



Waterford Mennonite Church | March 24, 2019

buzz

Agape Class Profile

At this point in our journey when all but two members of Agape Nurture Hour class qualify as “Senior Adults,” an important aspect of our time together is participation in a close community, which many of us regard as a “safe place” where we share sadness of life, sorrows, and dark times.

The current age-span of class members is 11 years, but we appreciate friends of other ages who join us occasionally—ones like Mariah Martin who joined us often enough that we got to know her quite well, and a couple who met with us for a time and went on to study with others, but still join us for service projects and activities that fit into their schedules.

If you were to join us on a Sunday morning, you would experience first our sharing time, which contains updates about our past week, recent difficulties, travels, and experiences. Remember, most Agapes are no longer engaged in full time employment. We work at part time jobs or serve as volunteers for local agencies ministering to those of the community and beyond who need assistance. Before we quite establish order, you would likely experience a fairly high amount of laughter and joking, as we do have several members who are especially gifted as jokesters.

The class member, from our group of discussion leaders, who signed up on the chart on the bulletin board to lead that Sunday will pray. He or she will then open the time when we discuss perceptions, questions, inspirations, or doubts about our topic for the day.

We use the Mennonite Adult Bible Study Quarterly if we find one on a topic we are interested in, or that was written by a writer we like to study. Some quarters we use a book suggested by someone in the class. Our current book study is “America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America,” by

Jim Wallis. The bell that signals the end of Nurture Hour always rings before our “midrash” time feels done.

Many of us deeply value the wonderfully diverse Agape Class. We experience joy and blessings as we share our faith journey, and benefit from the variety of gifts within the group. We see God among and within our small community. And, as we listen and respect the opinions of one another, we hear thoughts and ideas that help us consider whether we might need thoughts and opinions of others to expose us to a growing recognition of a deeper understanding of truth.

Our diversity also results in involvements in a wide variety of ministry groups within Waterford Mennonite Church including: Stephen Ministry, Family Life Ministry Team, Prairie View Outreach Team, Healthcare Resource Group, Family Meals during crises, Spiritual Formation, Endowment Fund Committee, Ministry Leadership Council, and in many other areas. And many of us are involved in community service groups beyond Waterford.

In addition to our hour together on Sunday Mornings, we normally participate in group service projects which we follow by eating around a table together. We hold an annual retreat at Amigo Center and also plan times for fellowship and fun together.

“I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me.” John 17:21 Common English Bible (CEB)

(photo included on back)

Agape Class Photo



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- Cindy Voth
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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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In honor of Gary Shetler's father, Leslie (Les) Shetler, talented woodworker Bob Hochstedler crafted a bench for the entrance of The Depot from Agape Class.

MYF Service Auction: Is it on Your Calendar?

The annual MYF service auction is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, at 6 p.m., but you can plan on coming for a meal prior (starting at 5:00) served by the youth. The MYF welcomes contributions of services and items from others in the congregation. If you have a service or item to donate, contact Kevin Miller or email wcmcf316@gmail.com, preferably by Sunday, March 31, so we can include in sale bill prior to the auction.

If you purchased an item or service at last year's auction, and have not received your service or item, please feel free to touch base with the youth or family that made the donation. Your satisfaction is important to us!

'The Mennonite' Renewal

It is time to renew our group subscription to The Mennonite magazine. The Mennonite is a monthly magazine featuring voices from across the Anabaptist-Mennonite world. Through Bible studies, feature articles, columns and more, The Mennonite is hosting a robust conversation about what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Christ today. If you are interested in joining our group plan or renewing your subscription, please fill out the form in your mailbox and return to the church office mailbox with a check payable to Waterford Mennonite Church by April 14, 2019. New subscribers can receive a one-year subscription for the discounted rate of \$30.

Thanks

Thank you, Waterford Mennonite Church, for giving \$49,614.92 to Mennonite Mission Network in 2018! Your donations, prayers, and enthusiastic participation play a vital role in our global church. Together, we more fully experience God's kingdom on earth.

—Karla Minter;
Mennonite Mission Network