



WL Family News

JANUARY 2019

Church News

Welcoming Dr. Wally Brath as Interim Worship Director

by Dr. Terry White

As WLGBBC begins the new year, two adjustments in leadership roles will occur. The changes will be in the area of music and worship and in community impact. As announced on Sunday, January 13, by Lead Pastor Bruce Barlow, Dr. Walter "Wally" Brath will become WLGBBC's Interim Worship Director, and Pastor Dave Rank will be shifting to the role of Pastor of Community Impact. These changes will happen in February.

Pastor Dave will be applying his energy, creativity, and organizational gifting to help us pursue the third part of our vision: "to serve and to reach our community and our world." He will be continuing his good leadership of We Care Warsaw and other caring and outreach events and programs. Dr. Brath, who has occasionally led music and worship in our Sunday morning services, will be working to provide continuity and leadership while helping the church prepare for whenever, in God's timing, a next worship leader is identified, equipped, and in place.

Dr. Brath, a native of LaPorte, Indiana, earned his bachelor's degree in piano performance from the music conservatory at the University of Cincinnati, an M.A. in Ethnomusicology from Liberty University in Virginia, and this past June of 2018, he completed his doctoral program, earning a Doctor of Worship Studies degree from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Brath family came to WLGBBC shortly after Wally was engaged by Grace College to found and direct a Worship Arts program in the fall of 2016. Since then he and his wife, Shana, along with their three children (Graydon, Karissa, and Levi) have shared their musical talents with the WLGBBC family a number of times and in other venues around the area.

Brath says his goal in this new opportunity will be to personally lead worship several times a month and to utilize Grace Worship Arts students along with musicians from the church family to oversee music and worship for services. "We want WLGBBC to be a place where people

can develop their ministry gifts for the mission of Christ, both locally and globally," said Kip Cone, Proclamation Pastor. "I'm looking forward to working with Wally to see Grace students, as well as our own members, equipped to serve the Church in the area of worship."

Brath says he sees worship as a discipleship opportunity, and he feels strongly that the music/worship experience in Sunday services informs people spiritually through the songs, prayers, reading of scripture, the preaching, and technical aspects relating to the worship experience. He is interested in historic models of worship and would like to see more inclusion of scripture reading and prayer in the service, broadening the experience to include material from the book of Psalms and a wide variety of musical styles which have authentic and theologically correct texts.

Pointing out that much contemporary music is narrow in its focus, Brath desires to broaden the worship experience beyond just praise to include confession, lament, supplication, and other expressions of worship as found in psalms and other scriptures.

In addition to leading the worship services, Brath is also willing to lead discussions and to share philosophy of worship session with ABFs, small groups, and others who would be interested in learning more. He also will be making some adjustments to the worship space, fine-tuning it for some of the more contemporary instruments and tuning the room so that the congregation has a resonant space to reflect their singing and vocal worship.

Dr. Brath will be grateful for the prayers and support of the WLGBBC church family as the transitions occur, and he encourages input and conversation about our growth as worshippers.

● ***New Babies:*** Congratulations to *Dan and Ellen Yocum* on the birth of their son, Jacob Timothy, born on December 4. Grandparents are Tim and Cindy Yocum.

Congratulations to *Jim and Kristin Elsner* on the birth of their son, Charles Robert, born on December 21. Grandparents are Tim and Cindy Yocum.

● ***January/February birthday list*** is available at the Info Center. If you would like to be added to the list, contact Bonnie at the church at bnieter@wlgbc.com or 267-6623.

●**Free copies** of the book, *There is No Normal: Finding Hope in the Dailyness of Grief*, are available at the Info Center. The book was written by Anne (Shipley) Alexander whose husband, Mike, died in 1985 at the age of 37, leaving her a widow at age 33 with two young children to raise. Readers will appreciate her honesty and the hope in Christ that has sustained her for the past 30+ years since Mike's death.

●**Mousey's Mailbox:** If you know of someone in need of a special homemade card to be sent to them, reminding them that God is faithful, please stop by the mailbox in the entry and fill out a "card request."

Sympathy is extended to:

●the Hocking family. Jim's dad, Don Hocking, went to be with the Lord on December 24 at the age of 87. Services were held on January 7 in Long Beach, California.

●Carol Maurer on the homegoing of her husband, Ray, on January 6. He is also survived by his two sons, Steve and Mark, and daughter Sue Lehman and their families.

●the Dilling family. Linda Dilling's mother, Willie Edmiston, went to be with the Lord on January 5, at the age of 93. She is also survived by her sister, Alberta Hanson.

Thanks

●Jim and Faye Hocking would like to thank you for your prayers, your cards, and your condolences on the passing of Jim's father, Don Hocking. "We appreciate our church family very much! We are inspired by your love and care for us in so many ways. Please continue to pray for the family and for Jim's mother, Betty, who remains in hospice care in the memory care unit."

●"We have lost someone very special to us. Thank you for sharing our grief by sending the beautiful floral bouquet for the visitation and funeral service."

