



buzz

Pastoral team transitions

In last fall's "Fanning the Flames" emphasis, we were all urged to make our greatest passions available for God's work. Now Waterford's pastoral team is attempting to do just that, for the sake of maximizing the pastors' gifts for the needed ministries of the congregation. During the past several months there have been many discerning conversations among the pastoral team regarding job descriptions (which started even before Lyle's resignation announcement) including discerning if we were all being used to our full potential in our ministering areas at Waterford. These conversations led to additional conversations with Vyron Schmidt and Rose Shetler as Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) representatives, and eventually with the entire MLC.

The result of these many conversations is a plan for some restructuring of responsibilities amongst the pastoral team. (This plan will be summarized at our congregational meeting on March 13). These changes are designed to minimize pastors' engagements in tasks that feel draining to them, while maximizing engagement in tasks that are energizing and life-giving. Some of these changes are coming about because of Cindy's desire to decrease total Full Time Equivalency (FTE). Cindy will be moving from 1.0 to 0.85 FTE enabling her to have another day at home with her children – which she has deeply looked forward to. This move also comes from looking at the financial challenges facing the church. Neil's FTE will continue at 1.0, and Velma's will continue at 0.5.

Here is a summary of the changes in pastoral responsibilities:

- Neil will be the pastor relating with Mission and Service Ministry Team (MSMT) (and its sub groups) and Cindy will be the pastor relating with Gifts Discernment Ministry Team (GDMT).
- Cindy will increase her preaching frequency, while Neil's will decrease so that they preach about equally overall.

- Cindy will release being the pastoral representative for Stephen Leader Team (SLT) & Stephen Ministry. Neil will become the pastoral representative for programmatic concerns & needs, and Velma will become the pastoral representative for Stephen Ministry matches & referrals.
- The age range to which Cindy provides primary pastoral care will change from 18-69 year olds to those 50-69 years old. So the range of primary pastoral care for the new Pastor of Family Life will be 0-24, for Neil it will be 25-49, and Velma will continue caring for those 70 and older.
- In addition, with Lyle's departure, Neil will become the pastor relating to the Facilities & Finance (FFMT) and the Creation Care Ministry Teams (CCMT).

The implementation of these changes will happen in several stages.

- During the month of March, Neil and Cindy will both attend MSMT and GDMT to overlap each other with the teams and then make the official switch for the April meetings. Beginning March 15, Neil and Velma will also attend their respective portions of the SLT meeting. Also in March, Neil will begin relating to FFMT and CCMT.
- Cindy's FTE will go down on May 1 with the new fiscal year, so changes with the pastoral care age ranges and preaching frequencies will begin after then.
- The pastors and MLC will review these changes after six months to evaluate their effectiveness and how they feel to the pastors and congregation.

We reiterate that pastors letting go of relating to particular teams is not indicative of dissatisfaction with or lack of support for those teams' respective ministries. This is about even the pastors "fanning the flames" of their ministry gifts. We are excited about the possibilities for new ministry energy that these reassignments hold. We invite your prayers (and patience) as these changes begin to be implemented.

—Pastoral Team and Ministry Leadership Council

Financial Stewardship role transition



Lyle Miller's leaving his pastoral position on March 31 affects not only the children's and youth ministries, but also that of Financial Stewardship. We are grateful that Lyle has agreed to be available for consultation as needed in this time of transition on financial issues at WMC through May 31.

We are also grateful that Mel Claassen has agreed to serve as a part-time interim Business Manager at WMC for the next 3-6 months. He retired as Chief Financial Officer at Everence several years ago and will begin his duties the week of March 13. He will be working an average of 4-5 hours a week and will be tackling some special projects, such as review of the health plan for our staff, as well as providing support for the budget-planning process for our next fiscal year, and other financial tasks as needed.

Both Lyle and Mel will be remunerated on an hourly basis, and our church treasurer, Tom Yoder, will be overseeing these working relationships.

This interim Business Manager position will allow for a smooth transition in the shorter term and help provide insight and guidance as we continue to discern longer term planning for our on-going oversight of Financial Stewardship.

