

buzz

Highlights of the Congregational Meeting

Following the fellowship meal on Sunday, May 6, the congregation was invited to join in the congregational meeting that included a financial report from the fiscal year just ended along with several proposals for the congregation's approval.

The Facilities and Finance Ministry Team (FFMT) outlined a Facilities Improvement Capital Campaign catch up on some delayed maintenance for the parking lot estimated at \$70,000 and the fellowship hall estimated at \$165,000. After a good discussion, action was taken to start raising funds for both projects targeting \$235,000 with the goal of being able to start with the projects late 2018 or 2019.

The fiscal year ended April 30, 2018 and while the final tally is still underway, the generous year-end contributions will result in surplus over expenditures around \$4,500. Many thanks to each one who has made this possible.

Tom Yoder, treasurer, presented the budget for 2018-19. Discussion noted that the cost of WMC Ministry Staffing was \$20,000 less than anticipated and learned this was in the category of staffing outside of our pastoral team and did not reduce pastoral team expenditures. It was noted that the MEF budget can tap into the Yoder estate for up to \$10,000 if needed. There was some reflection on the slight decline in regular attendance but affirmation for the overall increase in revenue, compared to the previous year, despite the attendance trend. In the end, the congregation voted to unanimously accept the proposed budget of \$824,025. Tom Yoder was recognized for his excellent work as treasurer over the last nine years and an invitation was extended to the person God is calling to take over this important ministry.

Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) announced the appointment of five people to serve on a committee to review and update the current Mennonite Education Fund (MEF) guidelines with a view to streamlining our budgeting process. Jason Herrmann represents MLC and will serve as chair, Gordon Bontrager represents the current MEF committee, Eliza Stoltzfus represents a family receiving MEF assistance, Dan Stoltzfus represents a family not receiving MEF assistance and Neil Amstutz represents the pastoral team.

Table conversations were held discussing the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) Renewing a Vision covenant for the congregation. It was noted that MLC has a general sense that the congregation is prepared to proceed with signing the covenant. Through a worksheet, this observation was tested, and eight of the twelve tables reported being ready to sign it. Reservations came around the breadth of variance in relation to receiving or not receiving LGBT people as members and non-credentialed leaders in their congregation. Also, that pastors, with the affirmation of their congregation, being able to officiate same-sex covenanted unions without fear of censure. It was noted that by signing the covenant, congregations may make these determinations themselves, but that when a congregation makes choices outside of Mennonite Church USA practices they will enter discernment with other congregations around those choices. Overall, there is strong affirmation for the congregation to remain part of Mennonite Church USA through the conference and congregational leader(s) will seek to sign the covenant in the June 2018 annual conference sessions.

—Timothy Burkholder

Meet Douglas and Nancy Graber

Douglas' parents, Ralph and Mary (Nachtigall) Graber lived in Chicago when I was born on October 5, 1954 while my Dad attended the Mennonite Seminary. After moving back to South Dakota, my family spent several years on the family farm and Dad also preached at Bethel Mennonite Church. Then Dad brought our family, now with three sons, back to complete his Masters of Divinity at the newly established AMBS in Elkhart. I went to first grade at Hawthorn School of Elkhart in 1960-61. Following seven years in a one room school house with one teacher and seven grades, I attended Freeman Academy (FA) and then Freeman Jr. College (FJC). In 1976 Goshen College granted me a BA in Biology degree with Secondary Education. I returned to the land of the four-generation farm between Freeman and Marion, SD for the next nine years. Nancy and I were married on Aug. 13, 1977 at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, where we attended while in SD. While farming together, Nancy filled several different nursing positions while I taught Biology and Math at FA and FJC.

Nancy grew up in Kenmore, New York. She attended schools with hundreds of children in each grade. Harold (Nancy's father) was a principal of one of them. Nancy did synchronized swimming at a nearby YWCA. She learned about Goshen College through a computer college search and after a visit with her parents, she became a Maple Leaf, learned to know more about Mennonites and earned a four-year degree in Nursing. Nursing jobs in Michigan, South Dakota, Florida, and Kansas have occupied her professional life.

From South Dakota, we moved to Sarasota, Fla. for four years. Then our eight years of MCC experiences in Africa and Jamaica changed us the most... we have great memories of our time overseas.

After we returned from Jamaica, we moved to Hesston, Kans. for 14 years and then to Hillsboro, Kans. for six years, where we lived within easy walking distance of First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro, Tabor College (Douglas' job), Prairie View Hillsboro office (Nancy's job), grocery store, lumber yard, etc. We also helped care for Douglas' mother in assisted living. Since she has dementia and has moved to health care, we felt freer to make the move to Goshen.

Each of our three children: Laurina, Christa, and Daniel, chose to attend Goshen College and settle in



Goshen following graduation. We drove 800 miles (12-13 hours) to get to Goshen for special events in our children's lives. They all currently attend WMC. As we drove back and forth several times a year, a seed of change was planted a few years ago. That seed swelled when we came for a baby shower and sprouted when we visited Thanksgiving 2017 to hold our first grandchild, Matilda Jean. Job options opened, interviews occurred and by New Year's we were house hunting. We now live at 1804 Mayfield Dr. and drive to jobs, church and stores, but it only takes 15 minutes to see the younger generations in our family. Yeah!

