



Waterford Mennonite Church | September 6, 2015

buzz

Introducing New Attenders



Lucille and Arnold Roth have lived in Redbud Court at Greencroft for more than eight years. They have been good years.

Their family includes five children. Peter lives in Bloomington, IL with his family. Anthony died of colon cancer about a year ago, two days before his 57th birthday; his family lives in Massachusetts. Barbara Horst and her family live in Oakland, CA. Loren died at 10 weeks old in 1964. Cheryl Snyder is a member here at Waterford. They have thirteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Arnold's work as a pastor took them to Shore in Shippshewana, Kern Road in South Bend, College Mennonite in Goshen, and Deep Run East in Perkasio, PA. He also worked part-time for a number of Mennonite Church agencies. Lucille taught at Eighth Street Nursery School in Goshen for twelve years and worked at Provident Bookstore in Souderton, PA for ten years.

Lucille's passion for many years was early childhood education. She currently makes and sends many cards and works on projects building relationships with the grandchildren. Arnold enjoyed restoring old cars. He currently enjoys teaching in Sunday school classes and in Bible studies at Greencroft. He leads the worship service in the Meetinghouse at Greencroft about once a quarter.

They look forward to sharing with Waterford Church members.

—Karen Sommers

Summer is over but the heat isn't

Air conditioning is still in use sometimes now as summer winds down, but we plan to crank up the heat in our church life with a comprehensive campaign to celebrate and promote the gifts God has given to each of us in the church. Almost two years in the making, "Fanning the Flames" is the name of our multi-faceted efforts this fall to encourage all of us to receive and fully utilize what God has gifted us with. You've been reading and hearing about it over the summer through our Coordinator of Ministry Gifts Greg Hire. Now it kicks off on Sunday, September 13, in our worship services.

Here is a brief summary of the various elements of "Fanning the Flames." More details of these elements are coming in Buzz in the next weeks.

- "Fanning the Flames" worship series will run from September 13 through October 25. Come prepared to "unwrap your gift" on September 13.
- Supporting the worship series will be a focused adult Sunday School curriculum which we are asking all classes to study either this winter or spring, based on the book, *I Am a Church Member* by Thom Rainer.
- The Soul Food Wednesday adult activities this fall will also strongly coincide with Fanning the Flames themes. (See SFW description elsewhere in next week's Buzz)
- Some special assessment tools will be used to help identify our spiritual gifts and passions, to encourage their use within and outside the congregation.
- Sunday evening October 11, bring your family out for a Fanning the Flames bonfire event, with a variety of food and activities.

Look for more details next week in Buzz.

Thank You

The Wayne Sommers family is deeply grateful for the support and encouragement we have received from WMC, particularly during these last weeks of Dad/Grandpa's life. The participation of Velma, Lyle and Cindy in the services, the food brought in and meals served, the beautiful mums and the many expressions of concern and care have been very meaningful. We are grateful for our many years with Dad/Grandpa and hearing the stories of your experiences with him and the ways he touched your lives has been healing and comforting. We are so grateful for this faith community.

—Darrel and Karen Sommers, Lorraine and Glenn Reinford, Monica, Shawn, Jeremy, David, Susanna Stutzman

Who Will Remember?

By Sierra Ross Richer



This mother-daughter collaborative short story is based on interviews and friendships with Kichwa women in Ecuador. Jane, Sierra's mother, researched changes in the food landscape that Ecuadorian women have experienced in their lifetimes. Sierra compiled Jane's research into the narrative below. This article first appeared in Timbrel magazine. For the complete version, order the 2015 spring issue: <https://www.mennonitewomenusa.org/publications/timbrel>. To read Sierra's complete blog, see <http://beyond.mennonitemission.net/Pages/Who-Will-Remember.aspx>. For more on the Ross Richer family's ministry, see <http://www.mennonitemission.net/OurWork/Workers/Pages/JaneandJerrellRossRicher.aspx>.

We sit at my kitchen table, my grandson and I. He kneels on the plastic chair, and still the table reaches up to his chin. In my bowl are grilled maduros, the bananas' sweet smell wafting up into my nose. In his bowl is a small piece of chicken and a white roll with jam. His spoon lays idle on the table and he gazes at the pink package of wafer cookies his mother sent with him. Today is market day, so his mother went to town to shop for the week. Dylan is spending the day with me.

From fruit trees to plastic packaging

Looking into Dylan's face I see my little brother when he was young. You never had to tell my brother to eat. He'd gobble up his yucca, bananas, and chonta so fast he didn't breathe until it was gone. But best of all was the fruit. When I was a girl, we ate fruit all day long. We ran from tree to tree gorging ourselves until we groaned with stomach aches. Sometimes our bowls were empty, our cups bare, but the trees were always full, and we were never hungry. Every fruit you could want grew around our house: papaya, lemons, oranges, pineapple, grapes, mangos, and many more varieties.

My grandson doesn't know what it is like to feel your stomach rumble with too much fruit. He doesn't know what it is like to feel your face pucker up when you squeeze lemon juice onto your tongue, or to feel your mouth grow fuzzy from the pulp of pineapple. There isn't fruit for my grandson to eat. The fruit trees we used to feast from have all been chopped down—replaced with cement houses. Now, you have to buy fruit like everything else. And there isn't money left over after buying the rice, noodles and sugar, and all the other things we didn't used to need.

Instead, Dylan eats cookies, candy, and other things that come in plastic wrappers. His teeth are yellow and sore, not like mine, so white and strong. Sometimes the city food gets stuck in his gut, and he has to swallow spoonfuls of the pink syrup his mother gives him. When I was a child, the fruit was our medicine.

View from the hammock

"Time for dessert," I call to my grandson. He races to the table and snatches up his package of cookies while I pour myself a cupful of chicha. I sit down in the woven hammock in the shade of the house and he climbs into my lap. The wrapper of his cookies crinkles loudly in my ear, drowning out the songs of the birds. Not that they sing much around here anymore without the trees.

We swing gently, looking out at the valley below us. My grandson's eyes see the new black road slicing through the village. He sees the bare telephone poles shooting up beside the road, the satellite dishes, like big mushrooms, sprouting out of brightly painted cement block houses. But I see past the dust and clutter of the new village. My eyes see beyond the tangle of electric wires precariously stringing the town together. I see the hills dark with moist, shady forests, towering trees, their branches heavy with orchids. I see the green meadow down by the river's edge, speckled with black and white cows. I see the fruit trees heavy with produce, the birds and bees and butterflies swarming over dropped fruit. And I wonder: When my eyes close for the last time, who will see what I see? Who will remember?



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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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