

Waterford Mennonite Church | March 4, 2018

# buzz

## MYF Service Auction March 18

The MYF Service Auction is just two weeks away on Sunday, March 18. See sale bill in Life Beyond Waterford or pick up a copy at the participation station. The auction starts at 6:00 p.m., but come for soup, sandwiches and dessert starting at 5:00 p.m.

If you have donated non-perishable items for the auction, you may drop them off at the church during office hours for Katie Misz or bring them to church next Sunday. Kevin Miller will be available between first service and Sunday school to receive items outside Katie's office. Perishable and other items may be brought the night of the auction—preferably by 5:00 p.m. or before.

Proceeds for the fundraiser support Waterford youth in attending conventions, youth retreats, and service projects. Since this is an off-convention year, the MYF will spend part of a week this summer communing with God through nature as they camp and participate in outdoor activities in Wisconsin. The group will spend the rest of the week discovering how God is present in urban settings as they participate and serve with DOOR Chicago.

If you have any questions, contact Kevin Miller or another member of the auction committee: Veronica Berkey, Rita Herrmann, and Melanie Hire.

## Endowment Fund Reminder

Applications for The Waterford Mennonite Church Endowment Fund will be accepted until April 1, 2018. As a reminder, the fund exists to further the ongoing mission of the church by providing a vehicle for above-budget gifts to be invested for the church's work. A complete copy of the Endowment Fund Guidelines can be found under the big bulletin board or at [www.waterfordchurch.org](http://www.waterfordchurch.org). Please feel free to talk to one of the committee members if you have any questions and submit the applications to Jeff Miller.

## Reminder to Return Your Giving Plan Response Cards

How is God calling you to financially support the ministries at Waterford? Your answer to that question will help our ministry teams develop plans to fund the various ministries at Waterford for the upcoming church year which begins May 1. If you have not already done so, **please return your Firstfruits Giving Plan Response Cards by putting them in the church mail box or placing them in the offering by Sunday, March 4.**

If you haven't already done so, you are encouraged to check out the option to give to Waterford electronically. The link to the Waterford electronic giving site is now available and may be found on the Waterford home page.

—Facilities and Finance Ministry Team

## MCC Thank You

We at Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), along with our partners around the world, are blessed by your continuing support for the work of MCC. We thank you, friends and supporters at Waterford Mennonite, for the many ways you contribute to the work of MCC. In addition to the donations, energy and time you give at relief sales, thrift shops, meat canning and with material resources, your congregation contributed \$6,391.04 in 2017.

We are especially grateful for your prayer support for MCC's work. Whether in Lebanon, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ukraine or Appalachia, your support is sharing God's love and compassion through relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Find more stories at [mcc.org](http://mcc.org). Thank you!

