



# *buzz*

## What's happening with the homeless in Goshen?

Some of you have been following local news about encampments of homeless people in Goshen and the recent City of Goshen policy to address the situation (see Goshen News, May 8, 2019). Recent publicity and public protests could lead you to believe that a great injustice is being forced upon the homeless residents who have been living in tents on public property (see Goshen News, May 20, 2019).

It's important for uninvolved citizens to know that enormous effort has gone into this situation over many months from the Goshen City Coalition for the Homeless, a loosely affiliated group of about 12 organizations. Among groups in that Coalition more familiar to Waterford are Center for Healing and Hope (CHH), Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), Oaklawn, The Window, City of Goshen, Elkhart County Clubhouse, Faith Mission, Goshen Salvation Army, and Faith House and Hope House.

A recent meeting of Goshen Ministerial Association with two employees of IHN, (Mindy Morehead and Kay Bontrager-Singer, who have both spoken at Waterford about ministries serving the homeless) revealed the following **facts about the current crisis**, which we in the churches were asked to pass along:

- After the (updated) June 3 deadline for leaving the encampments, homeless residents will not be run out onto the street. They will be provided lodging, in whatever condition they come, at Faith Mission in Elkhart for a minimum of 30 days, with possibility for longer stays
- These homeless persons are not being shipped off to Elkhart to become Elkhart's responsibility. They will be provided daily transportation back to Goshen to spend time in familiar places like The Window, city parks, public library, Elkhart

Co. Clubhouse, etc.

- There are no children living in the encampments
- There are no dogs or pets now there
- The homeless persons who have jobs will be able to keep them
- Maple City Healthcare will continue providing medical care, along with CHH

As a local pastor, it was discouraging to hear how some misinformation about this situation has been spread in the community, leading to unwarranted criticism and attacks directed against Mayor Stutsman and many of these diligent and compassionate organizations. Other Waterford pastors have joined me in sending a letter of support and encouragement to Mayor Stutsman's office for the way the city and nonprofits have carefully handled a difficult situation.

Pastors also asked Mindy and Kay, **What can churches do to be helpful in this situation?** This is what we can do:

- Pray for all the agencies and city officials named above as this situation evolves
- Express your support to the Mayor and agency personnel, if you agree with how they've handled this
- If you are a landlord with rental properties in Goshen, get those properties certified with HUD, which can increase the very scarce stock of local affordable housing
- As the responses to the complicated issues of homelessness continue to evolve, donate money to IHN, which is on the frontlines locally, representing our churches. Please do not donate clothes or other physical items (other than toilet paper, paper towels, and trash bags)

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

## Summer Worship Series: “Consider the Birds”

Quick: Which of the following birds is NOT mentioned in the Bible?

A) The vulture; B) The crow; C) The bittern; D) The ostrich; or E) The dove

You will find at least partial answers to this question in our six-Sunday worship series on birds of the Bible, being offered from June 9 through July 28, with 2 Sundays off on other themes during that time. Our fellow BBI friends at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church in Ontario put us onto this idea for an interesting summer worship series. They drew especially from a book by Debbie Blue entitled *Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible* (Abingdon, 2013). The series was well-received in their congregation, not merely for information about birds in Bible times, but for spiritual lessons that could be learned from the nature of each bird and how or why it is mentioned in the Bible.

For our purposes this summer, we will not only be drawing from the Debbie Blue book, but also from another 2013 book by Sally Roth, called *An Eye on the Sparrow: The Bird Lover's Bible* (Happy Crab Publishing). We will by no means cover all the named birds in the Bible in this series, but we hope it piques your interest in biblical ornithology. After the series completion, these two books will be donated to the church library.

In order to not just discuss biblical birds verbally, in the abstract, some visual and auditory helps will assist us in several ways:

- Later on in the series, Waterford member and artist Mark Daniels will, in real time in our worship services, be adding to a painting he has begun, which is inspired by biblical birds
- Since there are many birds we see today in Indiana which were not in Bible lands 2000 years ago, Mark will also have a display of some of his own painted prints of common local birds
- If one or two of our readers have responded to the recent e-announcement requests, we hope to have a few bird feeders in the Remembering LIFE Garden, so that you might see real-life birds just outside the sanctuary windows.
- Within our “indoor sanctuary” we plan to have some recorded sounds of bird calls which you might hear if you were walking in Waterford’s “outdoor sanctuary” in the wetlands

You can read below the order and subjects of the Sundays in this series, along with the planned preachers, who have not yet named their Scripture texts. But if you’re impatient, you can look up the references yourself in a good Bible concordance.

