



buzz

An Update on Pastor of Senior Ministries Transition

The planned retirement of Velma Swartz as our Pastor of Senior Ministries is almost upon us. Such times of transition call forth from us flexibility in adapting, grieving of our loss of a well-loved pastor, and anticipation of what new things God has in store for us at Waterford. The following notes all pertain to aspects of this transition:

Reviewing the basics:

- As previously announced, Pastor Velma's retirement is effective May 31, with her last Sunday with us as a pastor on May 26.
- Providing interim pastoral coverage over the summer will be Don Miller (see story p. 2)
- A Pastoral Search Committee is actively looking for a great candidate to recommend to Ministry Leadership Council and the congregation later this summer.

Nurture Hour Farewell Time:

- A recognition and celebration of Velma's six and a half years of ministry here at Waterford Mennonite Church will be held during the nurture hour on May 26, in the sanctuary. We will hear from a number of groups as well as individuals who have worked with her during her pastoring time here.
- There will also be opportunity for sharing by anyone else who would like to reflect on Velma's ministry.

Fellowship Meal:

- The Seekers class will be hosting an all church Carry-In following the farewell for Velma

during the nurture hour on May 26.

- Pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, and drinks will be provided. You are asked to bring salads, desserts and your own table service.

Congregational understandings:

- It is considered wise practice in churches during pastoral transitions for the departing pastor to be completely away from the congregation's worship and social life for a period of time. This allows for necessary adjustments to new realities on both the part of the departing pastor and the congregation.
- In consultation with pertinent Mennonite Church USA guidelines, MLC last month approved a policy for persons leaving ministerial positions. In light of Velma's desire to keep WMC as her congregational home (as other former pastors have done), the relevant portion of this policy states "The former pastor's attendance at church activities during the first 3-4 months of a new pastor's arrival is discouraged, to give the congregation space to move forward with new leadership."
- During the five to six months Velma will be away from Waterford, she will still be living in the Goshen community, so do be friendly and talk with her if you see her around. Please also respect her leaving from this pastoral role by not engaging with her on church business or pastoral care issues.
- In light of Velma's years working together with Pastor Katie, MLC has given their blessing for Velma's presence here on June 2 for the celebration of Katie's ordination.

–Pastor Neil for Ministry Leadership Council

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund committee met on April 25 to review the seven applications received this spring. The committee awarded the following amounts:

1. Academia Menonita Betania: \$2,000; To help fund the furnishings for the high school classroom after Hurricane Maria damaged the school in 2017. Additional funding for this project was collected by the Sojourners Sunday School class as an offering project in March.
2. Casa Mariposa Detention Center Visitation: \$1,000; To provide support, friendship, and encouragement to immigrants living in detention in Tucson, Arizona. Former Pastor Tina Schlabach works closely with this ministry.
3. Greencroft Hearing Loss Committee: \$200; To promote the effects of hearing loss on church congregations, resources available for hearing loss and attendance of a conference on living well with hearing loss.
4. The Hermitage Building Campaign: \$1,500; To contribute to the building fund for an additional home, expanding the resident community to better sustain and serve the mission of providing a place of retreat and prayer.

5. Trip to visit Shipibo Center in Peru: \$1,000; To assist Pat Lehman in traveling to Lima, Peru to visit with Rebeca Rivadeneira and Roger Marquez of the Shipibo Center. The Shipibo Center is one of the two tithes our congregation is supporting from our Welcoming Spaces 3.0.
6. Theology and Disability Community Day: \$370; For travel, food, and registration for Bonnie Miller, Karen Pfahler and Eldon Stoltzfus to attend a conference focusing on “From Longing to Belonging: Practices and Pathways for Inclusion” in Holland, Michigan.

Please feel free to contact one of the Endowment Fund Committee members to learn more about these exciting projects. October 1 will be the due date for the next set of proposals. Applications can be downloaded at www.waterfordchurch.org under resources/endowment fund application.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share resources with others to help build the Kingdom of God.

*–WMC Endowment Committee:
Neil Amstutz, Tim Burkholder,
Dave Hostetler, Jeff Miller,
Jon. Wieand, Lyz Zimmerman*

Interim Pastor of Senior Ministries Appointed

With Velma Swartz’s May 31 retirement as Pastor of Senior Ministries [PSM] fast approaching, and even having a search committee hard at work, there will still be a period of time this summer when we will need some coverage for many of Velma’s responsibilities until a new PSM is called by the congregation.



Ministry Leadership Council is pleased to announce that Don Miller has agreed to serve as Interim PSM on a quarter-time basis.

This will be effective from the last week of May through August, although the exact ending time will be flexible, depending on when the next PSM begins. Don’s responsibilities will be primarily in ongoing pastoral care with our older adults, in coordination with the Senior Adult Ministry Team [SAMT]. In addition, he will meet as needed with the SAMT as well as fill in with other pastors for crisis care and funerals.

