

NEWS & VIEWS

March 6, 2022

Volume 21 No.3

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

As I write this article, Lent is just two days away. Among other things, Lent is a time to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. While it is easy to focus on the destination, focusing on the journey can provide many insights. Using the Gospel of Matthew as a guide, I want to invite us to reflect on a few themes that are evident as Jesus walked toward the cross.

After Peter's famous declaration in Matthew 16 that "you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God" Jesus declared that he must go to Jerusalem. Jesus was clearly focused on his mission. He knew what he was about and seemed to understand that it would not end well. He tried to communicate both his mission and his method to the disciples. Jesus repeatedly talked of the coming suffering he would experience in Jerusalem.

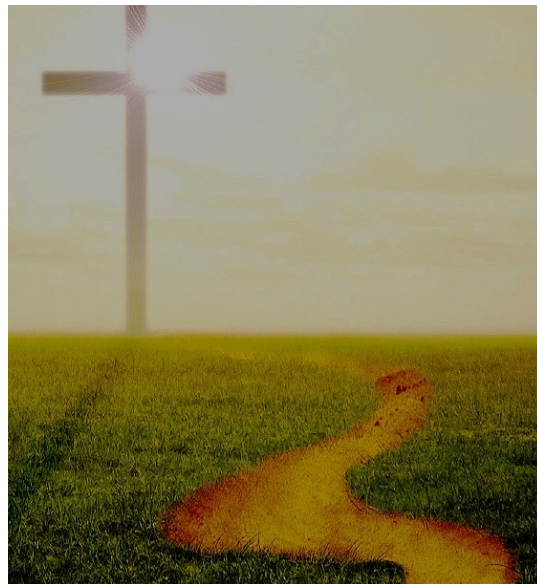
As Jesus walked to Jerusalem, he continued to be filled with compassion for people. When his disciples asked who was the greatest, or when a mother asked for preferential treatment for her sons, Jesus continued to show compassion. When the disciples misunderstood Jesus and were self absorbed, Jesus kept on loving them.

One of the ways Jesus showed his love was by giving them companionship. Jesus continued to hang out and be with the disciples. When we are disappointed and others let us down, it is quite common to disconnect. Jesus not only remained connected but he chose to share Passover with the disciples. Passover was not a fast food meal, but a rather involved evening together. It would have been so easy for Jesus to excuse himself from sharing it with the disciples.

This Lent, as we approach Easter, let us remember the love Jesus demonstrated each step of the way. When has Jesus loved you when you wanted others to see you as the greatest? How has Jesus loved you when you misunderstood him and made self-centered choices? Have you experienced Jesus' loving presence when you have been confused?

Lenten prayer: *Jesus, thank you for your great love. Help me to see and feel your constant love in fresh ways today.*

-Pastor Randy



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Coleen Ryan	3/3
Tim Landes	3/10
Tiyanna Landes	3/16
Karen Fennell	3/18
Grace Brenneman	3/28
Randy Heacock	3/30
Louise Beyer	4/2

Anniversaries

Jon & KrisAnne Swartley	3/13
Ron & Robin Miller	3/26

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

*Open the first and third Saturdays of each month,
7:00-10:00pm*

March 19, Dana Isles & Face Down. Coming from Southern New Jersey, they are dedicated to worshiping Jesus and sharing the message of hope. They travel to where the doors are open and minister at recovery events, biker Sundays and festivals.

April 2, Annual Comedy Night will feature Tony Parlante and friends with special appearance by Al Smith. All proceeds from sales will be donated to Battle4Children.org, which works to prevent child sexual abuse.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting was held on February 27 during the Sunday School hour. Led by Mark Reiff; reports were given by Pastor Randy, Garry Landis (Head Trustee), and Mary Lee Chittick (Treasurer). The new spending plan was approved. Good discussion followed and the minutes will be made available.



MaryLee Chittick was recognized with applause for her years of service as Stewardship Chair on Ministry Leadership Team in the role of Treasurer:



FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Books have been removed from the Christmas shelf. Perhaps you would like to choose a book from the Prayer, Bible Study or Spiritual life categories to read during Lent.

