

NEWS & VIEWS

July 7, 2024

Volume 23 No. 7

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

A few days ago I was speaking with a person who was walking her dog. As we talked, she instructed her dog to sit next to her. What caught me by surprise was that she used her first language of Spanish rather than English when speaking to her dog. I said your dog understands Spanish and she replied "actually, he is bilingual." As I reflected on this experience, I found it interesting that I assumed she would speak English to her dog even though I know Spanish is used in her home. This reinforced a thought that has been rolling in my head the past few months that one expression of Christian humility is to increase our capacity to listen.

Christian humility has often been limited or defined by not being "showy". We have all heard not to brag or call attention to self. At times humility is seen as deferring to others. I encourage us to expand our understanding and most of all our practice of humility. I believe becoming more intent on listening can increase our humility. I am convinced that as we increase our practice of humility we naturally draw closer to God and one another. I want to encourage the following three listening practices in order to increase our humility.

The first one is to listen with the intent to understand the other person. Often our listening is limited by our need to be understood rather than to understand the other. In such cases we interrupt to share our opinion/perspective and often fail to understand the other person. When we listen to understand the other person, we will ask questions of clarification which often may reveal intent. While we still may not agree with the other person, often when we more clearly understand the intent of the other we can respond with more compassion and understanding.

The second practice is to listen without needing to correct, advise or fix the other person. It has often been said that a dog is one's best friend. I remember more than one conversation with my dog as a teenager in which my spirits were lifted by the faithful listening companionship of my dog. While that was good, I have experienced much greater hope when a person has given me the blessing of compassionate listening without any words that made me feel like a project to be fixed. The humility side of this is to both trust that God is at work and that the other person is capable. How might God be inviting you to listen to another person as the one and only goal of the conversation? After listening, privately asking for God to be with and guide the person is always appropriate.

The third practice is to listen without defending. The Bible is full of encouragement to let God exact vengeance. I interpret that to suggest we can trust God to protect and defend our image. If we are doing what we know God desires when others attack or misunderstand us we can trust God to bring that to light in God's timing and God's way. However, humility would admit that we all struggle and fall short of God's and even our own intent at times. Therefore, God's grace empowers us to take a different path. Rather than defend our actions we can seek and listen what God wants of us. Confession and repentance may be the new path most needed.

Are you willing to increase your listening as a way to express humility? I encourage each one to seek God's direction how to try one or all of the above. Practice listening as an expression of humility as a way to trust God's promise. "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up!"

- Pastor Randy

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Mia Gidley 7/8
Cyndi Landis 7/12
Juliano Andres Garrido 7/15
Richard Sprague 7/19
Kaitlyn Jimenez 7/20
Layla Garrido 7/24
Annie Stewart 7/25

Anniversaries

Bill & Karen Fennell 7/24
Steve & Sandy Landes 7/26
Kendrick & Janey Garrido 7/29

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Karen's Place outdoor
concert series will again be
held each



Monday night in
August from 7:00
to 9:00 pm.



Our annual **CHURCH PICNIC** at
Lost Acres Ranch will be Sunday,
August 4. Worship begins at 10
am and lunch at 11:30 am. Stay
for swimming and all kinds of fun
and games!

FROM THE CARE TEAM

Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock and Freida Myers met via Zoom for a Care Team meeting on June 4. Our biblical focus was from Hebrews 11:8-12 (about Abraham's faith), Hebrews 22:24-28 (about Moses who chose suffering with God's people rather than the treasures of Egypt) and Hebrews 12:1-2, which invites us to consider the "huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith." We named people in our lives who were witness to a life of faith and also some in our congregation who have and do bear witness to faith. We talked about persons who have been suggested to serve on the Care Team and continue to seek God's direction and call. We considered additional giving from the Compassion Fund. We closed with prayer for a number of persons with extra challenges now. Our next meeting will be Tuesday evening, July 16.

- Freida Myers, for the Care Team

FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE - June 30, 2024

Church service at Harborview

Our group of eight led a service, attended by around a dozen or so residents. After the message from Don Heckler, Bibles were offered and five people requested them. In the afternoon several assisted in another service at Neshaminy Manor led by Karl Strauch and Jeffrey Buckwalter. That service was attended by group of residents, including all of those who attend the Bible class Karl leads twice a month. They were very appreciative.



THE
HARBORVIEW
REHAB & CARE CENTER
D O Y L E S T O W N



Yard work at the Reiff's home

Our group of Steve Landes, Ronda Histan & Kaitlyn Jimenez, Sue Bartels, Jim Beyer, Mike Ryan, Randy Heacock and I enjoyed working at Reiff's to spruce up their flower beds and power wash the decks. It was a good time of working and chatting as we edged, weeded, planted, and washed. Mark & Sam worked alongside us, each running their lawn tractors to take the weeds to the brush pile. A highlight for me was chatting with Lisa via FaceTime to catch up with her and hear how Silas is doing. It was a good morning of service as we worked together and spent time with the Reiffs!



- Nancy Heacock

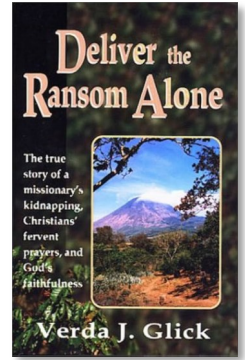
Cooking project

Six people spent the morning in the church kitchen with Karen Youssef, preparing meals which were frozen for use in four households. They made chicken corn chowder, meatloaf & mashed potatoes, baked ziti, beef stew, chocolate chip cookies and brownies. There was also bishops chicken and shepherd's pie. Their hard work will provide quite a few meals for the families that receive them.



FROM THE LIBRARY: *Deliver the Ransom Alone* by Verda J. Glick

Deliver the Ransom Alone by Verda J. Glick is her exciting, frightening story of her husband Eli's kidnapping on the way back from a Friday evening preaching service at El Paste in El Salvador. Four young girls were also kidnapped. The kidnappers threatened that if they did not receive the huge ransom they demanded: one hundred colons, about eleven or twelve thousand dollars, they would kill him. They also required that the oldest son of Eli deliver the ransom alone. The story tells how Eli was tied, tortured, unable to move. Meanwhile Verda, the family and church friends in El Salvador and around the world prayed fervently. Eli was able to forgive his guard and eventually tell him about Jesus. Eventually all were released but Eli wondered how God could make anything good about the whole event (Romans 8:28). The story tells how the traumatized girls survived and a counseling ministry was developed. Some years later the first new Christians were baptized in the El Paste Mennonite Church. Christians in Cuba had prayed diligently for Eli and it was later possible for Eli to go to Cuba where he helped organize a Mennonite Church on the island. It is a thrilling story of God's provision and answers to many fervent prayers.



- Freida Myers, Librarian



From Susie Churchmouse

What a day! You wouldn't believe the excitement around here on Sunday. This kitchen was filled with people working on all kinds of food. They were pretty neat about it but there were so many treats for me, it was almost more than this little mouse could pack in!

**Deadline for
submitting items for
the August issue of
News & Views:
July 30, 2024**

PARTING THOUGHT:

Christ has no body but ours; no hands, no feet here on earth but ours. Our eyes are the eyes through which he looks at the world with kindness ... Through our touch, our smile, our listening ear, embodied in us, Jesus is living here.

- From a prayer of St Teresa of Avila

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