Don, with his wife Sylvia, has been a member at Waterford since 1984. He was a teacher for 30 years, with the last 14 of those at Bethany Christian Schools. More recently, he has worked for nearly 25 years in Greencroft Healthcare as a Certified Nurse Assistant. He brings to this assignment a compassionate caregiver’s heart, years of experience with the elderly in situations of physical decline and dying processes, and most of all, a deep Christian faith which he articulates and lives out. Please join us in welcoming Don into this more formally recognized way of using his ministering gifts.

Summer Family Life Ministry Intern

My name is Madeline Smith Kauffman, and I recently finished my sophomore year at Goshen College. I am majoring in Social Work, minoring in Bible and Religion, and doing a bit of study and participation in the Theatre and Music Departments as well. My family (made up of Jeremy, Christy, Seth, and Sophia), started attending Waterford Mennonite last fall, when they moved back to Goshen after living in Holmes County, Ohio, for fifteen years.

This summer, I will be working with Pastors Katie and Cindy as a family life ministry intern. In this role I will be facilitating the joint Nurture Hour for children ages preschool through those who just completed 7th grade, and each week we will be joined by a different adult class. Katie, Cindy and I have already begun planning, and I am excited to share a bit about those plans. The curriculum we have selected is called *Abundance Orchard*, centering around the Earth's food provision



and God's abundance in the Bible. I hope to use this curriculum as a stepping stone to explore God's creation, our human dependence on the Earth, and creation care.

Summer Sunday School with Youth

I am very excited for the opportunity to have Madeline as our Summer Family Life Ministry Intern! Madeline brings excitement, energy, and creative ideas for our summer joint nurture hour. She is currently spending most of May in London as part of a May Term course through Goshen College.

As Madeline shared, we will be using a new curriculum this summer, *Abundance Orchard*. So, adults as you come with your nurture class on your given Sunday what can you expect? First the children and the adult class of the week will gather together in the Fellowship Hall (see below for schedule). Every Sunday you will be joined by Madeline and either myself or Pastor Cindy. First we will all hear the Bible Story. Then we will break into three smaller groups (based on ages of children), dividing up the adults as well, and then the groups will be traveling to three different stations. There will be a Bible Memory Station, Creative Response Station, and Active Response Station. Madeline will take care of all of the preparations and instructions. You just need to come and build relationships with our amazing children!

Amanda Stoltzfus, member of Children's Cluster, will also be in touch with your class to ask for two volunteers to spend time with our littlest children in the nursery during nurture hour on your given Sunday.

To create space for our joint nurture hour, adult nurture classes currently meeting in the Fellowship Hall will be relocated to the Nurture Wing (maps are on nurture class clipboards) for June and July.

I am looking forward to what God will do in and through our time together this summer! Together may we explore God's bountiful creation and learn ways to better tend this gift we have been given.

Note to parents: The joint nurture hour will include children PreK through those who just completed 7th grade. Char Stoltzfus will continue with her own class throughout the summer.

June 2 – Bridgebuilders

June 9 – Koinonia

June 16 – Sojourners

June 23 – Seekers

June 30 – Agape

July 7 – Open Door & Praying Companions

July 14 – Pathfinders

July 21 – Gelassenheit

July 28 – TBD

–Katie Misz, Pastor of Family Life

Meet Angel Luis and Lora Miranda

Angel is a retired teacher and pastor from Puerto Rico. Lora is a retired teacher from public and private schools in the states and Puerto Rico, originally from Elkhart. Angel and Lora served in Voluntary Service and then in pastorates in Puerto Rico for many years. They moved to Greencroft in 2006. Angel has volunteered as a chaplain at Healing and Hope for 10 years and currently volunteers in



various capacities at Greencroft. Lora volunteers at Greencroft by singing. They have three children and five grandsons. They say, “We have felt very welcomed at Waterford.”

Join the Choir for May 26

Calling all singers, young and old, to help with an ensemble/choir to sing at a special time for Velma on Sunday, May 26, during her retirement celebration. We’ll rehearse on two Wednesday nights (May 15 and 22) at the church, 7 to 8 p.m. If you have questions call 574-356-6364 or respond by email to bobrachelb@frontier.com.

—Bob Brenneman

Thanks

The family of Galen Yoder is grateful for your prayers and words of comfort and encouragement, as well as the wonderful meals that allowed us to fellowship together as we celebrated our dad’s life. We deeply appreciate your love and care of both of our parents in their last years of life.

—from the Yoder family



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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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On April 24, WMC’s 8th graders were treated to a “Preview” of MYF life by cleaning up the road adopted by the youth.