Book Reviews

From Sight to Insight, by Daniel L. Bowman

Daniel L. Bowman was born in April 1941 into a devout Mennonite farming family in

rural Virginia. One of his strengths is his ability to remember many details of his early childhood. Another strength is his ability to learn many different things and his ability to use his hands to build and maintain a wide variety of items. His ability to multi-task well is apparent in the way he chronicles his story of his life, interweaving memories of various events. Now at 80, Daniel currently lives in Harrisonburg, VA.

As a contemporary of his, born 6 months later in 1941 and now richly blessed as a Mennonite, too, I found Daniel's descriptions of Mennonite beliefs and activities during the past 80 years to be very interesting.

Daniel learned the basics of construction, how to work with tools, and farming work ethics from his father at a very early age. His father farmed with a team of horses and a homemade tractor (which began life as a 1924 Dodge) until he bought a Case tractor in 1945 when Daniel was 4 years old, and then a McCormick Deering combine the following year in 1946. Daniel especially enjoyed two great summers of threshing in 1952 and 1953.

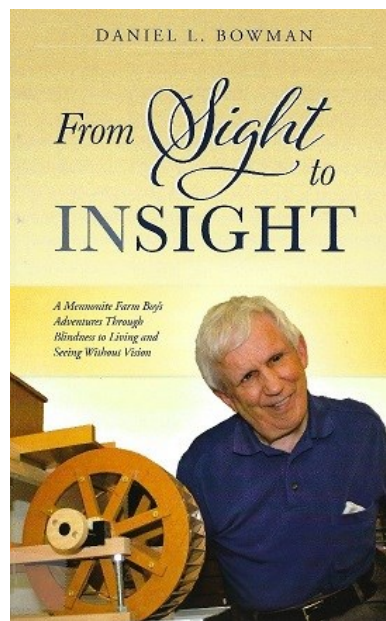
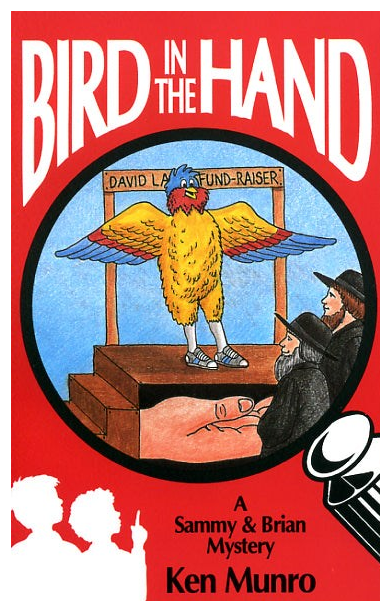
Then, in 6th grade in 1953, Daniel lost his vision. His descriptions of how he learned to live with this loss, compensate for it, develop new talents and ways to do things, and accomplish so much in so many diverse areas of life are inspirational and thought-provoking. You'll definitely see things differently after you read this.

—Karl Strauch

Bird in the Hand, by Ken Munro

Sammy and Brian are two young detectives. Polar opposites, the boys had solved multiple cases before (The Case of the Quilted Message and The Case of the Amish Buggy Heist). When a man's barn burns down due to suspected arson, the town holds a contest to guess the "Identity of a masked person in a bird costume." As Sammy and Brian attempt to find out who this mysterious person is, they encounter many strange people and problems on the way, and see that the bird may not be the bird they think it is.

-Layla Garrido



Susie Churchmouse writes:

It was really busy here on February 26 when the Doylestown Fire Company Auxiliary served lunch after the service for David Phy, a former member, who died on December 21 at age 92.

Those ladies did a great job and it was good to see those folks enjoying themselves!

You can believe I had a great day when I found the oreo and peanut butter cookie crumbs that were served with the ice cream.



Deadline for submitting items for the April News & Views: **March 29, 2022**

PARTING THOUGHT:

Word and sign; pulse and breath; bread and wine; life and death;
hear the call; calm your fear, through it all, Christ is here.

Adam M. L. Tice. 2016



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