

buzz

Open Door Class

The Open Door class meets in the Southwest corner of the Fellowship Hall and is typically a group of 14 to 18 persons. We are an inter-generational group with most members ranging from 40's to 80's, but we have also had class members in their 20's and 30's.



We enjoy greeting each other, drinking coffee and jumping into a number of conversations around the room before discussing any class business, and having a time of sharing praises and prayer concerns with each other led by our class shepherd. Our sharing time is important to us and keeps us aware of events in each other's lives that need support. That support has often been expressed through meals and flowers.

The class was started 15 to 20 years ago by a few people with a desire to be part of a smaller class. The name for the class was chosen with a vision for "catching visitors" that may want to attend the class as a way of getting to know more about Waterford and its members.

We generally use the Adult Quarterly for our study and find it easy to have a discussion involving a number of class members and diverse views. We pass around a sign up sheet for "teaching" the lesson and usually involve five to six persons each quarter in leading our discussions. We will occasionally use a book for our study, the most recent being "The Naked Anabaptist."

Fellowship activities each year include a weekend of camping in the fall and a weekend winter retreat at a church camp. Sitting around the campfire is a highlight of the camping weekend, and games, puzzles, snacks and singing together dominate the retreat. For a number of years, one of our activities was preparing and serving

the Sunday evening meal for IHN guests and we enjoyed that time together as well as our contact with the guests.

Visitors are always welcome in our class, we'll keep the door open!

Dwelling in the Word Worship Series

Annually, for about ten years, we have taken four to six weeks at Waterford to stay with a single Bible text to go deeper. We have called this practice Dwelling in the Word. Last year's DITW series in August was entitled "Lament: A catalyst for hope," drawing from the third chapter of Lamentations. This year in the month of November our DITW series will be called "And again I say ..." Some of you may recognize this phrase from the King James Version of Philippians 4:4, filling in the blank, of course, with the word "Rejoice!" We are focusing on gratitude and thankfulness to God in this series. Because of the familiarity and brevity of this text (Phil. 4:4-9), we are inviting everyone to memorize it as we go through the month. A special emphasis on November 11 will be our annual All Saints Day observance, in which we will give thanks for the lives of the six Waterford members who died within the past year: John King, Charlene Christophel, Mary Holsopple, Cathy Hochstetler, Dale Miller, and Emery Holsopple.

Join the Advent Choir

All interested singers are invited to be a part of our Advent choir. This choir, under the direction of Josh Tyson, comes with the support of the Worship Ministry Team. The choir will sing during our services on December 16 and January 6. There will be approximately four 60-minute rehearsals on Thursdays in November and December. More information about rehearsals will be coming soon. Interested participants should contact Josh Tyson (email joshua.m.tyson@gmail.com or call (574) 312-9152) by November 6.



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Remodeling the Fellowship Hall

In this week’s column, we will continue our walk through a Waterford Sunday morning, identifying the third “highest-priority” need we hope to address in our Welcoming Spaces 3.0 project. After arriving to a parking lot in need of repair, many of us move immediately to a sanctuary that could be made more accessible for those with physical challenges. About 90 minutes later, others join them for Sunday school classes.

Over the years, one of the ways people have most felt welcomed to Waterford is through their participation in a Sunday school program that is active not just for children and youth, but also for adults throughout the age range. Compared to many other congregations, Waterford has often been noted for its uniqueness in the percentage of worshippers who also attend Sunday school. In addition to the biblical teaching that occurs during Sunday school, classes typically serve as the first level of pastoral care.

Many of the adult Sunday school classes meet in the fellowship hall, the south half of which was part of the original facility dedicated in November of 1973. The north half was completed in late 1981. In addition to providing space for Sunday school classes, our fellowship hall also provides a large gathering space for fellowship and funeral meals and other needs.

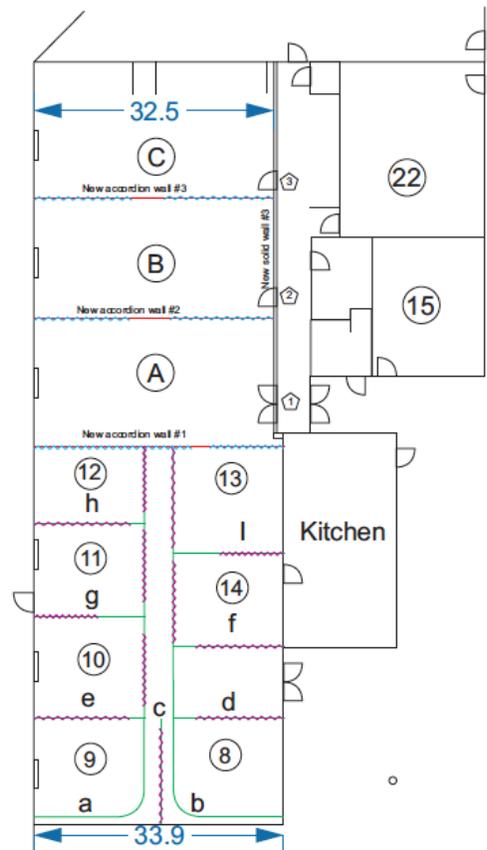
However, the fellowship hall is also facing deterioration and maintenance issues. The rafters holding the dividing walls have begun to sag, making it difficult to move the partitions each time the space is reconfigured. The track and interlocking system is failing, both for the primary divider between the north and south areas and for the partitions in the north fellowship hall. In addition, the dividers have become discolored, dented, and chipped.

To address these issues, we seek to fix the rafters and install new ceiling tiles and grids with LED lights that are more energy-

efficient. The accordion-style dividers in the south portion have experienced significant wear and tear, and we would like to replace them. By installing a solid wall and a new track system in the north portion, we would create three larger classroom spaces. In addition, we would replace the accordion-style closet doors, either with sliding doors or new accordion doors. We will also do some drywall repair and repaint walls.

A significant benefit of the reconfigured fellowship hall is the flexibility it will provide in classroom sizes. While the average attendance in adult classes can vary significantly, the rooms in the current configuration are relatively uniform in size. In addition, the reconfiguration would provide flexibility for medium-sized gatherings by allowing us to expand the south fellowship hall by opening just one or two of the north classrooms.

–Lyle Miller,
Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator



J.O. 8/7/18