—Les Gustafson-Zook,  
MCC Great Lakes

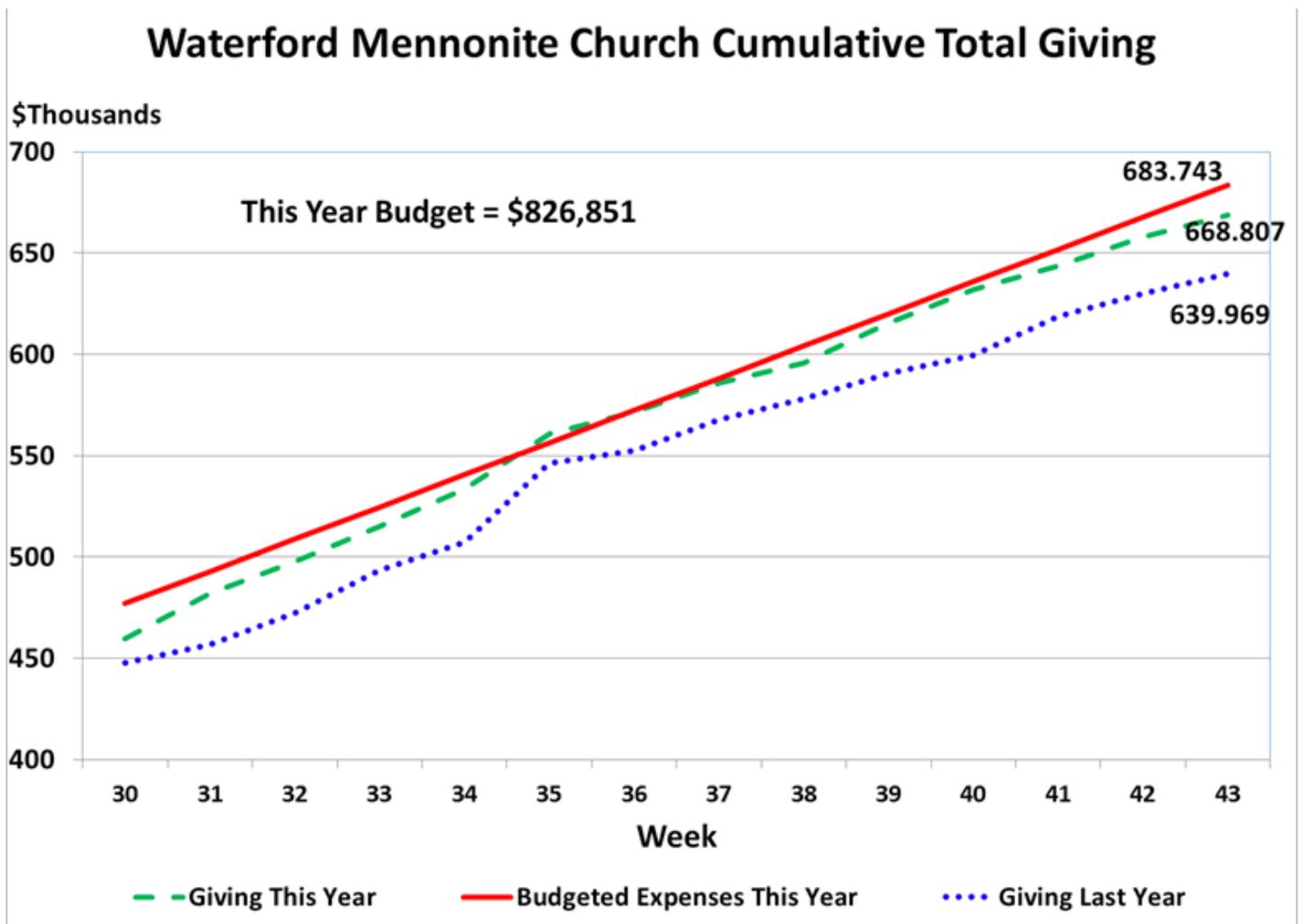
## Hesston College Bel Canto Singers

The Bel Canto singers of Hesston College will present a diverse repertoire of choral music March 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Waterford. The program entitled *Living Water* is inspired by biblical images of water that flow through the old and new testaments. The concert features a cappella works, selections with organ or piano, and special music by soloists and small ensembles. The 29-member, mixed chamber choir is conducted by Dr. Russell Adrian and accompanied by Kenneth Rodgers.

This fall marks the 34th season for Bel Canto Singers, the premier choral ensemble of Hesston College. The ensemble carries out ambitious concert and touring schedules annually. Combining high artistic standards with unique performance opportunities, Bel Canto Singers offers first and second-year college musicians experiences typically reserved for third and fourth year

students. Recent juried appearances have included performances for VOCES8, Chanticleer, the King's Singers, Charles Bruffy, and the Rose Ensemble.

As part of our hosting the choir, we are looking for people willing to host students overnight on the 22nd in their homes. Hosts will need to be at the church that evening to take guests home for the night. Hosts are also asked to provide breakfast and a sack lunch the following morning and make sure they are back at the church by 8:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet with a list of the students' names at the participation station. Please consider whether you are able to provide hospitality in this way.



We are 43 weeks or 83% into the church fiscal year and have funded 81% of the budget. With 9 weeks left in the church fiscal year, giving to WMC totals \$668,807. That is short of the YTD budget of \$683,743 but well above the prior YTD giving of \$639,969. Within the next weeks, the FFMT will be reviewing current year expenses to see how they compare to the budget.

