



# buzz

## Listen to the Voices of Our Potawatomi Brothers and Sisters

By Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

One Sunday last fall, I reported to the Waterford congregation about my participation in The Trail of Death pilgrimage. In this 11-day experience, organized by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, we retraced the route of the forced removal of more than 850 Potawatomi people from northern Indiana to Kansas. One of the main points of my presentation is the importance of listening to the voices of our Potawatomi brothers and sisters through their writing about the past and through present-day conversations. The Potawatomi people are our neighbors. But, I didn't realize how close they really are. They are us.

When I returned to my seat, someone tapped me on the shoulder. I turned to see Jim Coyle, "My grandmother was 100 percent Potawatomi," he said.

Soon after that Sunday morning, I went to interview Jim and his wife, Lenora. The notes from that interview have been tucked away in a folder in my computer for close to a year now. As a birthday present to Jim, who celebrates his 93<sup>rd</sup> year on July 23, I'm finally writing a bit of his story.

Jim's paternal grandmother, Rachel Evelyn Hogue (1860-1930) was born into a Potawatomi family in Michigan. His grandfather, John Coyle (1840-1917), came from Irish immigrants who fled the potato famine and arrived in Cass County, Michigan, where his father worked as a lumberjack. John and Rachel married and had three sons and two daughters. One of their sons, Ernest, was born in 1894 and

eventually became Jim's father. In 1912, Ernest moved with his parents from Cadillac, Michigan, to Goshen. They rented a boxcar on the Pumpkinvine Railroad to move their belongings.



According to Jim, his father's Potawatomi heritage was evident in his high cheekbones and straight black hair. His father also had enormous hands and wore a "blood-red ruby ring."

One day, Della Mae Hite, a waitress in a Millersburg restaurant, served Ernest coffee. Jim didn't share details about what happened between that first meeting and their wedding, except that they had a difficult time getting their marriage license, because Cass County "didn't keep track of Indian records at that time."

After Della Mae and Ernest's marriage, Della Mae worked at Chase Bag and Ernest worked at the company that eventually became Goshen Lightning Rod. Jim said that job killed his father. After 36 years of breathing in dust that contained silica, Ernest died of silicosis, a lung disease.

Della Mae and Ernest attended First Methodist Church on Fifth and Jackson, where Jim was baptized.

Jim's Potawatomi grandmother died when he was about three years old, after an illness of several years. One of Jim's earliest memories is being held up by his father to see his grandmother in her casket.

Jim said his father didn't talk much about his Potawatomi heritage. He does remember, however, that sassafras tea was used as blood pressure medicine and that poke berries could be used to make ink for writing.

See **Potawatomi Voices**, continued on page 3

## New Sermon Series Coming Soon

At Waterford, we have had the practice of Dwelling in the Word for many years now. Taking time to sit with a few chapters or a few verses of the biblical text over several weeks and hearing from several pastors as they expand and interpret those passages has been a spiritually rich time for the congregation. This next month we again will be Dwelling in the Word.

When I think back to the January meeting of Pastoral Team and Worship Ministry Team to layout possible ideas for the 2020 worship year, I am amazed. At the time Covid-19 was a far-off problem of China. We sat secure in the Nurture wing planning themes and series, thinking about needs for Neil's sabbatical absence, and plugging in special speakers and a visiting drama troupe into the summer. When it came to picking scripture for a Dwelling in the Word series, we discussed quite a few options and finally decided on Exodus 14 and 15: Stories of deliverance and an active, present, and faithful God, the deliverer. But now we are in the midst of a pandemic and Covid-19 is not far-off, but at our doorstep. Special groups and speakers had to be cancelled, and we are staying put. How fitting then that we should "dwell in the word" while staying put, and how appropriate during this time of isolation and virus that the scripture points to deliverance through the strength and presence of God.

We will have four Sundays in August and four preachers opening the Word for us. Each pastor will offer us a fresh perspective on a familiar text. We will also have a guest preacher, Cyneatha Millsaps one of the Sundays. She will offer us her perspective as a person of color. I encourage each of you to read through these two chapters often in preparation for this series.

We will end the series with a celebration. A celebration of the text through artistic expressions. You are all invited to enter into the text creatively, through music, poetry, movement, painting, drawing, sculpting, quilting... We hope to showcase as many of your projects as possible on August 30, the fifth Sunday of August. I will be ready for questions or submissions any time up to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

May we Dwell in the Word and protection of gloriously triumphant God as we wander in the wilderness of Covid-19.

Loanne Harms, Lay Partner, Worship Ministry Team

## Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network Changes

As you remember, for years WMC participated in the GIHN program by providing shelter in our classrooms and nightly meals for homeless families for a week at a time several times per year.

More recently, GIHN partnered with St. Mark's United Methodist Church, which graciously allowed GIHN to convert classrooms to living quarters on a floor of their classroom wing. While he was on the GIHN board, our own Jan Oostland worked tirelessly to organize that project, which required extensive remodeling and preparation. Guests went from only spending evenings and nights at SMUMC, and days at the GIHN center on 3rd Street, to spending the entire day and night at the church. Meals originally brought in by various participating churches were replaced by meals provided by the Faith Mission in Elkhart.

As for all of us, 2020 has spawned some changes for GIHN. There have been guests who have tested positive with Covid-19, the director and her husband have been quarantined for over a month at St. Mark's, and on top of that, the GIHN board has announced that they are hoping to build a new center on East Lincoln Avenue, near Olive Street. They expect that they will be better able to serve Goshen's homeless population in a building dedicated and built for that purpose. You will be able to read more about that in the Goshen News over the next several months as that progresses.

