



Waterford Mennonite Church | September 30, 2018

buzz

Fall Mission Sunday 2018

We're in for a treat on Sunday October 7 at Waterford. Our Fall Mission Sunday will capitalize on the visit of our 3 guests from Benin Bible Institute, Bonaventure Akowanou Dossou, his wife Clarisse Akogbeto, and Germain Medonve. This allows us to not only hear a sermon from Pastor Germain, but also to hear a detailed update during nurture hour about the progress and direction of BBI. In addition, being the first Sunday of October, it is also World Communion Sunday. Therefore our guests will assist Pastors Katie and Cindy in leading us in the Lord's Supper. On communion Sundays we receive offerings for the above-budget Sharing Fund, which benefits Waterford people in some financial need.

In addition, there is our annual Fall Mission Offering that we customarily receive above budget. This year it will be equally divided as follows:

- ½ to the Goshen Ministerial Association Emergency Fund, through which we assist local persons with needs like rent, utilities, medical bills, w etc.
- ½ to a New Faculty Training Fund at BBI, which will help BBI to provide graduate-level training for incoming faculty members in the coming years, to replace several teachers who are about to retire. One of those retiring at the end of this year is Alphonse Godonou, who visited us here in 2005.

Come prepared to be blessed by our God, who is not bound by race, culture, or language. Come prepared to generously support needs in our church, our local community and around the world.

Why “Welcoming Spaces 3.0”?

Even before “welcoming people to faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ” became part of our mission statement, offering a warm welcome to worship and congregational life has been a central part of life at Waterford Mennonite Church.

This ethos began when we started meeting at Bethany Christian High School 60 years ago next month, in October of 1958, and attendance quickly grew to more than 200. In the early 1970s, we celebrated our new sanctuary, gathering together for the first time in the space we now consider our worship home. A few years later, the addition of our fellowship hall made it easier to welcome people into nurture classes and gathered community time. And in the early 1990s, we began to welcome children and youth into the inviting spaces of our newly constructed nurture wing.

In the years since then, we have made only modest changes in our physical spaces, including through our Welcoming Spaces and Welcoming Spaces 2 projects in 2012 and 2013. Highlights of the first project included replacing carpet in the offices and nursery and purchasing the equipment to livestream our worship services. In Welcoming Spaces 2, we installed carpet in the nurture wing and solar tube lights in the fellowship hall and purchased chairs for the sanctuary. An earlier project installed three electric door openers and added space for handicapped parking, and just last year we painted the hallways and added furniture.

Each of these projects, from a complete building to necessary updates, has graciously helped us welcome people to Waterford. These activities all were accomplished through generous contributions from congregational members. Throughout the years, Waterford's generous spirit has helped us to thrive in

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- Velma Swartz
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- Cindy Voth
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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. Monday preceding publication.

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our mission, not only in welcoming people, but also in ministering to the needs of each other and our neighbors and in calling out each other's gifts for the joyful work of God's reconciling mission.

Throughout our history, these spaces have served us well. However, over time, maintenance is required and needs change. Our Facilities and Finance Ministry Team monitors the condition of our current spaces and ensures that they can best serve the mission of the congregation. FFMT has identified several specific ways in which our spaces should be improved.

Combining our strong history as a congregation and our continued commitment to carrying out our mission as a congregation, we are choosing to call this project Welcoming Spaces 3.0. In a future column, I will summarize the components of the initiative, asking the questions, "What difference will the project make? What are the ministry benefits? And what will we be able to do in ministry that we cannot accomplish now?" In each case, a part of the answer will be to make our facilities a more welcoming space.

Thanks be to God for the indescribable gift of being able to minister together in this building and 65 acres of land that God has entrusted to us.

—Lyle Miller,

Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator

Membership Transfer Request

Upon their request, Ministry Leadership Council is acting to transfer the membership of Kevin E and Carolyn Miller, to First Mennonite Church in Newton, KS. After many years of active service here at Waterford, Kevin and Carolyn moved to Kansas several years ago to be closer to their daughter's family. We bless them as they engage more fully in the life of their new congregation, which is pastored by Anita Yoder Kehr, who grew up at Waterford.

Thank You

Thank you to many of you who contributed to the MCC school kit project. Our church contributed 184 kits this year.

Address Change

Rosie Hershberger has moved from Evergreen Place to Healthcare, room #143.

MCC Relief Sale, Sept. 21-22

Virginia and John Wenger, foreground, and John Zehr, background, prepare sausages for frying at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale.



Glen Kauffmann participated in the Run for Relief at the relief sale.