

NEWS & VIEWS

December 4, 2022

Volume 21 No.12

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Each season comes with its own joys. I love to watch the world wake up in spring. The fresh and tender green shoots begin to peek through the brown, dead land and it's so exciting! New life is full of promise. Then comes the heat, the long days of bright light, fun vacations and the joy of playing in cool water during summer. I love to put away spring jackets and boots and trade them in for tank tops, bare feet and sandals. Autumn is a special favorite in our family – Thanksgiving and fall birthdays make for lots of family time and celebrations. The bright yellows and oranges of the trees are beautiful; cozy sweaters feel soft and snuggly. As the winter darkness descends, things seem to get a little quieter, at least for a moment. Twinkle lights and a fire in the fireplace are a few of my favorite December things. Give me a blanket, a book and a purring kitty on my lap, and I'm happy.

Even as I just listed a few of the special joys of each season in the paragraph above, I confess that I'm usually impatient for the next season to arrive. I start complaining about a month ahead of time, just ask my family. I get tired of the mud in spring. I get weary of the heat and humidity of summer. I wish my garden would stop producing things for me to preserve by about October 20th. I'm impatient for the first snow of winter and I am tired of the gray, bitter cold of winter long before spring arrives. In my impatience, I fear I often miss out on some of the joy of the seasons because I'm already looking ahead to the next one.

I'm not so good at waiting for things to unfold in their own time. Yet waiting is often what God asks of His people throughout scripture. He gives a promise and invites us to trust His Word and wait for that promise to unfold when it should in His time, not ours. Abraham and Sarah waited many long years for their son. David waited years to sit on Israel's throne. Simeon and Anna waited their whole lives for the Messiah. The disciples waited for Jesus and for the power of the Spirit. The church through centuries has been waiting for Jesus' return. These stories nurture my hope. I can look back in the pages and see how God always shows up faithfully...just not always according to human calendars or human desire.

Take heart this season, Church! As we wait for Christmas and as we wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new, take heart. God's Word is true. His promises are true. All He asks of us is to wait and to trust. Take a deep breath. Change will come when it's God's time. God is faithful.

Blessings, Pastor KrisAnne



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Lucy DeJesus 12/4

Robin Miller 12/10

Kathy Heckler 12/13

Blanche Althouse 12/22

Robert Schwabe 12/25

David Santopietro 12/29

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Open the first and third Saturdays of each month, 7:00-10:00pm, October through June.

The last Karen's Place event of the year was the appearance of Eddy Mann on December 3. The coffeehouse will resume again on January 7 with Wendy Schettig.

CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met via Zoom on November 29. Our Biblical focus was Proverbs 17:27-18:13. This continues our thinking about the importance of our words, begun in a recent sermon of Randy's. We looked at an article Walter Sawatzky sent to Randy about a trip to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake called "More than wheelbarrows, nails, fresh drywall and even food..." Walter was asked what possible help he could give. Walter was reminded of others he had seen who sought relief from their profound pain. He asked Gerald, the local man, what had been the hardest moment in the previous three months. This changed the whole scene as Gerald shared about loss of wife, mother and one of two sons rescued from the wreckage. Others there also shared. The compassion Walter showed created space for others to tell their stories.

We also want to listen and promote communication. Speaking without wisdom can hurt others. Our job description includes the following: "This group will often initiate and coordinate care rather than carry it out." As a care team we aim to do that. Sandy reported on the current balance in the compassion fund which has often been used for gift cards available for local persons in need; several donations have been given directly to the compassion fund.

Sandy noted that a blessing is being offered for a family in their new apartment. We prayed for a number of persons who are grieving or experiencing health issues. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2023.

Freida Myers for the Care Team : Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Robin Miller, Aimee Gourley)

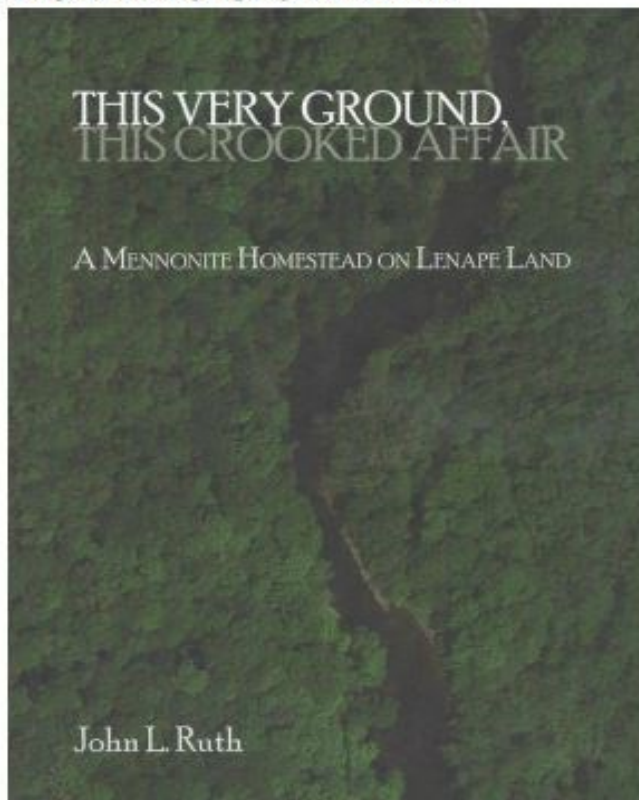
FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The gardeners report that they donated 3,080 pounds of produce to food pantries, breaking the old record for donations from the garden. And, for the seven years that it has been in the current location, they produced a total of 18,340 pounds of vegetables and fruit for donations. In addition to the garden in which all participate, there are plots used by individuals to grow crops for their own use.

