



buzz

Interim Family Life Coordinators named

As Pastor Lyle Miller concludes his pastorate here at the end of March, our children and youth programming are basically planned through the rest of the school year and in good hands with our current Venture Club, JYF and MYF sponsors. But as the focus of ministries with children and youth turn to preparing for the coming school year, there are numerous tasks which feel too great to place upon the sponsors. In my conversations with Lyle and with the Lay Ministry Partners of Family Life Ministry Team (Ron & Vicki Weirich), we have chosen to pursue a part-time interim staff position to take on many of the planning, recruiting and coordination tasks of family life ministry until the next Pastor of Family Life is hired, which may be into autumn.

I'm happy to announce a combined appointment of Mikki Bowman and Benji Hurst to cover much of the children, junior high and high school ministry oversight in this interim time. Primary duties for Mikki and Benji will be working with sponsors to plan the regular Wednesday activities of the children and youth through the fall; recruiting any new sponsors and teachers needed for these age groups; and coordinating these activities with each other, the Weirichs and pastors.

Mikki is currently chair of the Children's Cluster within FLMT and very familiar with the details of Waterford's children's ministries. She will oversee the Sunday and Wednesday ministries for children and JYF, beginning already in March to overlap with Lyle and continuing into the summer.

Benji is currently lead sponsor for MYF with several years experience working with our high school youth in music, Wednesday night activities and on convention and service trips. He will begin these duties in the summer.

—Pastoral Team Leader Neil Amstutz

Thank You

I want to thank our friends at Waterford for their kind words, cards, plant and prayers at the time of Lester's death. I have never felt so much caring and support.

—Inez Culp

Teachers for a Year—

Why is this important? (Week 1 of 4)

Sunday School teachers can make a positive difference in a child's life. Over time, they are able to work at building relationships and becoming invested in the students' lives. When our children walk into the nurture wing and see the familiar face of their teacher, they have a sense of belonging and feel at peace entering a room where they know what to expect. Having teachers who can be the consistent presence throughout the year will help to bring that peace and sense of belonging for the kids.

Most of the time, our children can count on having one teacher for the entire school year when they go to elementary school. This consistency and routine is important for them on Sundays, too. This spring, the Children's Cluster is wanting you to consider experiencing a year (9 months) as a teacher of a children or youth Sunday school class. We would like to empower and support anyone who wants to step into a classroom to teach children about the Bible, work at building relationships, and become a consistent presence for those children. Check out the BUZZ in the coming weeks to learn more about "Teachers for a Year."

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

Spring Into Books

As we move into the Spring of 2016, we are hoping to implement the Spring Into Books (SIB) program at all elementary schools for kindergarten and Goshen Community Schools preschool at Prairie View Elementary School. Spring Into Books will run for four weeks with the reader visiting one time per week, much like Real Men Read. The program will run the last two weeks of April and the first two weeks of May (April 18–May 13). An orientation will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at lunch time with the place to be determined soon. **The deadline to sign up is March 25, 2016. Contact Len Harms if interested.**



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- Cindy Voth
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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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Another chance for Flint water donations

Thank you to everyone who donated last month so that, with some matching funds through Mission & Service Ministry Team, we could send over \$1300 to the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance in Elkhart. At the end of February, they sent about 3000 cases of water to some grateful church and community leaders in Flint. Because of the ongoing need, the IMA decided to have one more week of this water drive. Cases of bottled water can be dropped off the week of March 14-18 at the Tolsen Center (1320 Benham Ave., Elkhart). With Kroger still matching water purchases for IMA, financial contributions for “Flint water” can still be made through our congregation, but your donation should be in to the church office by Tuesday March 8.

Port-A-Pit chicken coming to Waterford

The smell of Nelson’s Port-A-Pit chicken and Pit-Tatoes will be wafting over south Goshen on Friday, March 11, as the familiar cooker sets up shop at Waterford from 3:30-7 p.m.

The MYF will be selling chicken halves for \$6.50 and Pit-Tatoes for \$3.50. Proceeds from the sale will support MYF faith formation activities such as the biennial Service and Learning Trip. This summer, the group will be traveling to Tucson, Ariz., to study immigration and border-related issues.

There will be no pre-sale of tickets, so the chicken will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

—Lyle Miller, on behalf of the MYF

Notes for Lyle

Adults, children, and youth are invited to write a note of inspiration, blessing or encouragement to Lyle Miller on a 4x4 piece of paper that will be placed in your mailboxes. Please return the completed note to the box outside the church office no later than Wednesday, March 16. The notes will be given to Lyle as part of his farewell during Nurture Hour on Sunday, March 20. (Extra blank notecards are available beside the box if you need more.) Thanks for participating!

—Melanie Hire

Attention new Mentee/Mentor partners!

A kickoff event is planned for all mentee/mentor partnerships created in the last six months. Please plan to attend a pizza lunch in the fellowship hall following second service on March 20, beginning approximately at 12:15. Mentees, please bring chips, pretzels, or any finger food side. Mentors, please bring cookies or other “utensil free” desserts.

The goal of this kickoff event is, get to know each other, decide communication modes, and plan another “get together” time. This event will last about an hour.

Following the kickoff, the adult mentors are asked to stay for another 45-60 minutes for the WMC Safe Spaces training. Mentors who have already completed this training for Sunday School teaching or other youth involvement need not repeat it.

Continuing mentors who have not yet completed the Safe Spaces training are invited to participate either on March 20 at 1:30 p.m. or during the Sunday School hour on March 13 (next week).

Mentee/Mentor questions: Angela Stoltzfus. Safe Spaces Training questions: Ron/Vicki Weirich.

Meeting set regarding MEF

Parents, caregivers and other interested persons are invited to join the Mennonite Education Fund Committee for a meeting this evening (March 6) at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

At the meeting, we will present some contextual background about this mission of the congregation, consider the issues in front of us as our congregation prepares its 2016-17 spending plan, and invite feedback about decisions to be made.

—Mennonite Education Fund Committee
[Helen Bowman, Jerry Detweiler, Lyle Miller (pastoral team), Alan Zimmerman (assistant treasurer)]

Hospital Bed Available

Long hospital bed with electric head/foot control and side rails for any Waterford family member in need of such equipment. Call John or Dee Birkey, 533-8392.