

## PASTOR'S PEN

As we continue day after day in this time of social distancing, there are moments I find myself feeling like I have discovered a bit of a routine. At the same time, there are moments of hazy confusion on which I need to remind myself what day it is. One moment there seems like there is a lot going on while the next it seems like another 24 hours of the same old thing. In the last 3 weeks I experienced the high of seeing a daughter get married and the low of burying a father. With this weird mix of highs and lows, busy and bored, normal and unusual, I am reminded of the writing from Ecclesiastes 3. Perhaps some of you remember the song by the Byrds, Turn Turn Turn, which states much the same.

### Ecclesiastes 3

<sup>3</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; <sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

This text comes out of the wisdom literature of the Bible. It contains the wisdom of the people of Israel as they learned both from God and in the circumstances of daily life. There is the awareness that there are different seasons to life. It acknowledges what appear to be opposite ends of the spectrum such as a time to

gather and a time to throw away. Often we tend to embrace one of these and consider it good while we try to avoid the other and label it as bad.

Perhaps, what I named at the beginning of this article suggests we are to live more in the tension between the two rather than to live embracing one while running from the other. For example, in both the wedding and funeral I attended there were tears of loss but also celebrating with profound joy. In relationships, it is always good to be at peace but there are times even in our best relationships in which experience conflict which may feel like war. As we can hold these things in tension while looking to God, we can find hope and energy. Perhaps the call is to simply remain present and wait on God.

A few have expressed to me how this pandemic has provided them the space to sort out things that have been neglected for many years. In a culture that believes business is better than being still and to accumulate is better than to get rid of, I encourage you to consider what you can learn from the biblical wisdom that there is a time for everything. How might we continue to learn what God has for us. What new practices might we develop as we come out of social distancing? There is a time to reflect and a time to practice.

-Pastor Randy



## ***Some Special Dates....***

### ***Upcoming BIRTHDAYS***

Cynthia Strauch	5/3
Mary Lee Chittick	5/6
Angel Mejias	5/8
William Fennell	5/9
Kendrick Garrido	5/13
Jennifer Gidley	5/13
Michael Gourley	5/19
Lois Myers	5/24
Monica Heacock	5/25
Bonnie Leatherman	5/26
SaraFaye Moyer	5/27
Sally Landis	5/31
Garry Landis	6/1
Charles Snyder	6/1

### ***Upcoming ANNIVERSARIES***

Mike & Coleen Ryan	5/9
Dave & Joyce Zuzack	5/14
John & Sally Landis	5/26

## **CARE TEAM NOTES**

The Care Team is composed of Kendrick Garrido, Randy Heacock, Sandy Landes, Robin Miller, and Freida Myers. We met via Zoom on April 28.

After checking in with each other we focused on Matthew 11:28-30 in four different translations. Sometimes we try to take on too much or we want control. Jesus invites us to come to Him for rest, for his yoke is easy. He is gentle and humble in heart. Jesus offers refreshment, an oasis. What are some of our guiding principles? Searching for a new routine, regular walks, time with God in the morning, more intentional listening with acceptance of others' opinions, and seeing present family challenges as opportunities.

We talked about use of the compassion fund and the need for an Everence representative in our congregation. Sandy and Randy have taken the NOVA training called Stewards of Children. We are encouraged to take the two-hour training online. It would be a good option to offer the whole congregation and others in our community eventually. Sandy also reported that she and Sue Bartels are taking a class called Churches Care which educates regarding mental illness and addiction. This training offers a person/counselor if we have someone we know who could benefit from that. We concluded our meeting with prayer for some persons with additional health and other challenges now.

-Freida Myers, for the Care Team

## **KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE**

**May 16 - Beauty for Ashes**, an acoustic husband and wife duo, streaming on the internet

**June 6 - Eddy Mann**, a gifted and prolific singer, songwriter, worship leader, etc

This is the last Karen's Place event until fall!

## FROM THE LIBRARY

New books and a mystery!

Some new books have been donated to the library. Please check them out when you get a chance.

Do you like to solve mysteries? Here is one for you. Recently I saw that "Heather" had checked out Psalm 91. I had read this good book and wanted to ask if she would review it for the library. She had previously checked out some other really good books as well. I talked to Heather Zeo who said she was not that "Heather." So who is our mystery person? I am delighted that she is checking out books but would like to know who she is and whether she might review a book in the future.

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? by Jennifer Grant was more interesting than I thought. I expected it to be written by a senior but no, she is only in her early forties. No matter our age, she offers encouragement. The author compares her family with another one which seems to be better: two lovely children, a beautiful car and home, etc. Jennifer's ideas change years later when her daughter needs to call her friend before visiting, to find out whether she will be going to her friend's father's or mother's home that afternoon. Jennifer has four children and a happy marriage. She realizes how foolish it was to compare her family with theirs which was not perfect after all. She quotes Teddy Roosevelt who said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." She ends her chapter "Lucky in Love" by reporting about a delightful wedding reception where she saw that her husband had written the same advice for the couple as she did - "Always be kind."

-Freida Myers, Librarian



## LEARNING DURING "Stay at home"

*Cindy and Karl Strauch sent these "lessons learned" during stay-at-home orders, for the newsletter:*

Here are some of the lessons we recently have learned from this experience:

- ◆ The importance of waiting on God.
- ◆ Take one day at a time and make the most out of each day.
- ◆ Be comforted by the peace that God gives us through these challenges.
- ◆ How thoughtful and supportive everyone at DMC is, especially during challenging times.
- ◆ We don't really need any of the many things that we thought we needed to have in order to be happy and to survive.
- ◆ How to maintain "social distancing" and use new technologies to get things done.
- ◆ How our ancestors lived, worshipped and coped with their challenges as we research our family roots now that we have more free time to do that.

## ANOTHER PLACE TO PRACTICE GENEROSITY

A niece of Coleen Ryan works for Prevention Point, an organization that serves people struggling with addiction in Kensington. They are in need of items which may be donated to their cause. Some of these items include:

- ◆ Men's and women's underwear
- ◆ Men's shoes and clothes
- ◆ Medium and Large gloves
- ◆ Masks
- ◆ Any cleaning supplies, Paper towels, wash cloths
- ◆ Ensure

If you would like to know more about the organization or would be willing to help, you can log on to [ppponline.org](http://ppponline.org). It offers ways to help. There is the option of buying supplies through Amazon or clicking on Donate to give money. If you have these supplies to give, they can be taken to church and placed in the Sandy Ridge Lobby.

## ADDRESS for John & Sally Landis

John and Sally Landis now have another house in Maryland, dividing their time between that house and their house in Pipersville. They wish to share this additional address with the congregation:

67 Basil Ave. Chesapeake City, MD 21915

**Deadline** for submitting items to the June 7 News & Views: **May 26**

## PARTING THOUGHT:

In the past month people have been found at home more than usual. Perhaps "Mom's 10 Commandments for a Happy Household" found in a 2004 News & Views may be fitting: "If you take it out, put it away; if you eat on it, wash it; if you turn it on, turn it off; if you mess it up, clean it up; and if you open it, close it."

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