

NEWS & VIEWS

February 7, 2021

Volume 20 No.2

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Encouraging Discipleship

What does it feel like for you to know that the Lord is your Shepherd? How is it changing the way you think about your life? Feel free to respond as you encounter Jesus and share your story of what God is doing.

Psalm 23 is so familiar to us that it is easy to hear the words and not really allow the meaning to sink in. I invite us as a congregation to use Psalm 23 as a prayer focus to help us grow in our journey of following Jesus. The theme for us this year, "Look instead for what God can do," is not just out there in other people and situations around us, but in us as individuals. What are you noticing that God is doing already in you as you prayed the words from Philipians 4 in January? How have you been able to focus on that which is true, pure, right and lovely?

Psalm 23 begins with the phrase, "The Lord is my shepherd." a simple declaration of faith. What if that became a prayer we use throughout this week as we listen to Jesus to be shaped by love as he lives in us? And perhaps the prayer could be reformed as needed:

Lord, you are my shepherd in this situation (a prayer of faith/declaration) — Maybe a good prayer when we are driving

Lord, thank you for being my shepherd right now (a prayer of thanksgiving) — In a tense situation or conversation

Lord, how do you want to be my shepherd today? (A prayer of curiosity) — Upon waking up in the morning

Lord, I need you as my shepherd (a prayer of confession) — When we feel afraid or have doubts

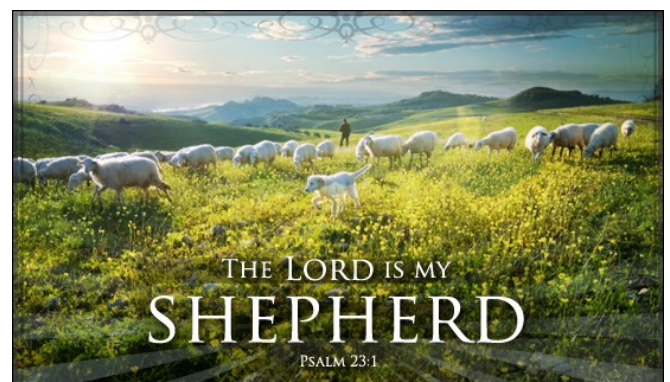
Lord, you are a good shepherd all the time (a prayer of worship) — At the close of the day.....or at a meal...

We all need to know that we are loved and being able to pray to our Shepherd over and over again will help us develop an intimacy with Jesus, who is our shepherd of love. In what situations or relationships do you need to experience a fresh revelation of God's love for you? How might that change you and your perspective on what is happening in your life, health, work, family, friends, etc.?

What does it feel like for you to know that the Lord is your shepherd? How is it changing the way you think about your life? Feel free to respond as you encounter Jesus and share your story of what God is doing.

I look forward to what God will do in us both as individuals and as a congregation as we grow in intimacy with Jesus as our Shepherd this month.

-Pastor Sandy



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Isaac Garrido	2/1
Jeff Buckwalter, Jr.	2/3
Jon Swartley	2/4
Helmut Wahl	2/8
Mary Leatherman	2/26
Suzanne Schwabe	2/26
Kirk Garrido	2/27

Anniversaries

Don & Judy Derstine	2/14
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KAREN'S PLACE

Karen's Place is not open to the public right now but will be live streaming its events. Tune in on February 20th and March 6th at 8:00 pm to watch the live stream, or watch the concert later at your convenience, on our Facebook page or website. We hope to open our doors to the public soon!

CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 and discussed as follows:

We opened our meeting with prayer and by reading Psalms 42 and 43, which are appropriate for the unrest we're experiencing in our country. We reflected on our Bible reading and talked about how we have a thirst for God when times are hectic. These Psalms are readings that are great for the soul, especially in these times when there may be fear, tension, anger, sadness, evil. We talked about how we can make a choice for what we focus on, the last verse in Psalm 43 reminds us to... "Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

Our next agenda item was a review of the Mental Health Survey that was distributed to the congregation in November of 2020. We reviewed the results, very high level. We shared about some personal experiences with mental health and some of the feelings that result. We talked about having patience, support that is available, the stigma and difficulty that mental health situations may bring. We as a Care Team are always available to pray and for safe conversations but our entire congregation is available to listen and to walk alongside each other. Additionally, we discussed a book that is in our church library called 'Streetlights' that sounds like a great learning on this topic.

