100). Also stay away from others as best you can to prevent more people from getting the flu. And always remember to wash your hands!

—Mandy Schmidt, on behalf of the Health Care Reference Group



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Facilities Ministry

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- Courtney Shetler
Custodian
- Irma Perez
Custodian

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Pastoral Team Leader
- Lyle Miller
Pastor of Family Life and Financial Stewardship
- Velma Swartz
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voht
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.

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editor; 574 312-0125
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Congregational Ballot Results

Following the August 30 congregational vote all leadership candidates were affirmed. Thank you to the congregation for sharing your comments which have been duly noted. Blessings to each new one as they begin their responsibilities as well as to continuing church leaders.

Dishing Up a New Look in the Kitchen

New dishes have arrived for the kitchen—lighter weight, matching, and sparkly new. These newbies were ordered by the Women's Fellowship and will be paid for, in part, with the remaining balance in the Maggie Yoder Fund, BUT we need your donations to help us finish paying for them. Checks may be made out to Waterford Mennonite Church, memo to the Kitchen Fund-Dishes, and any overage will remain in that fund for kitchen expenses. (You will be able to claim this as a deduction.) Currently we are in need of about \$1200 to complete the payment for the dishes.