



buzz

Exciting Summer Plans!

The sun is shining. Warmer temperatures are coming. School year is wrapping up in the next month... summer must be coming! Be sure to carefully read the brochure in your mailbox that outlines our exciting plans for June and July! We will be moving to one worship service (9 a.m.) followed by nine diverse, enriching, and engaging nurture electives (10:30-11:30). There is something for all ages and all interests! Check out the information and then sign up for your electives at the Participation Station or on your nurture class clipboards.

Flower Arrangements for Worship

Worship Ministry Team is looking for flowers for our visuals for the next few months. Our May series is Proclaiming the Resurrection that looks at characters from Acts. The beautiful spring flowers we see blooming are also proclaiming the new life of spring. Do you have some flowers from your beds that you would be willing to provide for the altar table for a Sunday (or more) during May, June, or July? If so, contact Lorraine Reinford.

Relief Sale and My Coins Count

The 2017 Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale will be Sept. 22-23. This year is the 50th sale and many plans are being made to make this year's sale special. Now is the time to begin thinking about ways you want to contribute. If you are planning to make a quilt, comforter, handcrafted wooden item, or art piece, it's time to get started!

You should have received the mailing from the Relief Sale board in your mailboxes on April 23. One of the celebration goals for this year is for My Coins Count to reach \$500,000. As Les Gustafson-Zook and Pastor Katie shared, the children have already begun giving to this exciting project and a My Coins Count collection for adults will be the first Sunday of every month. A basket for your pledge card will also be available. Is God calling you to match all or part of the amount collected at Waterford to reach this year's goal?

Phil and Liz Habecker Family

by Karen Sommers

Philip and Liz Habecker will be married 12 years this summer. Philip grew up in Milton, Pa., graduated from Baptist Bible College (Clarks Summit, Pa.) with a degree in Bible and social studies education, and then earned a masters in education from Indiana Wesleyan University. Liz grew up in Mentone, Ind., and graduated from Huntington University with an elementary education degree.



Philip teaches 7th grade social studies at Concord Jr. High School and coaches 8th-grade volleyball.

Liz is a stay-at-home mom to their three daughters.

Liz likes to spend her time reading, cooking, and baking; Philip enjoys reading, writing, and fishing on his kayak.

Eleanor, their oldest daughter is ten-years old and in fourth grade at Parkside Elementary School. Her favorite hobbies are reading her braille books (especially *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books), listening to audio books, and swimming in any beach or pool she can find.

Gwen is eight-years old and in second grade. She loves art, drawing, writing books, and making movies on the iPad.

Poppy is five-years old and attends Eighth Street Mennonite Preschool. She will be starting kindergarten in the fall. Her favorite activities are playing house with her sisters, pretending to be a kitty, and riding her bike.



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I Can't Be a Stephen Minister!

Maybe you haven't said this aloud in a crowd, but you may have spoken it to yourself in a mirror—or at least thought it. Anytime a new challenge shows up, the "I can't" phrase is bound to be nearby.

You are aware of our congregation's Stephen Ministry, sense you have the gifts, the commitment, and the desire to be a Stephen Minister, and you even may have felt God's tap on your shoulder. But you still aren't sure.

What are some of the reasons you've given yourself for not becoming a Stephen Minister? The following are some likely candidates:

I'm not qualified to be a Stephen Minister. What qualifications are needed to become a Stephen Minister? You need to be a caring person who is willing to learn, grow, and serve. You must be willing and able to maintain confidentiality. You need to make a commitment to training, ministry, and supervision. Stephen Leaders will equip you with training, support, encouragement, care and prayers.

I don't know what to say or do in a ministry situation. Stephen Ministry training is thorough and practical. It includes listening, dealing with feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, maintaining boundaries, how to begin and end caring relationships, and how to care for people who are grieving, dying, aging, divorcing, and experiencing other life crises. The goal of training is to prepare Stephen Ministers for whatever they might encounter when working with care receivers. Through reading, lecture, questions and answers, and skill practice you will learn what you need to know to succeed as a Stephen Minister. After being assigned a care receiver, Stephen Ministers participate in continuing education and Peer Supervision Group sessions. This is where they care for and support one another, and sharpen their caregiving skills.

I have problems in my own life, so how can I help other people with their problems? Some problems are so big that you need to address your own needs and wait until later to be a Stephen Minister. After you have worked through your own problems, your experience of finding God's help and care in your struggles is some of the best preparation you'll ever receive for caring for others during their tough

times. A Stephen Minister's job is to walk beside another person as that person works through his or her struggles. The Stephen Minister brings stability, prayer, and Christ's love to the care receivers.

I don't have enough time to be a Stephen Minister. There's a way in which this is true for everyone—time is a precious commodity. As a matter of fact, time is so precious that it only makes sense to use it on activities that make a real difference—in others' lives as well as in your own life. When you make the commitment to be a Stephen Minister, you will find the hours you need to devote to it. Stephen Ministry becomes a priority among the many activities you're involved in. The time investment is significant, but so is the contribution you will be making to building God's kingdom.

Our current Stephen Ministers (John Birkey, Len Harms, Cynthia Kauffmann, Kay Miller, Mim Meyer, Gary Shetler, or Elmer Wyse) can share their personal stories with you of how God has poured blessings into their lives through their service as Stephen Ministers. In another year, one of these blessing stories may be your own. An information session will be offered during the May 7 Nurture Hour with the purpose of helping you consider your own sense of gifts and call to becoming a Stephen Minister. —The Stephen Leader Team

Endowment Proposal

The Endowment Committee is asking the congregation to consider the following change to the Endowment Fund Guidelines concerning the signatories of the fund.

Proposed Change to 1.D: "The Committee chair and either the WMC Business Manager or the WMC Bookkeeper shall be empowered to sign any legal documents necessary to carry on the administration of the Endowment Fund. Both signatures are required on all such documents."

This change will provide a more flexibility regarding the request of withdrawals, while still providing appropriate cross-checking and control. The proposed change comes with full endorsement by the Endowment Committee and Ministry Leadership Council. The congregation will vote on the proposed change at the May congregational meeting.