



buzz

Guest column: No gift is too...

Over the past few weeks, I've enjoyed writing these regular columns introducing our Welcoming Spaces 3.0 project and encouraging us to think about how God might be calling us to grow in generosity. This week, we'll have a "guest column" taken from *One Minute Stewardship: Creative Ways to Talk About Money in Church*. Author Charles Cloughen Jr. has been an Episcopal priest for nearly 50 years. He says:

"In some denominations, parishioners are asked to 'give until it hurts.' In the Episcopal church, we have discovered that Episcopalians have a very low pain threshold. I believe one should 'give until it feels good.' When one makes a Sunday offering, one's heart should glow with the ministries the gift makes possible.

"Some say no gift is too small. When you buy a gift for your family member, do you ask yourself, 'What is the cheapest gift I can get away with?' Or do you think, 'What gift can I afford that will truly make them happy and realize how much I love them?' When they open their gift and say, 'You shouldn't have done this,' how do you feel?

"As I read the Gospels, 'no gift is too small' is not Jesus talking. If you believe no gift is too small, take your spouse or partner to a fast-food restaurant for your wedding anniversary. Choose to buy your child a package of bubble gum for their sixteenth birthday. Buy your mother a box of cake mix for Christmas. After one or more of these experiments, you will find out indeed that some gifts are too small.

"Our cathedral is undertaking a refurbishment to create a space for meetings and dinners, and I had planned to make a gift. In presenting this

program, a speaker said, 'No gift is too small.' I wrote my name and 'No gift is too small' on an envelope. Then I added a dollar and put it in the plate. Just think, for only a dollar I could be listed as a donor and receive recognition for my gift! The dean was chagrined, but I did it to prove a point: there are gifts that are too small.

I subsequently made an appropriately sized gift for the renovation. My funeral meal (whenever that might be) will take place in this space. I hope my friends and family gather to have lunch and celebrate my life by telling stories about me. I hope my legacy, besides my family, will be my having raised considerable money for God's work. I hope all the people with whom I have built relationships will remember, 'No gift is too large for God's work.'"

In Cloughen's spirit, let's circle back to three questions I asked a few weeks ago:

- How have you experienced God's grace in your life and in the ministry of Waterford Mennonite Church?
- What does your generosity say about your thankfulness to God?
- What might God be calling you to in your generosity journey?

—Lyle Miller, Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator

New Address

Ruby Hochstedler's new address is:

1510 Firestar Dr.

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Cell phone number is the same as before.



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Compañeros

The WMC Compañeros gathered around the fire pit on October 31 to share information and concerns about the Immigrant Caravan making its way through Mexico. We are troubled by the conditions that cause them to leave their homes and undertake such a long and dangerous migration; and the uncertainty of what may happen when they reach the US border is disturbing.

In solidarity with them, we formed a “caravan” and made our way through the Waterford Wetlands, stopping at each prayer station to ponder the conditions that they are experiencing, and to pray for their well-being on this dangerous journey. We were reminded that Jesus was an immigrant early in his life, and that we are called to care for the immigrant and the stranger in our midst. Following the “caravan” we shared “caravan food” and conversation around the fire.

The Compañeros are WMC people who share concerns and support for immigrants and refugees in our community as well as around the world. We meet infrequently to update each other and pray together for people who are at risk because of situations in their homelands. Our meetings are held on the last Wednesday of any month with five Wednesdays. The next meeting will be January 30, 2019. If you would like to be a Compañero/a and be notified of our meetings contact the church office. Come join us!!

–Bill Swartzendruber

Thank You

Thank you for your support during the passing of both Mary and Emery. Thank you for remembering Dad with the beautiful flowers.

–The Holsopple Family

The Honeycomb, Nov. 4

Jeff Raught shared stories from his “honeycomb of memories” interspersed with song on Sunday evening, November 4. His stories varied from how his son learned to ride a bicycle (below) to going through the Burger King drive-thru in reverse to relating to his mother as she developed dementia in her old age.



Nurture Hour Workshop Offered

What: “Simple tools to increase your generosity amidst tax reform.”

When: Sunday, November 25, during the nurture hour.

Who should attend: Folks of all ages and giving levels.

Led by: Lyle Miller, Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator and Everence Stewardship Consultant