—Vyron Schmidt for MLC,
Tom Yoder, Treasurer

WMC Library Additions

***Deuteronomy: Believer's Church Bible Commentary* by Gerald Gerbrandt.** Will be kept in reference.

***Rewilding the Way: Break Free to Follow an Untamed God* by Todd Wynward.** This book is a clarion call not to the 'good life' but to a better life, a life based on God's dream rather than the American dream, the Jesus way rather than culture's mores. Wynward invites us to make the leap from a mild faith to a wild faith based on the countercultural gospel message of less of me and more of we.

***Changing lenses: Restorative Justice for Our Times* by Howard Zehr.** This is a new edition from twenty-five years ago. A needed book with many suggestions for moving toward a more just criminal system.

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WMC Women Encountering Twelve Women of the Bible

Within the Bible we read stories of women who encountered God, desired to understand what it means to be faithful, and sought out avenues to use their gifts. We read stories of joy, of heartache, of pain, of loss, and of redemption. What do the stories of the biblical women have to say to women in 2016? How can their lives strengthen, challenge, inspire, and intersect with ours?

These are the questions that are being asked as we explore if there is interest for a women's bible study at WMC. We are proposing that we meet for 4-6 sessions during the months of April and May. Each time we would gather to delve together into the life of a biblical woman as well as having time to form and deepen relationships with other women across the age range at Waterford. We are specifically looking to utilize a teaching resource "Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today."

We are currently exploring having these gatherings on Wednesdays; however, the time of day is still being finalized. Please stop by the Participation Station by March 27 to sign up if you are interested and to name which time option would work for your schedule. The three options are 8-9:30 a.m., 1:30-3 p.m., or 6-7:30 p.m. If the evening option is chosen, we would meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights to avoid small group schedules. If a daytime option is selected, the group could decide if they wished to meet for 4-6 consecutive Wednesdays or to meet every other week.

—Pastors Cindy Voth and Velma Swartz



Pastors Cindy Voth and Velma Swartz display the fruit of some of their gifts for the Soul Food Wednesday meal.

Senior Reflection: On standing still and letting God

Anxiety and fear are a part of human experience. What kinds of things give rise to anxiety and fear? Conflict and violence can be anxiety-producing. Transitions, declining health, loss of job, loss of someone near and dear, or personal end-of-life issues can make one anxious about the future. Sometimes other people threaten our security, beliefs, etc., and then we see them as the enemy.

When I feel threatened I can respond in several ways. I can try to run away from the perceived threat or I can try to build a wall to protect myself. I can fight in an angry, destructive manner to punish or destroy my enemy. If I choose to relate to another in a disrespectful, unkind manner, a cycle of anxiety, anger, and hatred can escalate, and perhaps result in murder.

I can courageously move toward my enemy with love, courage, compassion and respect. I can listen to his/her side of the story and dare to overcome evil with good (Romans 12: 21; Galatians 6:10). I would hope and trust that a positive outcome for all concerned would occur in the relationship or situation—not guaranteed. By faith I believe that good seeds sown have great potential for blessing sooner or later.

There are times when I need to stand still and let God work things out. I think of the Israelites as they were leaving Egypt. They were armed for battle. God led them on a circular route in the wilderness and then to the Red Sea. The Egyptian horsemen and chariots were coming from behind and the Red Sea was before them. There was no place to run. “But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you need only to keep still” (Exodus 14:13-14).

The song that Moses and the Israelites sang following the Lord’s deliverance begins, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea...In your steadfast love you led the people you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.” (Exodus 15:1, 13). Sometimes there is nothing I can do but stand still and let God love me and save me from my fear. As I stand still, I can love, listen, learn, grow, and praise God.

When I am fearful, the Bible, the Holy Spirit and my church family can help me make healthy choices among all the options mentioned above. Being secure in God’s love frees me from fear and enables me to make life-giving choices—to love, to trust, to respect and to be compassionate (1 John 4:7-21). I believe God’s saving work is ongoing in my life, your life and in the life of every person in the world.

—Elmer Wyse

Sunday School Wetland Walk



The seventh and eighth grade Sunday school class took a walk in the wetland last Sunday to meditate on upcoming Holy Week. The students were encouraged to use their five senses as they walked.



