

PASTOR'S PEN

I do not recall exactly when, but sometime when our children were young we played the arcade game Whack-a-mole. For those who do not know the game, I confess it is not very Anabaptist. As the title suggests, one is encouraged to hit moles on the head as they pop up. The more one hits the faster the moles appear. Sometimes it seems life can feel like that game with fear being the mole that continues to pop up faster each day.

Naturally there is the fear of Covid and connected to that is the fear of Covid's impact on the economy. As I listen to people, the moles of fear are as plentiful as the stars. The following is a short list of what I have heard in the past week.

- From a church leader—fear people will not come back to church
- From a mother—fear my adult child will cut me off
- From an individual—fear that our country will no longer be Christian
- From a church elder—fear others will not like our decision
- From a father—fear I am no longer of any value to my family

The resurrected Jesus' message to his disciples was "Fear not." Throughout the Old and New Testament when the presence of God appeared, frequently the call was to fear not. Jesus taught that love casts out fear. The song writer Zach Williams declares in a song that "fear he is a liar". A part of the chorus in that song states "He will take your breath, rob you of your rest, steal your happiness and stop you in your steps." I wonder are finding fear doing those very things and more. I would add that fear paralyzes us away from trusting God and stops us from risk changing. Fear also stops us from reaching out in love to others who look, think, act, or believe different than us.

I do not know of anyone who ever had a perfect score in Whack-a-mole. Similarly, each of us face daily challenges/invitations to believe the lies spoken by fear. Rather than hitting trying to beat down the fear we encounter, may we spend time in the presence of the resurrected Jesus who declares my peace I give to you. When fearful, rather than turning to news sources, social media, or conversations with friends may we quiet ourselves before God and ask for His presence to fill us anew.

Seems like waiting on God is the very focus we need in 2020. Do not be discouraged if you seem to fail in your struggle with fear. Persevere in the struggle and God will win! Please feel free to take the opportunity to reach out to a praying friend let them pray for you in this battle.

-Pastor Randy



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

BIRTHDAYS

Gary Garges	7/2
KrisAnne Swartley	7/5
James Beyer	7/6
Mia Gidley	7/8
Lorraine Landis	7/11
Cyndi Landis	7/12
Juliano Garrido	7/15
Grace Snyder	7/18
Kaitlin Jimenez	7/20
Layla Garrido	7/24
Annie Stewart	7/25

ANNIVERSARIES

Cesar & Judy Garrido	7/1
William & Karen Fennel	7/24
Steven & Sandy Landes	7/26
Kendrick & Janey Garrido	7/29

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Monday Night Free Concert Series!

Every Monday in August @ 7:30pm

at the church pavilion:

- August 3 – Eddy Mann Band
- August 10 – Patrizsha and the Soultierior Motives World Wide Band
- August 17 – Dana Isles and Facedown
- August 24 – Regenerated Soul

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team met via Zoom on Tuesday, June 30, 2020. Sandy Landes, Robin Miller and Freida Myers were present. Randy Heacock and Kendrick Garrido were unable to participate. We asked about each other before talking about our biblical focus on perseverance. We read Romans 5:1-5 and Hebrews 12:1-3 which encourage us to persevere in our life's journey. We also noted our need for respect as we listen to and learn from others' stories, especially those who are different or who experience injustice.

We had an update on the compassion fund and heard how money given to the Nafzigers enabled them to provide for some serious needs in their church/community. Sandy will follow up on a request by letter from someone who may be moving to Bucks County and would like a connection here. Sandy will check into online training for being good stewards of our children. Sandy will also investigate possible opportunities for financial counseling with Everence or the Financial Peace University course.

We closed our time in prayer for several persons and families calling for lots of perseverance in their lives now.

-Freida Myers for the Care Team

CHURCH PICNIC

We were looking forward to our outdoor service and picnic on August 2nd at Lost Acres Ranch, Creek Road in New Britain. However, it is not open at all for this season due to the pandemic restrictions.

