



buzz

“Fundraising” vs. “Faithraising”

Last week, Pastor Neil described our desire as a congregation to make our physical spaces more welcoming to people. He also named that we will be approaching this as a “faithraising” project rather than as “fundraising.” So, what’s the difference?

In many ways, churches can and should operate like other businesses and non-profits. For example, it is good for us to have administrative policies and control mechanisms in place that help us avoid fiscal malpractice.

In other ways, churches are different. In traditional fundraising campaigns, for example, the emphasis is on total dollars raised. This leads to development officers efficiently focusing their time on the small number of donors with the most giving potential.

But in “faithraising,” we recognize that the church belongs to all who know God’s grace, and the emphasis is on encouraging everyone to grow in their faith formation, including in generosity. Faithraising asks, “Grounded in gratitude for the gracious God we serve, and revealed in a life of prayer, how might we all be called to generously live out our faith?” As consultant Lori Guenthor Reesor says, “Ten dollars from me and \$499,990 from you is not a successful church capital campaign.”

In fact, Reesor goes a step further. She describes the goals of a “faithraising” project as these:

1. Strengthen discipleship by teaching generosity.
2. Grow an inclusive community by encouraging everyone to give as they are able.
3. Celebrate the joy of working together towards a common vision.
4. Raise money.

“I’m confident that a church full of joyful givers achieves the last goal,” she says. “But even if they cannot, a joyful community of generous disciples who celebrate what God is doing in their midst sounds like a wonderful failure to be part of.”

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Help Welcome Our 2018 Benin Bible Institute Guests



Germain
Medonve Dossou



Bonaventure M. Akowanou
and his wife
Clarisse Yéyinou Akogbeto

If you would like to host our visitors for lunch or supper between Tuesday, September 25 and Monday, October 8, you may sign up at Google Docs or at the Participation Station.

Meal time hosts may invite others from WMC to the meal as space permits. They might also think about having a French speaker present. It is helpful if evening meal hosts can take the guests back to where they are staying overnight.

We need homes with two bedrooms for overnight hosting for all three guests.

- Monday Sept. 24 to Friday Sept. 28
- Saturday Sept 29 to Wednesday October 3
- Thursday Oct. 4 to Monday Oct. 8 (already taken care of)

Please contact Lola Gingerich at 574-518-1508 if you are interested.

See your mail box for more information and opportunities to be involved with Germain, Bonaventure and Clarisse while they are with us.



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- Katie Misz
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- Velma Swartz
Pastor of Senior Ministries
- Cindy Voth
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Fundraising (cont. from page 1)

So down the road, when we actually reach the point of inviting people to respond in generosity, we will celebrate the joy of working together. But our celebration events won't be based on the total dollars raised. Rather, they will focus on the number of participants. Look for more on that in a future column!

In the meantime, I leave you with this question: How have you experienced God's generosity in your life and through the ministry of Waterford Mennonite Church?

—Lyle Miller,
Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator

Creating Legacy Videos for Senior Adults

This past year, Waterford received the gift of a video interview with Cathy Hochstetler. Cathy shared her legacy with the congregation and her family via a short video, and many found those words encouraging and meaningful. In that light, the Senior Adult Ministry team would like to continue doing legacy videos with senior adults. The current plan is to partner with Waterford youth to learn to do the video editing for these videos.

As we dream of this project together, we are looking to obtain the technology we would like to use for this project. Before purchasing items, we thought we would first inquire of the community. We are looking for gently used apple products (iPad, iPhone, or MacBook) that you might be willing to donate to the church for this ministry. We are also interested in attachable microphones that attach to cell phones or iPads as well as tripods to set up cellphones or iPads. If you have something you would like to donate, contact Katie Misz or Velma Swartz.

Changes at Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network

It was eight months ago that Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network (GIHN) moved guest hosting to St. Mark's United Methodist Church building. GIHN Executive Director Mindy Morehead reports that things are operating fairly smoothly, and since moving to the fixed site, 31 different families and 19 single females have been served.

However, one challenge they have noticed is that due to the fluctuation in the number of guests attending meals, meal preparation has become more difficult. They understand this completely and have tried to figure out how to make it easier for everyone. Faith Mission Executive Director Ross Swihart has offered to provide the dinners every night at no cost to GIHN except transporting meals from Elkhart to St. Mark's. Mindy has decided to accept this offer for a two month trial, beginning September 9, so that each church will have an opportunity to serve Faith Mission meals and see how this system works. They will still need volunteers nightly to serve the dinner and eat with our guests, and then be there with the guests until the overnight guard shows up.

Additionally, GIHN has decided to provide additional volunteer training over the next three months. **They are asking that each volunteer pick from the following dates to attend one of the training sessions**, all held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church: September 25, October 31 and November 30.

During these sessions volunteers will be asked to sign a volunteer waiver and a background check form.

Please RSVP to mindygihn@gmail.com or 574-534-2300 by the Friday before the date you plan to attend so they know how many to expect. All session times will be from 6-7:30 p.m., with refreshments served. Thank you so much for all you do for GIHN.

Painting the Church House

We are looking for several volunteers for Saturday, September 29, to help paint the exterior of the church house. There is a sign-up sheet at the participation station. You can sign up for all or part of the day and we'll be starting at 7:30 a.m. In case of rain, we may need to reschedule for the following Saturday, October 6. Please contact J.D. Smucker if you have any questions.