FROM THE COMFORTER PROJECT

This year fifty comforters have been knotted by church and community friends. Forty three of them have already been delivered to the Material Resource Center for sending to areas of need around the world.

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY



This is an extremely fascinating, informative 366-page book that covers 125 years of local history here in our area from 1643 to 1768. John L. Ruth has done an excellent job of describing what life was like for early settlers.



John portrayed that life by focusing on the viewpoints of 3 different groups of people:

- William Penn, his family, his agents.
- The natives who lived here at that time.
- The European immigrants who arrived.

You probably will be very familiar with most of the names of places, people, and events that John includes in this book. Some of the folks might even be ancestors of yours from the era.

Most of my wife Cindy's Mennonite ancestors immigrated here from Switzerland and the Palatinate between 1670 and 1743. I'm the "new kid on the block". Seven of my eight great grandparents immigrated to New York from Switzerland, Germany, and Sweden between 1850 and 1900. As I've moved many times during the past 81 years (*this is now my 20th town in my 9th state*), I've learned to adapt to the ways of the natives, even though I have often been dismayed at the ways they have been treated. It's very interesting to learn how peacefully the Lenni Lenape tribe behaved compared to neighboring tribes to the north. It's also inspiring to read how local Mennonites sought to avoid conflicts and how Philadelphia gained its "city of brotherly love" reputation. Sadly, many natives and many immigrants paid the ultimate price in their quest to raise their families in peaceful, God-honoring ways.

I highly recommend reading "*This Very Ground*" ... and, if you get an opportunity to spend a day or two in Washington, DC, visit both the National Museum of the American Indian (*it includes a display featuring the Lenni Lenape tribe*) and the Museum of the Bible only several blocks away from it. Both are truly inspirational and thought-provoking museums.

May God richly bless you as you learn from the past and peacefully work toward that day when we will all be together in heaven.

Karl Strauch

CHURCH LIBRARY NOTE

Please check out one or more of the Christmas books on our special shelf. There are good Christmas stories to warm your heart and strengthen your faith. A few books have been added to the shelf this year; they will be available through January or February. I really enjoyed the The Christmas Sweater by Glenn Beck. I understand more what children and teens want for Christmas.

-Freida Myers, Librarian

REMEMBERING MOMS-

Lasting Influences & Looking Ahead

A good reminder of how any of us can positively impact others and how that impact can remain even after connections have been lost, was displayed at the MOMS/Morning Out/Sister Circle (3 different names for the same group) re-connection on Nov. 9. In the 1980's, Janice Wyble initiated a weekly program (MOMS – Morning Out for Moms). Women of all ages were welcome, but it was planned to particularly meet the need of young mothers to come together with others while their children were being cared for. The program continued for about 30 years, with Nancy Heacock taking leadership after Janice stepped down following her many years of service. Inspirational speakers, cooking demos, and crafts were just some of the varied topics on Wednesday mornings.

On Nov. 9, after not meeting together for about 8 years, 18 women reconnected to reminisce over those years, as well as to hear inspirational music from Wendy Schettig. A number of other women had indicated interest in attending, but were unable to due to work schedules. It was meaningful when someone stopped by just for a few minutes to express enthusiastically her appreciation for those opportunities to meet when her children were young. She shared that because she was so blessed by it, she has started a similar program in her church. I'm thankful for the vision that Janice had so many years ago and for all the other people involved in organization, childcare, program planning, refreshments, etc. to help make it a reality.

The program may have ended, but the blessings received have not been forgotten. Some of the women in attendance expressed interest in meeting together again, perhaps on a monthly basis. The exact format for that connection time has not been determined. Some expressed interest in just making a casual connection without any detailed plan, while others expressed a desire for a book/Bible study opportunity. Hopefully there will be a time soon to get together and further determine what would best meet the needs of the interested women. This plan may seem vague (because it is!), but if you would have interest in joining or have questions, please contact Judy Garrido.

FROM REDEMPTION CHURCH

After the Fifth Sunday day of service at Redemption Church in Bristol, the group there expressed their thanks in a card with signed personal notes:



THANKSGIVING

The offering project for Thanksgiving had two parts. One was collecting items for Relief Kits, to be delivered to the MCC Material Resource Center for packing into full kits there. Also, non-perishable food items were collected for delivery to food pantries serving local needs.



During November we were also invited to place notes at the cross under a sign stating, "There's not enough..." but on Thanksgiving Eve the sign was changed to "There's more than enough" and we focused on God's generosity. We enjoyed some chocolate as a symbol of God's goodness to us.



Deadline for submitting items for the January News & Views: **December 27**

PARTING THOUGHT:

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. Deuteronomy 7:9

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