– Linda Dilling, for the family of Willie Edmiston

●"Winona Lake Grace Brethren, Thank you all for your prayers on behalf of my son, Todd Skeans, and his children. I truly appreciate your time and effort. Thanks also for the beautiful memorial gift."

– Sincerely, Janice Skeans

●"WLGB Ladies, Thank you so much for your kind donation to Leesburg Elementary. I've already been able to buy some needed supplies for a diabetic student. What a blessing! Often times we (the nurses) find ourselves tossing stuff in our carts for school. It is nice to have this financial help this year. Your kindness is so appreciated. You are blessing to so many students. Thank you can't express it."

– With a grateful heart, Nurse Rachelle

(provided through the **Blessing Our Community grant, directed toward area school nurses**)

Pray for the health needs of:

Carol Maurer
Leila Humberd
Wayne Snider
Mark Sharp
Charles & Alice Koontz
Ann Lakes
Michelle Phelps
Art & Nancy McGinness
Roseann Heisler
Annette Coenen
Michael Marsh
Phyllis Roberts
Carolyn Brady
Jan Remington

Larry Unruh
Jonathan Walter
Millie Pacheco
Joyce Loebis
Nancy Zellner
Jim & Tina Bauer
Jim Morrison
Paul Wright
Bethany Fluke
Claudia McCray
Jean Wallace
Miriam Bryant
Rosalie Neiderhouser
Dave Phelps

Children's Ministries

●**Super Sleepover:** Calling all 5th- and 6th-graders! The annual Super Sleepover event is coming up on Friday, February 1, at 6:00 p.m. through Saturday, February 2, at 10:00 a.m. We'll be in The Hub for the evening—playing games, eating ice cream, having a talent show, meeting in small groups, watching movies, eating pizza, listening to Nick Deck share some thoughts with us, eating popcorn, playing Cyborgs, and much more! This is a great time for our 5th-6th graders to get to know each other better, learn more about living for God, and just have a lot of fun with the leaders who work with them each week. Register online at www.wlgbc.com under WL Kids/Super Sleepover. Registration deadline is Monday, January 28, and the cost is \$10.

●**The month of January** will start us out at the beginning of the Bible. We're beginning a chronological study of the Bible, starting with Genesis. Parents can check out the sign by The Link door to see what we're learning each week. Throughout the rest of January and into February, students will be learning about creation, the fall of man, Noah, and the Tower of Babel. As students learn these truths, we will also be showing them how the stories in the Old Testament point to Jesus and the redemptive work He did on the cross.

Student Ministries

●**Winter Retreat:** Coming up on February 8-10, students in grades 7-12 and youth staff will be heading out for their annual winter retreat at Camp Lutherhaven in Albion, Indiana. This is a great time for students to unplug from technology, get away from school, and get into God's Word with guest speaker Sam Yeiter. Please pray for the hearts of the students and the staff, that they would be open to hearing from God and to His leading.

●**Encouragement to Parents:** Rumor has it that being a parent isn't easy. It can be frustrating, exhausting, and sometimes riddled with mistakes. The good news is that God is in the business of working with mistakes. He can take any situation and use it for our good and His glory. "Heavenly Father, thank you for the parents in our church. Thank you for giving us the gift of your righteousness. Thank you that no matter how much we 'mess up,' you can work it out to bring about our good and your glory."

Women's Ministries

●A seven-week Bible study, "Seamless," begins Tuesday, January 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space at The Hub. This study by Angie Smith takes women through an overview of the entire Bible showing how God has sewn together His beautiful story. It's for both those who are new to the Bible and those who want a fresh perspective and includes an hour-and-a-half of video, discussion, and prayer time. Contact Lois Maxson at 269-3194 if you have questions. It's recommended that you buy the student study book prior to the class from www.lifeway.com or other Christian booksellers (ISBN #9781430032304).

Community News

●**Sunday, December 2:** You are invited to the Grace Worship Arts Christmas concert with the Lancer Chorus, Grace Strings and Guitar Ensembles, Lakeland Community Chorus, and First United Methodist of Warsaw Choir. The concert is at 7:00 p.m. at the Winona Heritage Room and is free of charge.

●**Friday, December 7:** You are invited to the Grace Worship Arts recital at 7:00 p.m. here at WLGB, featuring piano, voice, and guitar student performances. Free of charge.

●**Winter Weather Reminder:** In the event of snow or ice requiring that we adjust or cancel any services, how will you find out? Decisions or cancellations will be made no later than 7:45 a.m. on a Sunday morning and no later than 4:00 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon. *If schools are closed on a Wednesday, there will be no ministries at the church.* Check the church website at www.wlgbc.com or watch for an all-church e-mail.

●**CareGivers Group** meets on Sunday morning, December 16, at 10:00 in the café area of the Fellowship Hall kitchen. If you are the caregiver for a loved one and need some encouragement and support, plan to join this group. Contact Gladys Deloe at gdeloe@gmail.com if you have questions.

Men's Ministries

●*Men . . . Looking for a weekend* of dynamic teaching, awesome activities, and encouragement with other