Giving update through 46 weeks

Thank you to the many individuals and families who have generously offered their financial contributions during the past year, including during the last few weeks. Since February 1, we have averaged just over \$15,000 per Sunday, an increase from earlier in the year.

Leadership groups continue to closely monitor giving trends and anticipated expenses as we move to the end of the fiscal year on April 30. With six Sundays remaining, it appears that we would need to average more than \$25,000 per Sunday in order to provide our full contributions to external agencies and fully fund several items for future budget years without tapping into our reserves or a pair of estate gifts that we have received in the past year.

In a recent email conversation, a family in our congregation said, “We have always considered our giving as a part of our spiritual life, one that mirrors intentional living and practice.” As we journey through the season of Lent, focusing on the one who gave all, we invite you to join this family and others as we seek to live out God’s vision together.

—Lyle Miller, pastor of family life and financial stewardship

WMC Library Additions cont. from page 2

***Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* by Drew Hart.** In this provocative book, theologian and blogger Drew Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-black stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice.

***Peace, Progress and the Professor: The Mennonite History of C Henry Smith* by Perry Bush.** Bush has given us the lively and fascinating story of an educator, banker, and public intellectual who sought to shape a Mennonite identity that was both in harmony with the past and in tune with the times.

***Pastor and Professor: A Public Faith* by Donald Blosser.** This is a pastor's personal story of moving from faith as right doctrinal belief to faith as a liberating response to a loving God—a God who is always with us, continually drawing us into the future. (Donated)

***Living Gift: John's Jesus in Meditation and Poetry, Art and Song* by Willard Swartly.** Swartly provides a holistic devotional companion to his commentary, John. Living Gift helps readers incarnate the logos of John's Gospel by engaging the full person (heart, soul, mind, and strength) in the wonder and awe of John's gospel. (Donated)

***Kisses from Kate: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption* by Katie Davis.** The story of a courageous eighteen-year old from Nashville who gave up every comfort and convenience to become the adoptive mother to thirteen girls in Uganda. (Donated)

***7 men: And the Secret of Their Greatness* by Eric Metaxas.** The author presents seven exquisitely crafted short portraits of widely known—but not well understood—Christian men, each of whom uniquely showcases a commitment to live by certain virtues in the truth of the gospel. (Donated)

***Children's Book - Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills* by Renee Watson.** Florence was born to parents who were former slaves. She loved to sing and people responded to her sweet, bird-like voice. Her dancing and singing catapulted her way to the stages of 1920's Broadway. She chose shows that help

promote other black performers and songs that called for civil rights. (Donated)

Children's Book – *Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story about Edna Lewis* by Robbin Gourley. Edna championed purity of ingredients regional cuisine, and the importance of bringing food directly from the farm to the table. (Donated)

DVD *Peace: Especially for Youth*

CD *Hallelujah! Amen! Mennonite Hour Singers* (Donated)

Teachers for a Year— Who are we teaching? (Week 2 of 4)

Teaching Sunday School can be rewarding for both our children and ourselves. It can nurture our own spiritual journey. The weekly preparation and study of scriptures and the Bible lesson can inspire us and focus our thoughts on God. Teaching children is also a great way of helping us to embrace the inner-child and remind us how to trust and live out our faith in God.

Our kids and youth:

- are enthusiastic! There is never a dull or predictable moment—kids love life! They have natural enthusiasm that is contagious.
- have great imaginations! Our young people have imaginations that lead to new ideas and spur creativity. Teaching them can help us relearn to use our imaginations. This can help keep us from getting worn out and discouraged!
- trust in God and us! Children are willing to trust. If they can trust us, we can be reminded of this quality and lean on and trust God in all aspects of our lives.

We have amazing kids and youth here at Waterford who are seeking to grow in their faith formation! They are enthusiastic about life, have creative imaginations, and trust in God, their families and teachers.

—Children's Cluster: Lyle Miller, Ron and Vicki Weirich (Family Life Ministry Team lay ministry partners), Mikki Bowman (Children's Cluster chair), Kent Myers, and Amanda Stoltzfus



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