Once we are able to connect in person the Care Team will share more specific information about the survey results. We are also looking to share some opportunities for additional learnings on this topic. Here is a snip of it from the survey results showing where we may want to focus:

- *Have reference materials available outlining how we may refer someone in need of mental health services.
- *Understanding more about the main cause of mental health issues.
- *Expand more knowledge of facts regarding mental health issues.
- *A resource is now available at the mailboxes for DMC participants who are seeking mental health support for themselves, a family member or friend.

We have a standing agenda at each meeting to discuss compassion fund needs. Additionally, we prayed for our congregation and for church members in need. Our next Care Team meeting is planned for Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

-Robin Miller, for the Care Team

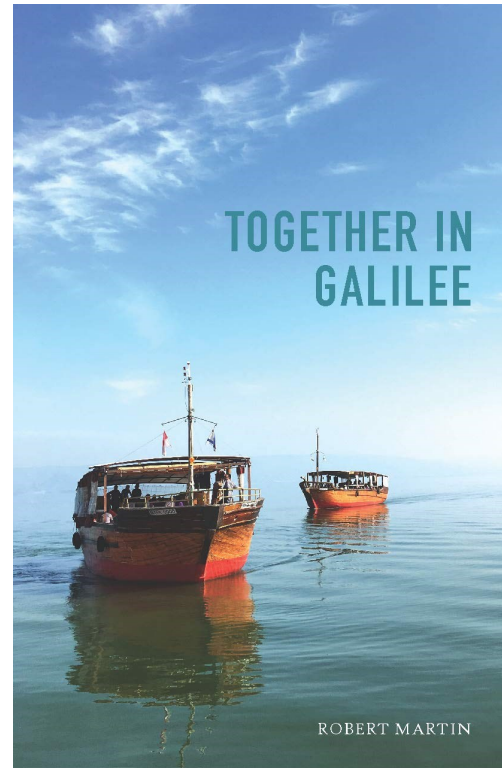
FROM THE LIBRARY

There are lots of good books in the library to delight and challenge you. Please check out one or more to read during these winter days before gardening chores begin.

Together in Galilee by Robert Martin tells the story of his life and medical ministry in Nazareth. He and Nancy worked there from 1965-1968, again from 1971-1978, and finally in 1987-1995. I got to know the Martins a bit when I lived at the International Guest House in Washington, D.C. and they also attended Hyattsville Mennonite Church. I was especially touched by a generous gift they gave me at a farewell/send off as I left the Guest House to begin college at Eastern Mennonite in September 1970. There are lots of photos in the book which begin when Robert was born in 1938 and grew up on a farm in rural York County, PA. Although his father opposed education after high school he was encouraged by a brother in the church who helped him work out some local college opportunities and eventually a scholarship. At college he met and later married Nancy Louise Rudy. Some of us would know of one of her sisters, Mary Jane, who married Richard Detweiler.

The Martins were safe during the Six Day War in June 1967 and again during the Gulf War in 1991. It is amazing to see how God protected and provided for them through the years. Although Nancy did not fulfill her expectation to serve in medical ministry at the hospital in Nazareth she was eventually able to set up a nursing program which trained local young women as nurses. One later chapter in the book is called, "God Provides" and accounts how God provided for the needs of the hospital. Toward the end of 1994 they were privileged to host John Vartan, a visitor at the hospital whose great-grandfather had founded the hospital in 1861. John was thrilled to learn that the hospital was alive and thriving. Subsequent to that contact he provided lots of funding and fund raising for the Nazareth Hospital. During the 1990s the author reported as many as 28000 births per month some years. This is an amazing story of how God used Robert and Nancy for his work in Nazareth and here in the U.S.