Date	Bird	Preacher	Other special element
June 9	The sparrow	Neil Amstutz	God’s Work Among Us: Kent Miller and Everence
June 16	The vulture	Loanne Harms	Sharing from IMMC Annual Sessions
June 23	None	Cindy Voth	Vacation Bible School sharing
June 30	The raven	Neil Amstutz	
July 7	None	None	Sharing by MYF and adult delegates from MCUSA convention held in Kansas City
July 14	The dove/pigeon	Madeline Smith Kauffman	God’s Work Among Us: Stan & Ursula Green, on Hmong Anabaptist churches in Thailand
July 21	The ostrich	Cindy Voth	
July 28	The quail/partridge	Neil Amstutz	

## Celebration of Velma Swartz's ministry at Waterford, May 26



## Introducing Micah and Emily

Micah and Emily (Short) Hunsberger met at Bluffton University, where Micah studied Mathematics and Information Technology, and Emily studied Theology. After graduating last year, they got married in August at Emily's home church of West Clinton Mennonite in Archbold, Ohio. They then moved to Goshen, where they started visiting Waterford. Micah grew up in Shipshewana, IN, and now works as a computer specialist at Tempus Technologies in Auburn. Emily is finishing her first year as a Special Education paraprofessional in the Concord school district and will begin working at Anabaptist Disability Network as an Office Administrator in June. Emily worked at Amigo Centre for seven years, starting as a kitchen assistant for her first year, and later working as a counselor, summer camp director, outdoor education assistant, and program intern. Micah and Emily continue their deep connection to Amigo by volunteering as weekend hosts. For fun, Micah enjoys listening to podcasts and playing ultimate frisbee. Emily spends her time reading, baking, and continuing her connections to the youth and adult programs at Amigo Centre. The two of them love playing board games and drinking coffee with friends. Micah also loves drinking coffee, regardless of the presence of friends.



## Highlights of Congregational Meeting

Key elements of the Wednesday May 8, 2019 congregational meeting include:

- Acceptance of the 2019-20 congregational budget – with the excellent work of the Facilities and Finance Ministry Team, (joined by incoming treasurer Andrew Hartzler and incoming business manager Andrea Golden, along with outgoing business manager Mel Claassen) the proposed budget of \$833,192 was approved. There was some discussion about the percentage of funds going to Global and Broader Church Ministries which appeared to be declining. Upon review, the 14% shown was calculated on the combined operating and education budgets whereas, in previous years, it was reported as a percentage of the operating budget. When calculated as a percentage of the operating budget, the amount budgeted actually represents a comparable 20.1% which is the level we are accustomed to. The percentage of funds going into ministry outside of ourselves will be a topic we might consider for discussion in the future.

- Report on Jubilee Fund – little known to the congregation is the Jubilee Fund that is used for people in need outside of the congregation in contrast to the well-known Sharing Fund which serves members/attendees within the congregation. Janet Shoemaker shared that the fund operation has been revamped and is typically distributed to any one person through a \$25 Kroger card not more than once every six months. It is currently funded by 1/10th of the Sharing Fund contributions on a periodic basis. In order to stabilize this fund, new ways of contributing to it are being imagined. The congregation was invited to write down their suggestions on a paper

collected by Janet at the close of the meeting.

- Affirmations – Carlos Romero was affirmed as Interim Treasurer (while Andrew Hartzler is away leading SST in Ecuador) and Douglas Graber was affirmed as Lay Ministry Partner for the Facilities and Finance Ministry Team. Welcome to each one.

–*Timothy Burkholder, congregation chair*

## Thanks

Thank you for an amazing celebration last Sunday for my farewell. You all are so generous in your affirmations.

Thank you for the special touches of beauty, flowers, cards, words, song, and ritual that we experienced together.

For your love and blessing I am very grateful. My prayers will be with you as we both transition.

I will see you soon.

–*Velma Swartz*

## Membership Transfer Request

Upon their request, Ministry Leadership Council is acting to transfer the membership of Jason and Andrea Golden to Yellow Creek Mennonite Church where they will be received on June 9. The Goldens, with their son Carson, have been involved there for the past two years. Andrea continues on our staff as Waterford's Business Manager. We bless them as they engage more fully in the life of Yellow Creek and in their local community.

## Thanks

Thank you for your generous and kind attention to details in serving us and helping us celebrate our parents' lives.

–*Retha, for Galen and Esther Yoder family*

## No Buzz June 9

There will not be a Buzz published next Sunday, June 9.



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#### Staff Team

##### Administrative Ministry

- Karen Hostettler  
*Secretary*
- Elvina Schmidt  
*Bookkeeper*
- Janet Shoemaker  
*Coordinator of  
Administrative Ministries*
- Andrea Golden  
*Business Manager*

##### 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*
- Don Miller  
*Interim 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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