



Waterford Mennonite Church | February 11, 2018

# buzz

## Continuing Conversations That Matter

In the next few months, WMC will participate in a series of three more Conversation Cafés. As with those held this past fall, this series will again utilize the model of providing a safe space where we can practice conversing and listening with one another on topics that have the potential to be difficult or divisive. The goal is to learn how to have these conversations in order to increase our understanding of one another when we hold different views. The purpose is not to convince someone else that their view is wrong and our view is the right one, but rather to feel heard and understood and to extend the same courtesy to others.

The dates and topics are:

- Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.; Biblical Interpretation is the broader topic with the specific case study being in two parts: A) “What do you believe the Bible says about homosexuality?” and B) “How has your reading of scripture informed your belief?” We’ll hear a presentation of three differing views, all with scriptural bases. The focus is not on where people stand on this case study, but rather, in regards to the broader topic, how do you read and interpret the Bible as you do, and why?
- Wednesday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.; “How would you characterize what a good conversation should look like when engaging a really divisive topic?” We’ll have opportunity to envision ourselves in different scenarios and roles as we help imagine the best process for having such conversations.
- Sunday, April 15, afternoon time TBD: The focus will be on a particular aspect of homosexuality, yet to be determined. We will engage with those at our tables, seeking to understand others, while also having a safe space to share our

thoughts. Although you do not need to attend all three sessions, this third one will build upon the first two, based on understanding how we interpret the Bible and on our learnings about good process.

We believe these are truly “Conversations That Matter,” and learning to engage them well is an important aspect of our congregational life together. Please put the Conversation Café dates on your calendar and plan to attend!

–CTM committee: Neil Amstutz, Aaron Lehman,  
Rose Shetler, John Kaufman,  
Christa Graber Kauffman

## Between Me and You

Lent is here. A time for self-examination as we look at our relationship with God in a new way. In our children’s time in worship we will be using scarves to help us visualize this relationship. Scarves will be a regular part of our services throughout Lent. If you have a scarf that you could spare, to give to someone who needs one, please bring it to church and we will place it in the front with all the other scarves, to help us take a fresh look at the covenant we have with God. When Easter arrives we will donate the scarves to a local organization. We have done this with coats in the past, and it is a meaningful way to keep our worship real as we live, learn, and love in our relationships that are between me and you.

## Everence Sharing Fund

The Everence Sharing Funds provided \$850 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Mariko Claassen serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact her for more information.



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### Staff Team

#### Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostetler  
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- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of  
Administrative Ministries*
- Mel Claassen  
*Business Manager*
- JD Smucker  
*Worship Coordinator*

#### Facilities Ministry

- Jan Oostland  
*Facilities Manager*
- Courtney Shetler  
*Custodian*
- Irma Perez  
*Custodian*

#### Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz  
*Pastoral Team Leader*
- Katie Misz  
*Pastor of Family Life*
- Velma Swartz  
*Pastor of Senior Ministries*
- Cindy Voth  
*Pastor of Community Life*

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. Monday preceding publication.

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## Winter Volunteer Report

Jim and Lila Gascho are completing three weeks of volunteer work in Sultana, CA with Gleanings for the Hungry and will be going to Phoenix, AZ with SOOP through Mennonite Mission Network for the month of February. While at Gleanings, Lila's first week was spent helping piece and knot comforters to be sent to holocaust survivors in Israel. The next two weeks she helped in the kitchen to prepare food for lunch and supper to feed 50-95 people. We have met people from Switzerland, Sweden, China, Japan, Germany, Turkey, Canada and, of course, the US.

Jim has been working in the soup plant, running the equipment for mixing dry ingredients for soup which is packaged and sent anywhere in the world where there is a need. The beans, split peas, potatoes, lentils, rice, etc. are donated, some from as far away as Canada. Well over 500,000 servings can be processed in one day. Several shipping containers have gone out while we have been here. Work at Gleanings in the summer consisted of dehydrating fruit donated by growers in the CA valley, like 100,000 pounds of peaches per day.

Volunteer assignments give us opportunity to escape a little winter weather,

but more importantly give opportunity to see and participate in various other ministries, make new friends from around the world, see what God is doing in other places, and experience some of the beauty of God's creation in other parts the country. It has been a learning and blessed time for us while serving with others who have a heart for missions.

—Jim and Lila Gascho

