

NEWS & VIEWS

February 4, 2024

Volume 23 No. 2

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

We are a kingdom people, belonging to a sovereign God who invites us to share the message of his kindness and goodness in our world. Steve and I attended the Cross Gen conference in early January at Spruce Lake. The speaker, Terry Ishee, reminded us repeatedly that we have a calling as Kingdom people. It was an encouraging teaching as I thought about the many opportunities we all have to live in our world as kingdom people.

We need an awareness of the kingdom, of the goodness of God. How often do we find ourselves observing the kindness and goodness of people in our daily lives? Is that the kingdom of God being expressed? Are we aware of how widespread the goodness of God is? Habakkuk 2:14, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." I invite you to pray and ask God to open your "eyes" to see the goodness of God wherever you are.

God invites us to be aligned with his kingdom values. What are the practices in your life that help you to be aligned with the life of Jesus? As followers of Jesus, we need to follow (obviously 😊), but we can only follow someone we know. Our invitation is to continue in relationship with Jesus to stay in step with his leading daily.

Thirdly God uses us to alert others to the kingdom of God and his goodness. This was a new thought for me. I often see evidence of God's love being shared but how often have I named it aloud? It may or may not be a person who is a follower of Jesus, but we know God's sovereignty works in numerous ways. Here is an example: This past Sunday morning I took a walk while it was raining in my neighborhood, I saw a person picking up the newspaper off the sidewalk in front of an elderly gentleman's home and putting it right on his doorstep. I realized it was my other neighbor doing this kind deed on a rainy morning. Later I texted him and shared my appreciation for the way he was sharing God's love in our neighborhood. The Holy Spirit made me aware that this was just a small example of the kingdom of God being expressed and I had an opportunity to "alert" my neighbor to his participation in God's work in our world.

This is very connected to our theme this year of being sent with power and authority. We have been given a wonderful opportunity to declare it aloud when we see the goodness of God in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our schools, etc. I pray for courage and boldness to open our mouths and alert others to the ways God is showing up to spread his glory over the whole earth. May we as a faith community grow in authority and power as we participate in proclaiming the goodness of God for God's glory.

- Pastor Sandy Landes

COMING UP ... SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Mary Leatherman 2/26
Suzanne Schwabe 2/26
Coleen Ryan 3/3

Anniversaries

Don & Judy Derstine 2/14

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Doylestown's underground Christian coffeehouse

- February 3 - Vince Martell, legendary lead guitarist of Vanilla Fudge, with PBS recording artist Peg Pearl
- February 17 - Patrizsha and the Soultierior Motives - wherever it is, she feels at home sharing her message of love, power and belonging
- March 2 - Stephen Bell Trio - this band will make its annual trip to Karen's Place playing new music and some old favorites

FROM OUR TEENS

Sue Bartels and Joyce Zuzack took the teen Sunday School class indoor rock climbing in December. They had a good time and are happy to share their pictures with us.



FROM THE CARE TEAM

Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, and Freida Myers met as a Care Team via Zoom on January 16. Aimee Gourley was not able to attend. Our scriptural focus was Habakkuk 2:14 and Matthew 13:24-30. We considered several questions:

How are we growing in our awareness of the kingdom of God?

How can we continue to move into an alignment with the kingdom of God?

By whose authority do we live?

What opportunities might we have to point others to the goodness of God?

We reported on visits to shut-ins in December and approved a payment from the compassion fund. We lifted up several persons for prayer. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 20 at 7:15 pm via Zoom.

- Freida Myers for the Care Team



FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

During the month of January several people met to craft a prayer for us to pray as a congregation throughout the coming year. This process always began with a prayer inviting God to lead our work together. We read the scripture that birthed our theme, "We are sent with power and authority," from Luke 9. We sat in quiet for several minutes waiting on God to reveal the words and phrases that will shape our prayer. We trusted that we were hearing the voice of God. Over the course of two weeks, in person and Zoom meetings, the Crafted Prayer has been written for us to pray during this year.

DMC 2024 Crafted Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, you send us out to proclaim Jesus' name and with his healing power. We submit to your authority. Let us praise the Lord and step out unencumbered by worldly cares. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us in our times of weakness. We accept the authority you bestow on us with humility and compassion. Give us wisdom and help us to be fearless in our encounters. May we joyfully reflect your glory now and forevermore. Amen

As I read the prayer, it feels bold and vulnerable at the same time. It acknowledges the power and authority we have been given, while also recognizing our weakness and the need for humility. I trust that as we join together in praying these words this year, we will see evidence of the kingdom of God through our shared life together and in our 'sent' contexts. I welcome any thoughts or questions.

- Sandy Landes

SPECIAL EVENTS

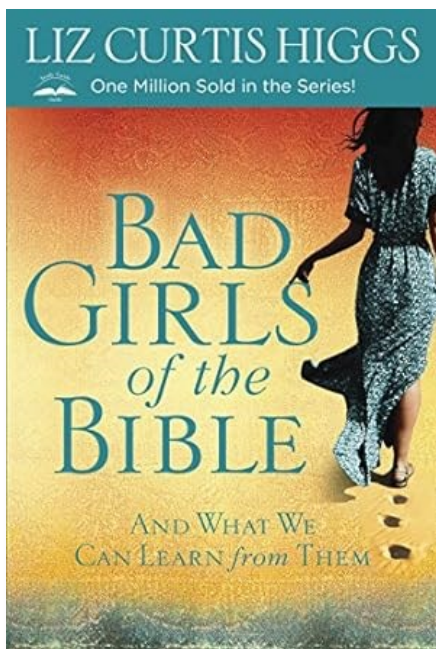


On January 21 a funeral service was held for June Histan, one of our long time members. For the last number of years she was a resident at Spring House Estates but thankful when she had opportunity to come and meet with us. She was remembered for her love of singing and love for her family of siblings, many nephews and nieces. Her many friends remember her generosity and the good times of bicycling and playing games. Some of her collection of figurines and other items was put out to be taken by anyone who would like a memento of her.

On New Year's Eve Sunday we gathered around tables in the fellowship hall for a light meal and sharing around a number of questions provided for thoughtful discussion.



FROM THE LIBRARY



A recent addition to our library is a book by Liz Curtis Higgs called Bad Girls of the Bible and what we can learn from them. Higgs has a fascinating way of telling a present-day story before each chapter about a woman in the Bible. Some made a bad choice like Eve; others had made a series of bad choices like the woman at the well. One, a “Christian” (Sapphira), lied about their contribution to the “church” treasury and died. I liked the story of Rahab. In Joshua 2 we read that Rahab said to the Israelite spies, “the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” She courageously spared their lives and they promised kindness to her and her family. Her courageous act earned her a spot in the Hebrews honor roll. The author highlights, “With God, it isn’t who you were that matters; it’s who you are becoming. She ended up being an ancestor to David. Each chapter has a section called “What lessons can we learn from ...” and then finally “Good girl thoughts worth considering.” There are lots of footnotes and scriptural references. It is a good, entertaining and thought-provoking read.

- Freida Myers, Librarian

PARTING THOUGHT:

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messengers who proclaim peace, who bring good news, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

- Isaiah 52:7

Deadline for submitting items for
the March News & Views:
FEBRUARY 26, 2024

*Please note that this is a day earlier
than usual due to editor’s vacation.*

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