

# buzz

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## Announcing New Business Manager



We are pleased to announce to Waterford the hiring of Andrea Golden as our new Business Manager, effective in early December. Mel Claassen has served us well in this capacity since spring of 2016, taking over some of the financial responsibilities that Pastor Lyle Miller had held. Mel

wishes to put more of his retirement time back into his primary service interest in church: Stephen Ministry. We are very grateful to Mel for his dedicated and detailed work in developing our church budgets and in keeping church leaders well-informed on financial trends in the congregation. He also did valuable work on some special projects for the congregation, such as researching options for congregational employee health insurance and implementing electronic giving. Thank you, Mel.

Many of you will recognize Andrea from her time attending Waterford with her family, husband Jason and son Carson, for about twelve years. Although they now attend Yellow Creek Mennonite Church, Andrea brings some familiarity with our church leadership structure and with our budget cycles and accounts. She will continue in her other part-time job as Bookkeeper/Accountant for Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Michigan. Her bachelors degree from Goshen College was in accounting. Because of the wireless computerized nature of this job, she will do most of her work for the church remotely from elsewhere, so she will not maintain an office here. Elvina Schmidt will continue as our Bookkeeper, handling the routine weekly, monthly and annual transactions. Please give a warm welcome (back) to Andrea.

## Stephen Ministers Gather for Annual Retreat

Pathways Retreat, on the north edge of Goshen, provided the setting for the congregation's Stephen Ministers, Stephen Leaders, and Pastor Velma to gather for their annual half-day retreat on Saturday, November 17.

The group was guided by resource person Karla Minter in reflecting about "Life on the Vine" as she lead in a Lectio Divina contemplation of John 15:1-17, and how Stephen Ministers might use this passage to spiritually ground their relationship with God. Participants were asked to consider what things in their lives give them the passion, and the hesitation, to serve their call in the congregation's Stephen Ministry. Opportunity was given to spend time alone, in individual retreat rooms or outside walking the paths and the labyrinth, to consider what one had experienced in the group setting.

As the group gathered back together, Pastor Velma lead a ritual of recommitment for the four Stephen Leaders and eight Stephen Ministers. The morning ended with Stephen Leaders Liz Gingrich, Mel and Lorna Claassen, and Bill Minter reviewing highlights of the Stephen Ministry from the past year, and looking forward to future opportunities for strengthening the program. Note was made of the ten years this lay-caring ministry has been active in the congregation. Special recognition was given to Stephen Ministers Len Harms and Kay Miller, and Stephen Leader Bill Minter (photo on page 2) for their continued involvement during this ten-year period. The retreat experience ended by having lunch together and enjoying three "Tenth-Anniversary" pies baked by Pastor Velma.

–WMC Stephen Leader Team

**Stephen Ministers photo**

(left to right) Bill Minter, Kay Miller and Len Harms receive Stephen Ministry tote bags to honor their 10 years of service.



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**Staff Team**

**Administrative Ministry**  
· Karen Hostetler  
*Secretary*  
· Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*  
· Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of Administrative Ministries*  
· Mel Claassen  
*Business Manager*  
· JD Smucker  
*Worship Coordinator*

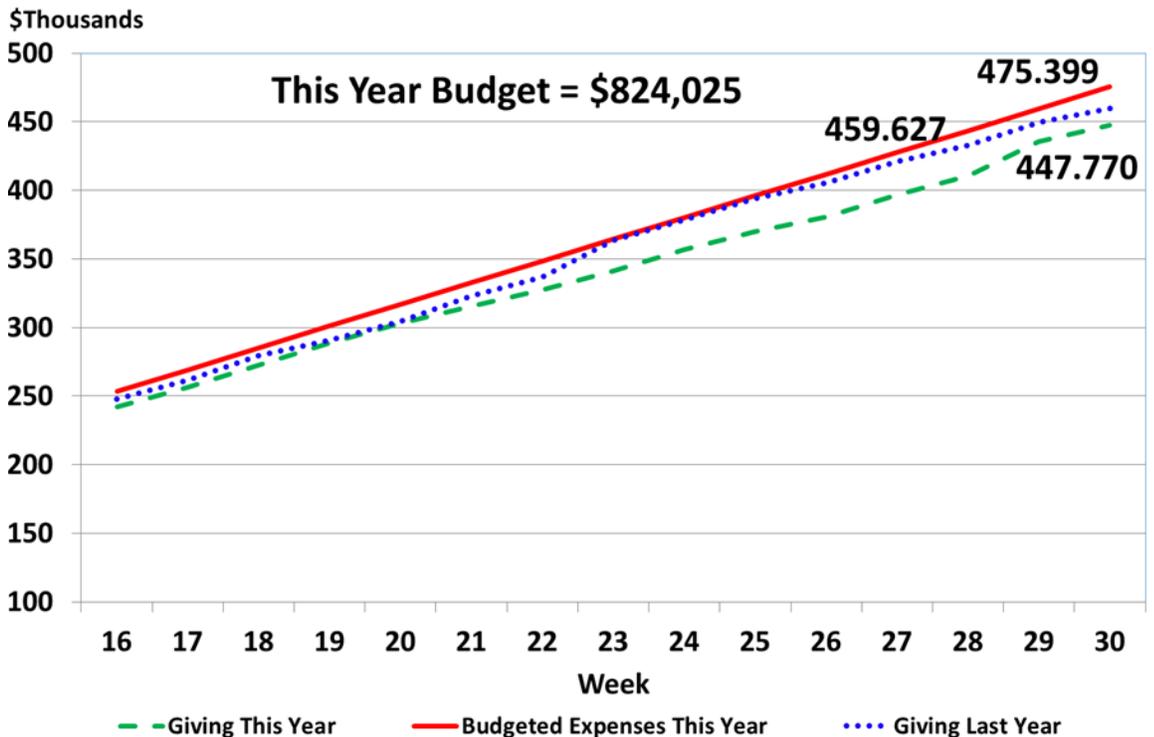
**Facilities Ministry**  
· Jan Oostland  
*Facilities Manager*  
· Courtney Shetler  
*Custodian*  
· Irma Perez  
*Custodian*

**Pastoral Ministry**  
· Neil Amstutz  
*Pastoral Team Leader*  
· Katie Misz  
*Pastor of Family Life*  
· Velma Swartz  
*Pastor of Senior Ministries*  
· Cindy Voth  
*Pastor of Community Life*

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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**Waterford Mennonite Church Cumulative Total Giving**



Giving toward the Waterford budget totaled \$447,770 at the end of November. That compares to \$459,627 at the same time a year ago. The YTD expense budget at the end of November is \$475,399.