



Waterford Mennonite Church | January 10, 2016

buzz

Will planning seminar set for January 31

About 10 years ago, my brother-in-law was asked to serve a difficult role in his congregation. A close friend and his wife were killed in an automobile accident. No will was in place, and Paul was asked by his church to make challenging decisions about what the family might want, including making financial provision and housing decisions for the couple's two-year-old daughter.

Paul's friend was not alone in not having a will in place. It is estimated that as many as 51 percent of Americans aged 55 to 64 do not have a current will. Worse, as many as 62 percent of those aged 45 to 54 do not, and the percentages increase for those who are younger. The most common explanation for not having a will is "I haven't gotten around to it."

Yet, to die without a will has significant consequences, including setting into place a series of procedures for resolving estates and determining who has custody of children that may or may not match one's desires or those of the community. Paul was lucky to be surrounded by a loving community that trusted him and another person to make good decisions. Yet, tensions rose at times, and it was a difficult position for the two to be in.

As an act of pastoral care, we as pastors have a desire for everyone in our congregation to have a current will in place. During the nurture hour on January 31, the Pathfinder and Gelassenheit Sunday school classes will host a will-planning seminar open to all ages. The seminar will be in the sanctuary. Presenters will include Galen Kauffmann and Vyron Schmidt from our congregation. Galen is an attorney, and Vyron works with wills in his role with Everence.

The timing of this workshop is also significant, because planning a will is an act of stewardship, the theme of our current worship series. To encourage participation in the seminar that results in "getting around to it," the Facilities & Finance Ministry Team will also provide \$50 toward the cost of a new or updated will for each household that takes part in the seminar. This opportunity is funded by an earlier grant proposal written by FFMT seeking a distribution from our Endowment Fund. At the seminar, we will have details about how to receive this financial reimbursement.

Please consider joining us for this insightful seminar. If you are unable to participate this day, please be in contact with me. Should there be enough interest, we would be glad to schedule the seminar again.

—Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life & Financial Stewardship,
on behalf of FFMT and pastoral team

Thank you to Yoder estate

Waterford recently received a gift of more than \$30,000 from the estate of Marilyn Yoder, who died on September 15, 2014. As a congregation, we are grateful for the generosity represented in the way that Marilyn and her late husband, Vernon, included Waterford in their estate planning.

The Yoders had a particular passion for the mission of Mennonite schools at all levels. As a result, they designated the gift to support students at Waterford choosing to further their education at Mennonite schools. In the near future, the Facilities & Finance Ministry Team will make a recommendation to Ministry Leadership about whether to allocate a portion of the gift to the Endowment Fund, ensuring that the gift supports students both now and into the future.

The Yoders used a common "N+1" strategy in developing their estate plan, essentially treating Waterford as an additional child in dividing their estate. There are many other ways in which a household can include charities in its will, including giving in fixed amounts or via a remainder of the estate. In addition to working with an attorney, feel free to contact me, or Kim Kelsey from the Mennonite Foundation at 533-9511, if you would like to include Waterford in your estate planning in this way.

—Lyle Miller, Pastor of Family Life
& Financial Stewardship

**There will be no Buzz
January 17.**



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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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Endowment Fund applications invited

The Endowment Fund Committee again welcomes applications for projects that would benefit from assistance from Waterford's Endowment Fund. Based on the December 31 balance, \$4,400 will be available in this cycle of grants. The deadline to prepare applications for this cycle is April 1.

Waterford's Endowment Fund was established to serve as a way to support the ongoing work of Jesus at Waterford. Ministry teams, recognized groups within the congregations, and individuals representing outside agencies are all invited to apply for grants. Past distributions have supported continuing education for ministry teams, special events, housing projects, mission organizations and more. We welcome being inundated with requests, as these applications represent creative approaches to ministry. Applications are available in the literature racks located near the mailboxes.

As you consider an application, here are a few suggestions from the Endowment Fund Committee that can strengthen a proposal:

- Linkages to the congregation's mission and directional statements are beneficial.
- Opportunities to serve as one-time "seed money" for a new project or to expand an ongoing project are particularly well received, though consideration should also be given to the sustainability of an ongoing project.
- We have typically denied projects that would more appropriately be funded from our regular congregational spending plans.
- Given that we typically receive requests for more money than is available, the opportunity to partially fund a proposal through your itemizing of components is helpful.
- To encourage new creativity, we typically will not fund a project in two consecutive distribution cycles.

If you have questions about the process of preparing an application, please contact a member of the committee listed below.

Contributions to the fund are welcomed at any time. If you have questions about contributing,

please contact a committee member, particularly Lyle Miller. The Mennonite Foundation also provides excellent assistance in considering creative ways of being generous with the financial resources we have been entrusted with.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of the Endowment Fund Committee: Vyron Schmidt, interim chair of the congregation; lay ministry partner for Facilities & Finance Ministry Team (vacant); Jerry Detweiler; Kathy Myers, Jon. Wieand; Lyle Miller, pastor of family life and financial stewardship

Weather Cancellations

In case of inclement weather, tune to radio WFRN 104.7 or to WNDU-TV and watch for closings on the bottom of your screen. Or log on to wndu.com/closings. (For the most up-to-date list, WNDU encourages you to check both on-air and the website for closings.) The information should be available by 6:30 a.m.

Tickets available for MYF fundraiser

Tickets remain for "A Night at the Ballpark" with Erik Kratz, set for Monday, Jan. 18. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., and Kansas City barbecue and other ballpark favorite foods will be available until approximately 6:30 p.m. Following supper, Erik will share his story of faith and perseverance over a long minor and major league baseball career that led him to the 2014 and 2015 American League champion Kansas City Royals.

The event is a fundraiser for MYF faith formation activities, including the annual Winter Youth Retreat and alternating year convention and service/learning trip opportunities. Tickets are \$25 each (\$20 for students), or \$200 for a table of 10. For tickets, stop by the table near the library on Sunday mornings or call the church office at 533-5642. Tickets will cost an additional \$5 at the door and will not be available by tables.

We sing the mighty power of God

The Waterford Church Choir is starting rehearsals on Wednesday, January 20, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. We have over thirty people who have expressed interest, and we will be singing on March 6 (Lent) and March 27 (Easter) in the worship services. See you there!

—JD Smucker