



Waterford Mennonite Church | September 20, 2015

buzz



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Well, we have finally launched the Fanning the Flames rocket high in to the stratosphere. As we travel, I would like to make you aware of some events that are ahead of us. Next week, September 27, we will be adding another layer of “fire” to our flame. A suggestion to focus on this week might be thinking of someone you have noticed that is gifted in a certain area and encouraging them. This would be in keeping with the WMC mission statement...“Call out each other’s gifts for the joyful work of God’s reconciling mission.” Also, next week, Neil will be preaching from Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16.

You may want to mark your calendars now for the first Soul Food program in this series, on Wednesday September 30 at 5:30 p.m. I would also like to announce that prior to our Fanning the Flames bonfire on October 11, we will be having a 3K run / walk. Registration for this will begin at about 4:00 p.m. and the run starting at about 4:30. In closing I would leave you with this thought: did God smile today because of you? Was he pleased with you? Did you live your...“spiritual service of worship” (Romans 12:1)?

—Greg Hire

Leadership Transitions in Ministry Leadership Council

Following the resignation of Tim Burkholder as congregational chair, effective Sept. 16 and announced in last week’s Buzz, MLC took some actions at its regular meeting September 15 to ensure short-term leadership continuity. While the Gifts Discernment Ministry Team works with me and Coordinator of Ministry Gifts Greg Hire to obtain a new congregational chair, MLC appointed Vyron Schmidt as the Interim Congregational Chair for a time period of up to a year if necessary. Vyron brings several years of experience at Waterford in the chair role, and he already serves on MLC as the internally appointed Vice Chair. For this interim period, Rose Shetler will be the Vice Chair. Please remember Vyron & Rose in your prayers as they step into new roles in the coming months. Our richest blessings and appreciation go with Tim for his five years of key leadership at Waterford.

—Neil Amstutz, Pastoral Team Leader

Senior Adult Storytelling Event

Senior adults enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship listening to Dr. Glenn Miller tell stories and helping us think about the value of each of our stories. We shared some wild stories around the table as we each built on the previous person’s addition to the “made up” story—a good exercise that used our collective creativity and humor. After the time of input from Glenn we enjoyed fruit and cookies and shared more of our own stories.





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Pastoral Ministry

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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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Senior Reflection – Elmer Wyse

For me, life has been a continual learning and growing experience, which I believe will continue throughout my earthly life and in the life beyond this one. God is still working on me to be more grace-filled and life-giving in my relationships.

Change is inevitable in the process of learning and growing. Sometimes I welcome change and at other times I resist change. Change tends to make me feel insecure and defensive, but sometimes I welcome it with anticipation. Following are three stories that have impacted my life in positive ways.

When I was about six years old my Dad took me with him to pick blackberries. My assignment was to fill a metal gallon bucket with berries at each picking. I would complain to Dad saying, “I’m hot, I’m tired, I’m thirsty, I’m quitting.” And he would respond, “You can quit as soon as your bucket is full.” He observed how I was going about the task of filling my bucket—I was doing more walking to get to the bushes that appeared to have lots of big berries than I was picking. I reasoned that I could get my bucket full quick with that kind of picking.

Dad said, “If you stick to your bush, you’ll get your bucket filled sooner. I wondered about that, and observed him pick, and started following his example. My bucket seemed to get full sooner. I learned the importance of listening, observing and practicing new ways of feeling, thinking and doing that I believe has served God, others and myself well. I also learned that when life is difficult, it may be time to stay or to move on. Discerning when to stay or move on often takes time and patience.

When I was about 7 years old, the teacher in the one room school announced that each student in grades K-8, would be making a bird book during the next two weeks. I decided that I didn’t want to study birds and I let everyone know about it. All the students, except me, worked on their bird book during the designated class period each day. I watched the students at work and sat at my desk with nothing to do in that time space. I felt left out and anxious about the consequences of my decision.

When it was time for students to hand in their books, I didn’t have one to hand in. Consequently I lost my recess privileges. The only time I could

work on my book was during recess. Through this experience I learned the importance of working happily and cooperatively with God and others around me. I am thankful that God is patient, merciful, and willing to forgive me and others like me for resisting his call and pursuing self-centered, selfish ways.

When I was in seminary, I took a class titled, “The Gospel of Luke.” A student in the class asked the professor, “Do you really believe that Jesus was born of a virgin? The professor’s humble response went something like this: “I believe the biblical witness in regard to the virgin birth until there is good reason or new revelation that indicates otherwise. At this point in my life, I believe that Jesus was born of a virgin.”

The humble attitude and spirit of the professor and his deep love and respect for the biblical witness and for the student impressed me a great deal. I thought to myself, “That was a Jesus kind of response that I want to emulate.”

I am thankful that I still have many good things to learn, a lot of room for growth and that Jesus loves me and is committed to bringing to fruition the good work already started in my life. I affirm with Paul in regard to us all as stated in Philippians 1:6 says, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

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!

Changes to Church Email Addresses

With the recent updates to our computer system, we are now using only the email addresses that end with waterfordchurch.org. If anyone has been sending emails to pastors or other staff at the bnin.net address, please discontinue doing so as Brightnet is no longer the church's email provider. Any emails sent to the bnin.net addresses will not be seen. The correct email addresses are: office, neil, cindy, lyle, velma, jd, secretary (Michelle), bookkeeper (Elvina), facilities (Jan Oostland), buzz (Katie Hurst) all @waterfordchurch.org. They are also all listed in the church directory.