

NEWS & VIEWS

May 2, 2021

Volume 20 No.5

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN—

Encouraging Discipleship

Psalm 46 begins with the words, “God is our refuge and strength.” What is it like to know that God is our refuge and strength? How does that get lived out in your life?

The word, “refuge,” means a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble or a place of shelter and protection. I remember one time being on a boat during a thunderstorm and seeing lightning. We knew we were in danger! We knew we needed a refuge and when we finally made it to the dock and back to the beach house we were renting, I finally felt safe! But does this psalm only refer to physical danger? Is that the only time we need God to be our refuge?

Right now during the pandemic, some people have given in to fear and shut themselves off from the world. They have made their homes a “refuge,” but at what cost? Perhaps their mental, emotional and physical health is being negatively impacted by a false sense of refuge. It seems more like an escape, but not the kind of refuge God promises.

God wants to be our refuge, in the midst of a pandemic, in the midst of all kinds of trials, big and small. This psalm begins with the words, God is our refuge. It says this is **already** who God is. This is not wishful thinking or a maybe. **It is who God says he is.**

How do we live with the security that comes from knowing God is our safe place, our shelter, our protection from danger? I do believe God provides physical safety for us, but how does God want to be your refuge when you are worried or fearful? How does God want to be your safe place when you don't know what to do? How does God want to shelter you when you feel lost? Perhaps knowing God as your refuge will take you into places or situations that feel uncomfortable, but with an assurance of God's sheltering presence.

A simple prayer of gratitude for this month to remind you daily of God's promise to be your refuge:

“God, thank you for being my refuge, my safe place, my shelter in this situation. Help me to live in your promised security and peace today.” Amen.

-Pastor Sandy Landes



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Cindy Strauch	5/3
MaryLee Chittick	5/6
Angel Mejias	5/8
Bill Fennell	5/9
Kendrick Garrido	5/13
Jennifer Gidley	5/13
Michael Gourley	5/19
Lois Myers	5/24
Bonnie Leatherman	5/26
SaraFaye Moyer	5/27
Sally Landis	5/31

Anniversaries

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

KAREN'S PLACE

For now, Karen's Place will not be open to the public. However, they will continue to offer events and live stream them so you can watch them live online or later at your convenience on their website or Facebook page.

May 15- Paul and Mary Good have been involved in Christian music ministry for over 25 years. Their music style is Country with the influence of Bluegrass, Southern-Gospel, and Contemporary Praise and Worship. Located in Southeastern Pennsylvania, they have led worship and performed their music in churches from Tennessee to Maine.

CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on Monday, April 19, 2021 and discussed the following items:

We opened our meeting with prayer and by reading the following bible verses which focus on the goodness of God: 1 Peter 2:9, Psalm 27:13, Psalm 31:19, Romans 14:17.

The team reflected on God's goodness how He chose us for his very own possessions and how much He loves us. God loves the whole world, He has a never-ending supply of Love, Joy and Peace. By experiencing God's love it makes it easier for us to share that goodness and love with others. We have great examples of God's goodness in our daily lives such as, within our congregation, neighborhoods, families and through nature. If we look for God's goodness we will see it!

We have a standing agenda item at each meeting to discuss compassion fund needs. Additionally, we prayed for our congregation and for church members in need.

We received information from Heather Zeo regarding transition plans, please see the prayer guide in the bulletin for a note from the Zeo family.

Our next Care Team meeting is planned for Monday May 17, 2021 at 7:00PM.

-Robin Miller, for the Care Team



FROM THE LIBRARY– BOOK REVIEW

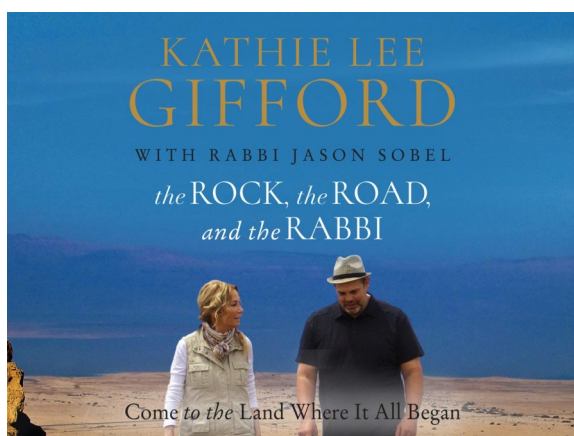
The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi by Kathie Lee Gifford is a very enlightening book. If you have always wanted to travel to Israel, here is a substitute opportunity. The subtitle is “My Journey into the Heart of Scriptural Faith and the Land Where It All Began.” Rabbi Jason helps Gifford understand some of the culture of Jesus’ day.

