

PASTOR'S PEN -

A CPA has a sex addiction. His addiction led him to take several thousand dollars from a local charitable organization for which he volunteered. Being a Christian-based organization and not wanting to cause shame, the organization dealt with it in a secretive way. The CPA greatly appreciated this approach. Within a few short years, it was discovered that this same CPA had defrauded clients and the IRS to the tune of a half million dollars.

A church board discovered that a beloved pastor was leading a double life. He took exotic vacations with a woman half his age. When the church board wrestled with how to respond to these newly discovered realities, it was decided that grace demanded the pastor be given the chance to secretly get help. When he refused to seek help, no further action was taken for fear of how others would view the church.

A young man struggles with violence. As an exceptional athlete, it is known that he will get a full ride college scholarship. When his violence escalates, local law officials decide to keep it quiet so he does not lose his opportunity for a good education and perhaps the NFL. His parents, coaches and local police all agree that he has too much talent to let it be wasted. After several cover-ups, the young man is arrested for armed robbery and spends several years in jail.

A couple attends church weekly. Each week their struggles increase exponentially. If they just try a little harder, life will improve. Their efforts do not deliver positive results. The wife becomes thin with worry while the husband gains weight. None of their friends understand why they have distanced themselves from people. While the wife still sings in the choir, the man begins to miss church.

Not only are the above stories true, they are repeated constantly in all communities. The one key component in each story that all but guarantees a negative outcome, is trying to deal with the issue in secret or privately. While there are many reasons why we do this, I want to suggest one simple practice to begin to break this pattern. The simple step I suggest is to ask another person to pray for one to receive guidance.

Though this may seem simple in theory, it appears to be quite hard to do. Specifically here at DMC, I want to encourage us to take advantage of the prayer ushers available on a weekly basis. These people are trained and give of their time on a regular basis to help individuals seek God's guidance. Why not let prayer be your first step in breaking the power of secrecy?

-Pastor Randy

BIRTHDAYS

Isaac Daniel Garrido	2/1
Jon Swartley	2/4
Mary Leatherman	2/26
Kirk Garrido	2/27
Ruth Hart	2/27

ANNIVERSARIES

Donald and Judy Derstine	2/14
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KAREN'S PLACE

Coffee House featuring Christian artists in an informal atmosphere:

Saturday, February 16, The Joe Miralles Trio
with the Souled Out Boyz

Saturday, March 2, Dana Isles and Facedown

FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

Our theme for 2019 is "Incarnational Living: Being the Presence of Jesus in the World." What does it mean for us to bring the presence of Jesus into the world around us? What are the places you routinely visit and who are the people you meet there? Where are the opportunities to build relationships happening naturally in your life? Here is a prayer for February to pray as we enter the "world" here God has placed us:

"God, Thank you for the people in my life and help me to love them and to see them the way you do."

The prayer ushers are delighted to pray confidentially with you about the relationships you are encountering.

The Upstairs Prayer Room will be undergoing a bit of a "facelift" as it is re-set following some recent construction work. Please contact Sandy Landes if you have any interest in helping with this project. Plans are to reopen it soon in time for Lent, which begins on March 6.

Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

COMING EVENTS

We are happy to share that Pioneer Pole Builders has informed us that construction will begin for the pavilion on March 13. Expect to see dirt being moved shortly, as Beer Excavating will begin prepping the site when weather permits. Direct any questions to Gary Garges or Steve Landes.

We will have our first Mission Sunday for 2019 on March 10. Marisa Smucker, from Mennonite Mission Network, will be our speaker

REPORT FROM THE CARE TEAM

Care Team notes from January 28 meeting

Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock and Freida Myers met in person while Robin Miller and Kendrick Garrido joined by conference call on Monday, January 28. Sandy focused our opening on Jesus' story of the lost sheep in Luke 15:1-7. Jesus cares for each one; God has joy over those we may not; He goes after, pursues us; if we don't believe God's love for us, we can't show that to others. Sandy encouraged us to listen to Cory Asbury's song, "Reckless Love," and led in prayer.