Douglas is employed at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center as their Building Manager and Asst. grounds manager, caring for the structure and cleanliness of the facilities and doing his part to keep things functioning. Nancy is a part time nurse at Goshen Middle School and works part time for Goshen Health Hospice.

Nancy and I like to sing in choirs, attend dramas, special events, lectures, conferences, retreats, etc. We are passionate about getting comforters together or volunteering for MCC relief sales. Nancy enjoys reading, swimming, yoga, kayaking, and keeping in touch with distant family and friends. I enjoy growing African Violets, garden vegetables, and fruits (strawberries, raspberries, etc.) I love to find ways to make the soil better than I found it. Each summer, fishing, boating and water skiing on the lake in Ontario, Canada get packed into a two-week period. We enjoy playing games (board or sport) with family and friends! No matter how good the meal has been, there is always room for Ice Cream! :-)

Prairie View

With school ending soon I would like to thank all those who have helped support Prairie View this year. The committee has overseen the serving of two meals and a day of snacks for the teachers. We have also provided sweat pants and underwear for the school to use in special situations as well as facial tissues for the classrooms.

The church has received several thank you letters from various staff members expressing appreciation for the grant money that Waterford has given each semester for special projects that the Goshen schools is not able to cover. Our own Marge Gingerich, school counselor for Prairie View, oversees the appropriate use of these funds according to the guidelines that Waterford and Prairie View have worked out. I am grateful that Marge and some of the teachers who attend Waterford provide a direct connection to the school, making this relationship a natural one.

I also want to express praise that our church can support a local public school in this way.

–Len Harms, committee chair

To the WMC Congregation

Now that graduation has passed and I'm officially done
And moved back to Florida, and enjoying the sun
I've started to realize just how blessed I have been
By my family at Waterford from beginning to end

Of my years first at Bethany and then at GC
How fortunate I am that you've been supporting me
Whether financially, emotionally, with good vibes or
with prayer

There are countless good memories, a few that I'll share

From MYF to Honduras to coffee dates with Cindy
And being editor of the Buzz which surely helps me
work at Disney

I feel very fortunate to have connected with so many
Of the members of this dear congregational family

So thank you thank you thank you, I hope I've expressed
My gratitude and appreciation, I still feel so blessed
So if you're ever in Orlando or somewhere close by
Please don't hesitate to tell me, I'd love to say hi!

–Katie Hurst

It's Here! Summer Intergenerational Nurture Hour

Who: Your Adult Sunday School classes

What: Spend one Sunday School hour this summer getting to know the Waterford kids! Come ready to have fun with your hosts, Mariah Martin and Alex Yoder, who will lead your classes in games, songs, activities, and more.

When:

6/3 – Koinonia	7/8 –Pathfinders
6/10 – Bridgebuilders	7/15 –Seekers
6/17 – Gelassenheit	7/22 – Sojourners
6/24 –Agape	7/29 –MYF
7/1 – Open Door	

Where: The Fellowship Hall

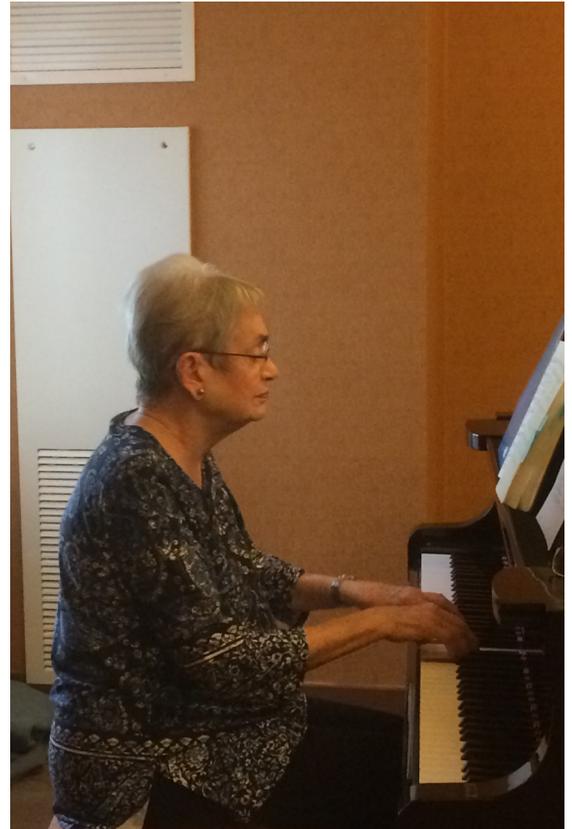
Why: In the theme of Cindy's Sabbatical, we are deepening relationships! One of Waterford's goals is to continue to develop relationships across generations and this is one step in that direction.

Change of Address

Lester Bauman
Blueberry Hill Room # 211
1480 Sandpiper Lane
Goshen, IN 46526
phone: 574-971-5173

Communion Service at Greencroft

Neil Amstutz gave the meditation and Esther Rose Graber accompanied the singing for Waterford's Greencroft residents in a communion service on May 16.



Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
p: 574 533-5642
f: 574 533-0879
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostetler
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.

Sophie Miller,
editor; 574 903-9158
buzz@waterfordchurch.org