## Rio Grande Service

1,500 miles from Goshen, Rio Grande Bible Ministries (RGBM), Edinburg, TX, began in 1946. More than 6,000 students, primarily from Latin and North America, have come to study. Curriculum offers pastoral, women's ministries, Christian education, and missions majors within a Bachelor of Biblical Studies program.

Rio Grande Bible Ministries (RGBM) winter volunteers come from all parts of the U.S. and Canada, with more than 100 volunteers on campus this winter, serving from a few weeks to up to four months. Ed and Sharon Swartzentruber have come for 18 consecutive years, while this is the first time for John and Dee Birkey. Some volunteers live in the surrounding communities; others bring their housing with them. The campus supplies full RV hookups along El Contente St. In exchange for this RV space, RGBM expects 28 hours of labor during the Monday-through-Thursday work week. Weekends are free for travel, sightseeing, or service at a local church.

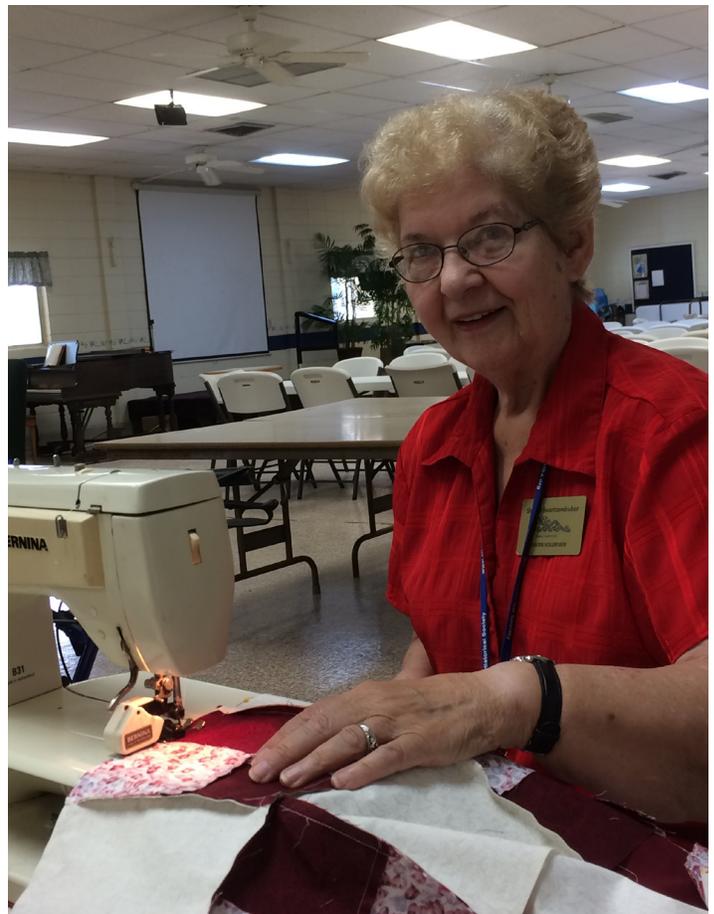
Volunteers are involved in office work, quilting, landscaping, painting, and all construction-related skills including masonry, cabinetry, electrical and plumbing. Two large projects this year included the construction of a married-student four-plex and a walking/exercise path around the soccer field.

Volunteers are important in helping to keep operational costs at a minimum, as are the dedicated faculty and staff who serve as missionaries and raise their own support.

Check out <http://www.riogrande.edu> for more information about the important preparatory mission work of RGBM.



John Birkey holds post on a carport installation at the new married student four-plex.



Sharon Swartzentruber in the quilt room piecing a comforter



Ed Swartzentruber using large equipment at RGBM

*Rio Grande continued*



Dee Birkey uses her painting skills in the 90 degree Texas weather.



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Mennonite Church**

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**Staff Team**

**Administrative Ministry**

- Karen Hostettler  
*Secretary*
- 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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**Aerial view of the RGBM Campus**



**A front campus entrance  
B facility maintenance buildings**

**C Winter volunteers' RV park**