FROM THE LIBRARY

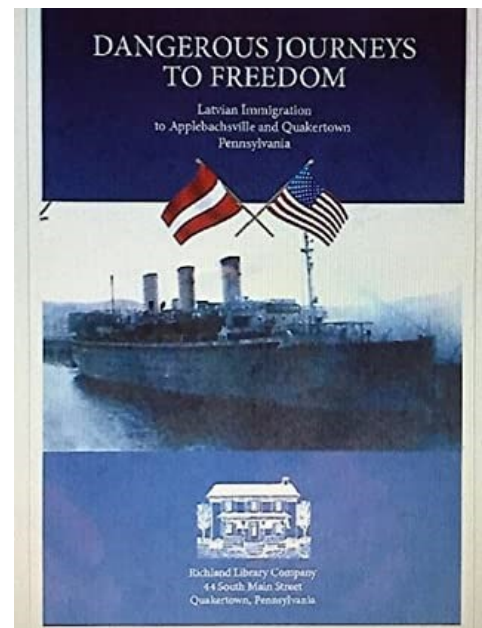
Dangerous Journeys to Freedom from Richland Library Company.

This is a collection of stories of Latvian Baptist families who immigrated from Europe to Applebachsville and Quakertown, PA. Most of the stories were told by the persons who actually experienced the events. The Latvian Baptist Church has some similarities to our Mennonite migrations also. Latvia was in the cross-fire of attempts at domination by Russia and Germany, each wanting to use their seaports and lands/people for their own ends. Many people died and others escaped. Their journey was hazardous, difficult and sometimes delayed or lengthy. Some families had come to the U.S. in the early 1900s and had a small church in the Applebachsville area. This Baptist Church was revived as the families who emigrated to escape Russian and German domination came to this area in the 1940s.

One woman described her first house in Applebachsville. "Their household consisted of two elderly grandparents, a widowed mother with a factory job, and two girls. Money was scarce. The 2-story house we purchased in Applebachsville on old Bethlehem Road in 1951 had no running water (cistern), no bathroom (outhouse), no central heat (oil-burner in the dining room), and it felt like no insulation had been used (cold!)." They had no car, phone, TV or bicycle. Her mother had managed to bring a sewing machine which was a God-send as she could sew for the family. She talked about the Latvian church in Applebachsville being not only a spiritual home but a social center and a cultural haven. They sent packages back to Latvia. Some parcels never reached their destination and others had items confiscated. In one case an old coat was substituted for the donated one.

Another similarity to our Christian upbringing was choral singing. Ralf W. Augstroze, Superintendent and Chairman of the Board, Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church presented a history of Latvians in Haycock Township to the Heacock Historical Society on October 21, 2007. He mentions that "our church worship services continue to this day in the Latvian language, which was also my, my wife's and my children's first language." It is amazing to think that families who had immigrated in the 40s still retained and used their Latvian tongue in 2017. Apparently many of the songs they sang have not been translated into English.

Many of the people had jobs at farms and businesses in and around Quakertown, and the children graduated from Quakertown High. There are many photos of people and buildings which add so much to the readability of this amazing history of another group of God's people.



SEPARATED WORSHIP

During the last few months we have been separated in several ways during our worship time. For weeks we only had our computer or phone to watch the video of a service led by KrisAnne and Randy or Sandy. Later we had the option of driving to church afterward to meet at the pavilion for fellowship and a short prayer time. Finally, on June 28 we had the first service in our building! Inside, we wore masks and were seated in the marked spots scattered through the room. With electronic assistance, the service was also available to those watching online. You really can sing with a mask on your face! Afterward, there was water provided for a time to visit outside. It is good to be present with each other.



REMEMBERING LESTER AND SARA

The joint memorial service for Lester and Sara Heacock will begin with a greeting time with the family at 1:00 pm, followed by a service at 1:30. We are asking that the fellowship meal be limited to the immediate family and their friends to keep the numbers down of those eating together in the basement. DMC participants should only attend the meal if the family specifically requested your presence.

DEADLINE for submitting items to the August News & Views: July 28, 2020

PARTING THOUGHT:

“God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

II Timothy 1:7

Pastor: Randy Heacock

randy.heacock@doylestownmc.org

Prayer Minister: Sandy Landes

sandylandes1311@gmail.com

Doylestown Mennonite Church

590 N. Broad Street

Doylestown, PA, 18901

Phone: 215.345.6377

dmc@doylestownmc.org

Newsletter Editor: Lois Myers

Phone/Fax 215-794-8327

myersfm@juno.com

Minister of Worship & Administration:

KrisAnne Swartley

krisanne.swartley@doylestownmc.org