We responded to an article by Rachel Naomi Remen on the healing power of service. She says, "Fixing and helping create a distance between people, but we cannot serve at a distance. We can only serve that to which we are profoundly connected... Helping, fixing and serving represent three different ways of seeing life. When you help, you see life as weak. When you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole." Service sees life as sacred, a holy mystery, among equals. We responded, "What is my motivation? It is a struggle to know the difference between serving and helping. Our attitude is so important. We tend to fix. Kendrick witnessed serving when he saw a co-worker touch and comfort a homeless person in the train station. Serving frees us to be human, not experts. Sandy was recently served by one of the persons in the dementia unit where she led worship. When we serve we trust God is at work.

We reviewed the donations received and given from the Compassion Fund in 2018. We appreciate the blessing when we can share funds with those experiencing hardships as well as when we give gift cards to needy members of our community.

We closed our time praying for persons in the congregation who face challenges and also praising God for the ways He is working among us. Our next meeting will be Monday, February 25, at 7:30 pm.—Freida Myers

AN OLD FRIEND REMEMBERED

Lawrence Swartley and his family were well known by many of our congregation. They attended here, living on a family farm East of Doylestown with their children Don, Sharon, Tom and Michael until they left to pursue farming in Northern Pennsylvania. In recent years he was back in this area and lived at the Souderton Menonite Home to the age of 90. His funeral on February 2 was attended by a number of our older members. The family is now scattered but still in this area is Sharon, married to Steve Landes' brother Ron, and we meet Tom when we visit Spruce Lake.

TRUSTEE UPDATES 2018

It has been over a year since the trustees started the work with HVAC Engineering to install air conditioning in the sanctuary. We are grateful for the design work that was done by the engineer and the good cooperation from Doylestown Township in the permitting. Most of the installation for the central air conditioning has been completed with the exception of the major upgrade of the electrical work. All of this project is being provided by Bergey's Electric. This additional electrical work will provide for the increased need of the new AC and any future electric demands. Presently, the only central air conditioning will be in the sanctuary.

Additional work in process is the replacement of the doors and hardware into the sanctuary (front and rear), all doors in the main hallway, including all closet doors. After 60 years of service there has been a deterioration of the doors as well as leaking of oil from the swinging door closures. After much research and consideration, the new doors will be a more inviting and open look to new and current worshipers. The doors in the front of the sanctuary will be similar to the prayer room doors but with frosted glass. The doors in the rear of the sanctuary will be similar, but unfrosted.

Our expectation is that new coat hanging areas will be installed and completed when the doors are in the process of being replaced. Thank you for your patience in not having adequate areas for hanging winter coats during this delay.

Future projects include replacing the ceiling and lighting in the Fellowship Hall similar to the main floor. We also intend to update the structural appearance of the four support posts in the Fellowship Hall. We hope this will be completed this summer. Other projects completed this past year include replacing the roof over the front porch and using vinyl bead board to cover the interior ceiling of the porch, as well as installing four

new flood lamps in the porch area.

Thank you for your patience during these various remodeling and upgrading projects this past year and as work continues in the future!

The Trustees: David Chittick, Gary Landis, Jon Swartley, Ron Miller and Cesar Garrido.

THE COMFORTER PROJECT

Recently 25 more finished comforters were delivered to MRC . These were completed by a total of 31 women on Saturdays between October 27, 2018 and February 2. Some of the supplies and some knotters were furnished by DMC, but many friends and neighbors, and other friends they bring with them, were also happy to contribute. The project is on-going but much changed since the "sewing circle" ladies met monthly on Thursdays to quilt for the quilt sale and knot the comforters for MCC. Have you tried it? Let us know when you can come.

-Lois Myers



SUSIE CHURCHMOUSE writes:

Christmas is big for me—I love all the singing, especially Christmas eve. This year there was no Golden Agers' Dinner but the senior class brought their own food and enjoyed a fellowship time. After the morning service on New Year's eve there were cookies and punch here in the fellowship hall

DEADLINE: for submitting items for the February 3 News & Views: March 6

PARTING THOUGHT:

“Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.....” Jesus (John 3: 19-21).

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