



buzz



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Wow, did we ever “Fan the Flames” at the church-wide bonfire Sunday evening, October 11. There was a tremendous turnout and plenty of enjoyable things to do.

There were crafts, and food. There were many activities such as a photo booth and Frisbee and some food. There was singing, sharing and food. We launched Chinese Lanterns and we had some food. Over twenty people participated in the 3K run/walk. Did I mention that we had some food? God blessed us with beautiful weather and we had plenty of food!

This week we not only add another layer of “fire” to our centerpiece flame but pastor Neil will continue to encourage us to use our God-given gifts for service to each other.

The Pathfinders Sunday School class is currently studying the Thomas Rainer book entitled, *I am a Church Member*. This book was selected by the former Gifts Encouragement Team to accompany the Fanning the Flames series. It focuses on church unity and encourages a willingness to be unselfish. Most of the other adult classes will be studying this book during the winter quarter.

The Scripture for next week’s message is from Exodus 35:30–36:7—the story of Bezalel and his gifts. If you are waiting until you are “ready” to use your gift, you won’t want to miss this.

—Greg Hire, coordinator of ministry gifts

Buzz email confusion

The past few weeks there has been some confusion and miscommunication with submissions for the Buzz. We apologize if you submitted something only to not see it get printed and not get an email response from either of us. The issue is taken care of now and things will start catching up in print. Let one or both of us know if you have any questions or concerns.

—Katie Hurst & Janet Shoemaker

Beyond “Interim” in the church office

I am happy to announce the hiring of Janet Shoemaker as our ongoing Coordinator of Administrative Ministries, officially effective Oct. 19. Since early May, Janet has been filling in keeping our office functioning as the Interim Coordinator of Administrative Ministries. She has more than capably helped us bridge a transitional time in our office coverage, including when I was gone on renewal leave. Janet’s friendliness, her experience and skills in managing multiple concrete tasks on short deadlines and her familiarity with this congregation and Mennonite churches make her a natural choice to serve in our front office. She has already fit in very well with our staff team and has the confidence of the pastors. You can continue to contact her and the church office in general at office@waterfordchurch.org. Please join me in welcoming Janet to this longer-term position.

—Neil Amstutz, Pastoral Team Leader

Stephen ministry highlights

The third of WMC’s three newly-trained Stephen Ministers was commissioned during the Sunday, August 23rd worship services. Jane Otto was given the charge by Pastor Cindy to use and nurture the skills she learned in her 50 hours of training to walk alongside, support, encourage, and build up those facing life difficulties to whom they are assigned by their Stephen Leaders. She now has joined the congregation’s eight other Stephen Ministers as she is assigned a care receiver with whom she meets weekly, and attends monthly peer group supervision.

With changes having occurred in the Stephen Minister roster this past year, the Stephen Ministry bulletin board has been recently updated. It is located just outside the main doors to the Fellowship Hall. Please periodically stop, observe and say a brief prayer for those individuals who faithfully represent the congregation in a significant part of its caring ministry. There are also brochures you may take when you are facing one of life’s many challenges. You can extend this ministry to others in the community you know by sharing a brochure with them.

—Stephen Leader Team: Bill Minter,
Mel and Lorna Claassen



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- Michelle Lehman
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
*Interim Coordinator of
Administrative Ministries*
- JD Smucker
Worship Coordinator

Facilities Ministry

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

Pastoral Ministry

- Neil Amstutz
Pastoral Team Leader
- Lyle Miller
*Pastor of Family Life and
Financial Stewardship*
- 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. Tuesday preceding publication.

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PVES & WMC relationship

For the past year and a half Waterford has solidified its relationship with Prairie View Elementary School along with our partner church Maple City Chapel. This has grown out of a desire of the Goshen Community Schools for all the elementary schools in Goshen to be partnered with two local churches.

We are currently involved in two activities with the school. One is the approval of a \$500 fund given to the school in a special account from which teachers can request money for special projects not covered by the school budget. Our own member, Marge Gingerich, the school counselor, is a direct link to this fund and will work with a committee from the school to decide which projects will be funded. Examples from last year are funds for an incubator and a request for transportation for a field trip. Maple City funded these two projects out of discretionary funds that were readily available. Our fund now makes money quickly and easily available for special projects with a priority given to ones that benefit a whole class or group of students. The first \$500 has been given to the school, and the system will be evaluated by the Mission and Service Ministry Team to decide if the church will want to replenish the fund.

The second activity that happened on October 13 was a meal for the teachers during their fall parent/teacher conferences. That day is a long one with the teachers having students the first part of the day and then conferences into the evening.

These are some other activities that happened in the past:

- Providing a meal at the beginning of the year for the past two years
- Providing a meal for conferences
- Assisting with the book fair
- Sorting boxes for the PTO fund-raiser
- Providing academic support
- Reading to a class for thirty minutes for four weeks with the Real Men Read initiative funded through United Way and expanding that for an additional four-week session in January
- For women participating in Spring into Reading that takes place in the spring
- Conducting an underwear drive
- Conducting a facial tissue drive
- Providing treats and notes during May
- Assisting with field day.

We are looking to the future to discover how this relationship can grow. Connecting people with the needs is the on-going challenge. If you have a special interest in helping, let Len Harms know, and he can begin to form a list of people readily available to help. The organizing committee for this partnership is Jane Otto, Fancheon Resler, and Len Harms.

Sharing fund report

Waterford Mennonite Church (WMC) has an active Sharing Fund which is an extension of our pastoral care ministry as it provides financial assistance to active participants at WMC who are experiencing financial hardship. The fund is facilitated by two co-coordinators appointed by the pastoral team.

The Sharing Fund is an above budget account, and therefore we are deeply grateful to all who contribute to this ministry on a regular basis. During the past quarter, June through September, the Sharing Fund assisted 5 individuals or families with a total of \$8,093.72 The Everence Sharing Fund matches our disbursements up to \$3,000 in grants annually and has returned \$2,944.95 to our Sharing Fund account this year.

The details of Sharing Fund activity are, of course, confidential, but we do want to share with the congregation the amount of money that was distributed during this period. Because this is a significant ministry among us, we want all to be aware of this resource. The fund is available to regular attenders experiencing financial hardship and can be accessed by contacting one of the co-coordinators, pastors or class shepherds.

As this is an above-budget fund, we welcome contributions to our Sharing Fund at any time. We routinely receive an offering for our Sharing Fund when we observe Communion (usually 4 times a year); however, anyone may make a contribution to the account at any time noting "Sharing Fund" on their check and/or envelope.

—Miriam Stauffer and Jason Golden,
Co-Coordinators of the Sharing Fund

Lawn mowing

We want to thank Ed Swartzendruber for mowing the lawn this past summer! While Ed and Sharon are moving south for the winter we need a volunteer to do a few more mowings this fall. It will also include using the leaf Vac in the next few weeks. Please contact Jan Oostland at facilities@waterfordchurch.org or call him at 574-971-1277 if you are able to help out.