How does all of that affect WMC? Well, there are changes that the GIHN is making that do directly affect our participation.

1) They are now hiring paid staff to be with the guests during the evening hours that were previously managed by volunteers, so WMC is no longer being asked to do that hosting.

2) They have requested that churches continue to provide casseroles for a week at a time, several times per year. GIHN will be able to use or freeze them depending on their immediate need. This will allow them to easily add to, or subtract from their meal amounts, thus providing a better level of service while hopefully reducing food waste.

Toward that end, **we will be hosting the week of August 2-8**, and I have modified our online sign up sheet to reflect the new request for casseroles only. Please consider signing up to bring a casserole,

following these guidelines that Mindy Morehead provided:

“Casseroles can be cooked or raw but need to be freezer ready. We will not be cooking them the same day they are dropped off, it is always the next day. Please put casserole name (primary ingredients) and cooking instructions on the dish. We just ask you to use a disposable 9x13 pan, which seems to work out best. Breakfast casseroles are appreciated also.”

They can be dropped off anytime during the day or evening at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 502 N Main St, Goshen.

— Gordon Bontrager, IHN Coordinator

## Announcement from SOS (Serving Our Schools):

Elkhart County Schools have organized a big mask-making project through the 4-H. They are needing about 26,000 masks for the beginning of school. There are sites all over the county where people can pick up patterns and materials for making 24 masks. They do not supply the thread but can get some for you if you need that. I can e-mail those interested with the location and contact information for all the sites. If you are interested in helping with this sewing project, contact Len Harms (lenharms@comcast.net or 574-238-5918). If you do not sew and want to help, inquire to see if you can help with cutting out masks.

— Len Harms

## Potawatomi Voices (cont. from page 1)

Jim’s Uncle George Coyle ran Oakridge Street Grocery Store “on the Abshire place north of Goshen.” He was elected to a four-year term as Goshen city councilman in 1942.

Jim joined the Navy when he was 16 years old. A year later, he fell 20 feet from a rope ladder and injured his back. He married his first wife, Joy, in 1948. They were married for 19 years and had three children before they divorced.

Jim identifies himself as a jack-of-all-trades. He had his own tools for carpentry, welding, plumbing, and electrical work and was self-employed. He did a lot of work for Starcraft and Turtle Top and made specialty car parts. He takes great pride in being able to fix things that no one else can.

Jim and Lenora met through an organization called Parents Without Partners and were married at Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart by Ray Bair in 1968. They have been married 52 years.

“I had three daughters,” Lenora said. “My husband passed when the youngest was 12 years old. She was a senior in high school when Jim and I got married.”

When Jim remarked that he was an ornery guy back then, Lenora promptly replied, “He is still an ornery guy!”

Lenora worked at Miles Laboratory for 30 years as a lab attendant and then moved into clerical work.

In 2014 when Jim and Lenora moved to Pembroke Circle, they were invited to attend Waterford Mennonite Church by Lenora’s nephew, Ron Weirich.



Hats off to the men of Seekers Class who manicured the church grounds this past week: John Birkey (left) Dwight Kauffman Ken Otto Terry Stuckey (right) Doug Yoder and





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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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## A Word From WMC Treasurer

I hope as you read this message you are finding moments of joy and peace in the new patterns we're all living into with COVID. I bring you greetings from the various Waterford leadership groups as we all work together to discern ways in which our community life together can continue during these times where normal in person meetings are restricted.

As I was talking with a family member recently, I marveled at the incredible generosity displayed by the Waterford community over the years. As you know, Waterford's generosity reaches far and wide, supporting not only our pastoral staff and facilities but many mission and service organizations and Mennonite education organizations. As COVID puts pressure on all elements of our world, Waterford's continued generosity is even more apparent as all segments of our society experience the ripple effects of COVID.

For me personally, I rejoice in the ways that we continue to support our staff, mission and service organizations and Mennonite ed. Without our regular in-person services, it's easy to forget all that is going on behind the scenes with our staff and all the organizations that we support. Not meeting in person also makes it easy to forget some of the regular patterns that we normally follow including our regular giving patterns. That has definitely been the case for me as I have only been remembering to send my tithes monthly and not bi-weekly.

As we continue to live into this year together, one thing we will strive to maintain is open and frequent conversation about ways to be community together and how each element of what we do works in concert with the others. Two months into our current fiscal year, our downward giving patterns reflect perhaps the intermittency of our meeting rather than a permanent downward trend. In order to

better gauge what giving patterns will be for the year, July is a good month for us as a church community to catch up with normal giving so that we can finish our first quarter with a clearer understanding of the impact COVID is having on Waterford's ability to maintain their normal giving levels.

As always, feel free to reach out to any member of the pastoral team, MLC, and FFMT with questions. Blessings to each of you as you continue to seek out new joys within this unusual time in our lives.

— Andrew Hartzler, Treasurer

## Sophie Miller Awarded Everence Scholarship

Congratulations to Sophie Miller who was awarded an Everence Financial<sup>®</sup> College Scholarship for 2020-2021. Everence, a faith-based financial services organization, invests in the God-given talents of 45 students each year through its scholarship program. Learn more about this and other member benefits at [everence.com](http://everence.com).



## Purpose magazine to be discontinued

MennoMedia is ceasing production of *Purpose* magazine after the August 2020 issue. "While *Purpose* magazine has served readers well, it has been near the edge in terms of profitability for some time. The current COVID-19 crisis has forced us at MennoMedia to move up that timeline."