-Freida Myers, Librarian



THE COMFORTER PROJECT

During the year 2020, 61 comforters were finished and have been delivered to MRC. These were knotted by several women earlier in the year but after the shut down in March there were no more knotting parties. Many more were completed one at a time by just two of us. The project is on-going and more comforters are being prepared. Much has changed since the "sewing circle" ladies met monthly on Thursdays to quilt for the quilt sale and knot comforters for MCC. The hope is that these gatherings can be resumed and we can continue to help warm people around the world with comforters.

-Lois Myers

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees, following many months of discussion and research, have decided that it is time to do additional maintenance work in our church facility. The biggest visible impact will be lighting and appearance to the Fellowship hall, the Primary Department classrooms, and the upper-level hallway and classrooms. Most of these lighting areas to be upgraded were originally installed in 1959.

This will include the following lighting / dropped ceiling changes:

- *New dropped ceiling and LED lighting in the Fellowship Hall
- *New lighting in the Primary Department classrooms and new additional lighting to the open activity area.
- *New dropped ceiling and LED lighting on the second floor hallway and classrooms
- *Pavilion lighting installed in the ceiling and one additional light over the walkway to the pavilion
- *Receptacles for crockpots, coffee makers, phone chargers, etc. installed in the pavilion
- *Four new LED lighting heads in the Parking Lot and replacing a bank of lights with LED bulbs over the outside benches near the building

Additional improvements:

- *Air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall
- *Decision still needed on whether to include the kitchen in AC plans. (The Trustees are requesting a response from those who have had experience in using the kitchen.)
- *Air conditioning to be included in the main floor: The large classroom (Room 101-102), Pastor's Study, Church Office

All three of the rooms listed above will be much quieter allowing for better hearing during use for those in the room. Additionally, because they are a heat pump, as well as air conditioning, they can be used independently to supply heat or cooling to each individual room. We anticipate this will result in energy savings.

We are contracted with Bergey Electric to do the lighting and the air conditioning. Funds to pay these projects are available in our Capital Account from estate donations in the past several years. Bergey Electric feels the project will start by the beginning of March.

Thank you, Dave Chittick, Garry Landis, Jon Swartley, Michael Gourley, and Cesar Garrido

5th SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE– RIPPLE

16 from our congregation went to Allentown on Sunday afternoon, January 31 to participate in a day of service with Ripple Church and Ripple Community Inc, a part of our Mosaic Mennonite Conference. The church meets in the lower level of a church building formerly used by a Lutheran congregation that merged with another in the city, and that now uses the building to serve the community, including as a code blue shelter.



Ripple has a worship service at 4 pm on Sundays, after which they hand out nutritious meals each week. We prepared meals of chili, cornbread, grapes and water bottles; much of the food donated and prepared by DMC participants who weren't able to join us in Allentown. We also cleaned and sorted an accumulation of donated clothing to make it available to people.

A neat God-sighting happened when a woman stopped by the church, in need of some clothing. Angela Moyer Walter, pastor at Ripple, noted that they might not have any clothing for her since most of their current supply was in children's sizes. Lisa Reiff mentioned that in the back of her car, she had a bag of clothing she was going to donate somewhere and simply hadn't done it yet. Lisa was happy to bring the bag in for the woman to look through.

Ripple Community Inc. works out of a building several blocks away from the church, where other DMC members served by painting a storage room and cleaning the carpets on the first and second floors.



2021 DMC CRAFTED PRAYER

God, we thank you for giving your only son, Jesus, to bring salvation and the promise of eternal life to all who believe. It is in Jesus that we most fully understand your great love for humanity.

God, we thank and praise you for choosing us as your beloved children and bringing us into the family of God. As your beloved children, we have complete confidence in your care and protection.

God, you are the source of all power and wisdom. As we follow you, we experience comforting hope, everlasting peace, and abundant joy.

God, thank you that your light pierces the darkness in our world. Help us to reflect that light to our world as we encounter your loving presence.

We offer this prayer with open and trusting hearts as we look for what you will do this year.

In Jesus' name, Amen



DEADLINE for submitting items to the March News & Views: March 2nd

PARTING THOUGHT:

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

-Jesus Matthew 28:40

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