



buzz

B.A.R. (Building Authentic Relationships) Retreat

The B.A.R. retreat is a unique opportunity for our MYF upperclassmen to intentionally set aside time to focus on dating, marriage, and building healthy relationships. Seminars will include topics such as: how to fight, managing finances, partnership, love and romance, finding healing from trauma, sex/cohabitation, and more. Previous MYF alumni have spoken highly of this trip, some even saying this was the most influential weekend of their high school youth experience. We ask that you pray for our students as they embark on this journey. Additionally, this year, our students are responsible for finding adult sponsorships to support their trip financially. Would you consider offering a youth sponsorship with a \$75 investment? Sponsorships are due before our trip on March 22-24. Please contact Pastor Katie if you are interested in supporting a student in this unique opportunity.

Experiencing God At Work

As promised in last week's Buzz, this week we will begin featuring responses to one of several "faithraising" questions.

We have experienced God at work in our lives and at Waterford in the following ways:

We have experienced God at work at Waterford through the continued growth of the Koinonia Sunday school class and our support of each other.

We are particularly thankful for the diversity of thought we continue to grow at Waterford and to see our leadership's continued growth and support for each other.

—Jordan and Christa Graber Kauffman

Work You Love – Seminar

For all those interested, a seminar designed to guide people into finding or creating work you love is being offered again this fall at Waterford using the 48 Days to the Work You Love materials (authored by Dan Miller and facilitated by Conrad Brenneman). Other helpful resources will be incorporated that will equip participants to make their current job more fulfilling and engaging. Over the last couple of decades, Conrad has developed a strong interest in the topic of one's vocation, career, and calling, which enables him to provide helpful perspective and content ideas – along with a desire to lead and encourage others in finding work that is meaningful and purposeful.

This 6-session seminar on Monday evenings, starting February 4, is designed for people of all ages, backgrounds and work experiences. The seminar will show each participant how to plan your work around your life, instead of the other way around! See Conrad for more details or find a participant from the last two seminar groups. Look for a table soon with more information.

AMBS Student Ambassador

Thank you for hosting Luis Tapia as a guest speaker at Waterford on January 13! We are glad to be able to provide international students with an opportunity to share their story with local congregations, and are grateful for your openness to hearing Luis's message. If you would like to support international students like Luis, and allow AMBS to continue to make theological and ministerial education accessible for more leaders and emerging leaders in the broader church, please consider making a contribution to international student aid at AMBS using the following link: <http://www.ams.edu/giving/donate>. Thanks in advance for your support!



Waterford Mennonite Church

65975 State Road 15
Goshen, IN 46526
p: 574 533-5642
f: 574 533-0879
office@waterfordchurch.org
www.waterfordchurch.org

Staff Team

Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostetler
Secretary
- Elvina Schmidt
Bookkeeper
- Janet Shoemaker
*Coordinator of
Administrative Ministries*
- Andrea Golden
Business Manager
- JD Smucker
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Pastor of Community Life

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Sophie Miller,
editor; 574 903-9158
buzz@waterfordchurch.org

Thanks

Lester Bauman family thanks the church family at Waterford for all you have done to join our father in the last years of his journey and for helping us celebrate him in his death. Thank you to the people who took time to visit him and tried to answer his many questions. Your gift of presence blessed him beyond words. Thank you for all who helped with the funeral details and the wonderful meal that allowed us to fellowship together and witness the most beautiful sunset. Your church family was a gift to Carol and Lester Bauman in the last part of their journey. Thank you for love and friendships to them. –Char (Bauman) Hochstetler

Esther Yoder family: On behalf of our dad, we express our gratitude for the thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and encouragement, and wonderful food you offered us as we celebrated Mom’s life. Thank you for living out the love of Christ toward our parents. We appreciate you all! –Rosalie Yoder, for the Galen Yoder family

Prairie View Elementary School: It’s a special pleasure at this time to recognize all of the ways in which Waterford supports our students and staff. Many families rely on the school to meet needs far beyond the academic. Unfortunately, we can’t do this alone. The resources you donate to meet tangible needs and the encouragement that provides for our spirits’ needs cannot be measured. The SOS classroom grants allow teachers to provide learning tools and opportunities which wouldn’t otherwise be available. Thank you for being an active and responsive partner in education. –Marge Gingerich, school counselor and Donna Wiktorowski, principal

Martha Sitler family: We are deeply grateful for the care and support we received from our Waterford Church family while we were absent from you to attend the funeral in Tofield, Alberta for Martha Sitler—mother of Sharon Burkholder, grandmother of Melanie Hire, and great-grandmother of Zoë and Axel Brown. Please accept our heart-felt thanks for the flowers, cards, and other ways that you have supported us on this journey. –Sharon & Tim Burkholder for the entire Martha Sitler family

Safe Spaces Training Jan. 27

Do you help in the nursery? Are you hoping to volunteer at VBS? Do you dream of being a youth mentor? Are you already helping with children or youth in any way at Waterford?

If you answered “YES!” to any of those questions, it is time for you to be trained in Safe Spaces. The next training session is January 27. This training is for all new volunteers and not-yet-trained volunteers who serve with 0-18 year olds at Waterford. Come to the fellowship hall (room adjacent to the kitchen) either during the nurture hour or second service.

–Katie Misz and Helen Bowman

Godly Play Story Hour for Three- and Four Year Olds

Waterford is providing a Wednesday morning Godly Play story hour (9:45-10:45) for six weeks, January 30 through March 6, for children ages 3 and 4. The sessions will include godly play and a time for growth and encouragement in a respite hour for the children’s parents and childcare providers.

What is Godly Play? “Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The godly play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Come join us!” Register at waterfordchurch.org to participate.