For instance, the shepherds tending the sheep when Jesus birth was announced were not ordinary shepherds but Levitical caretakers for the sheep to be slain for the sins of the people. They placed an expectant ewe in a cave which was ritually clean and pure. A newborn lamb was wrapped in swaddling clothes and kept pure from blemish. So finding a new baby announced by the angels would not have been hard for them.

The book reveals so much that is astounding. The rabbi explains the importance of Jesus’ actions when an adulterous woman is brought to him. He kneels down and writes in the dirt with his finger. The Ten Commandments were ‘written by the finger of God’ according to Exodus 31:18. The dirt is a reminder that we also came from dirt.

A later chapter talks about the discovery of the scrolls in the Qumran Caves which included fragments of every Old Testament book except Esther. In addition, some prophecies by Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Daniel that are not included in the Bible were also written in the scrolls. “Miraculously, the Isaiah scroll found fundamentally intact, is one thousand years older than any previously known copy of the book of Isaiah.” This book offers a way to “walk where Jesus walked” and find a closer walk with Jesus today.

-Freida Myers, Librarian



Men’s Retreat at Spruce Lake

Mark Whitacre was the featured speaker at our annual Men’s Retreat this year. Mark has the distinction of being the highest-ranked Fortune 500 company whistleblower in U.S. history and he helped the FBI uncover a multi-billion dollar commodity price-fixing scandal. Mark’s story was initially described in the 2000 book *The Informant* by journalist Kurt Eichenwald and then subsequently made into *The Informant!* movie starring Matt Damon in 2009. Additional information on that movie version can be found in the Wikipedia article titled *The Informant!*

Spruce Lake’s promotional card for this retreat featured this statement by Mark, “At one time in my life, and at a very young age, I had the world within easy reach. But poor, unethical decision-making changed my life forever.” The promotional card also included this statement, “His second chance is one of the most inspirational stories of our time.” How true! Mark’s extensive testimonies of what he went through during the time leading up to his decision to be a whistleblower, his acceptance of Jesus as Lord, and his 8 years in prison were profound.

I strongly urge you to consider attending next year’s Men’s Retreat on January 13th-14th when Erik Kratz, major league baseball player for the Pirates, Phillies, and Yankees, will be the featured speaker. Information for that event can be found on the sprucelake.org/events website. These Men’s Retreats are outstanding. Last year NASCAR driver Michael McDowell was our featured speaker. Several years ago Michael survived a horrific crash where his car rolled over 8 times. His testimony was quite moving. This year he won the Daytona 500 race and on April 25th he finished 3rd out of 40 cars at Talladega Superspeedway, thanks be to God.

-Karl Strauch



A SPECIAL MISSION SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 18 we welcomed Phil and Pratiksha Tyson and their son, Evan. They presently live and work in Katmandu, Nepal. Phil is involved in management of Beauty for Ashes, a business which employs women, making items such as jewelry to be sold abroad. Some of the women were victims of trafficking and others are widows who do not have another source of income. The virus lockdown made the past year difficult but in the fall they had an opportunity to make yak Christmas ornaments, which helped to fill the gap. Pratiksha works for Love Justice International, which works in two ways. One way they work is to have people at transit points to intercept girls who have been lured from their villages with the promise of jobs, only to be trafficked into prostitution or other kinds of slavery. Pratiksha is focused on children's homes. Orphans are placed into a home with parents and around 10 children. They are raised together as a family until they are grown and on their own. The government regulates these organizations very strictly. It charges large fees believing there is US support, and wants to limit the amount of Christian influence, which makes the work more difficult.



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

PARTING THOUGHT:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I will trust." Psalm 91:1

Pastor: Randy Heacock

randy.heacock@doylestownmc.org

**Pastor of Prayer & Pastoral Care:
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

Pastor of Worship & Administration:

KrisAnne Swartley

krisanne.swartley@doylestownmc.org