

NEWS & VIEWS

August 13, 2023

Volume 22 No.8

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

Doylestown Mennonite Church is experiencing transition as we give our blessing to Kris Anne and her family for the next steps in their journey forward. We grieve as we say our good-byes and some of us may be wondering what our worship will look like without her leadership. Change is often difficult and we may wonder what God has for us to learn.

There is a purpose for us to exist as a congregation and I believe it is for the kingdom of God to be expressed in this time, 2023, and place, the communities where we live, worship and work. What that looks like and how it is lived out has changed a lot over the years, but the purpose of our gathering together has always been about being followers of Jesus and inviting others on that journey.

Going through any kind of transition takes patience. At Dock Woods our health care unit is undergoing a big construction project that is leading to some beautiful new spaces where residents are now living. As lovely as the new space is, it has not come without some people being upset by the change and feeling anxiety. It has been helpful for me to just listen to people talking about the adjustments needed, whether it is a resident, a staff member, or a family visitor. It is important to offer grace when someone is going through change of any kind.

Likewise as DMC is continuing our journey of following Jesus, we don't know exactly how that will unfold over the next several months. We need grace for this time. We do know God is a God of provision; God is trustworthy and we will have enough for the

work God has called us to, be salt and light in this time and place for God's glory. The MLT is committed to discerning God's leading and anticipates the congregation will participate in the process, especially over the next several months.

A group meets for Listening prayer once a month on a Tuesday afternoon and in our recent meeting, we each asked God the question: What do you want DMC to know during this time of transition? This is what I sensed God saying for DMC at the end of July when we met:

"Lift up your head and receive my delight in you, my chosen people. I give you confidence and boldness to worship and enjoy my presence. I give you confidence and boldness to pray for others, for healing and blessing. I give you confidence and boldness to take risks with me for my glory." These words remind me of Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

May we at DMC grow in our confidence in Christ even as we go through this next season of change. I close with a prayer I wrote and am praying for DMC from the words I received during listening prayer

"God, you have chosen and created us for your glory. We are grateful for your love for us as a congregation. Our confidence is in you, Christ. You are the same, yesterday, today and forever. Grow in us boldness to take risks with and for you, for your glory. Amen

Pastor Sandy

COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Judy Derstine 8/13

Cindy Balderston 8/17

Steve Landes 8/18

Sandy Landes 8/25

John Moyer 8/29

Anniversaries

Denny & Sue Bartels 8/9

Abe & Lorraine Landis 8/15

Glenn & Janice Wyble 8/15

Jim & Louise Baker 8/29

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Karen's Place has arranged these outdoor concerts for Monday nights 7 to 9 PM during the month of August:

- August 7 Basic Connection with Liz Collins and special guest Colin Wessel
- August 14 Eddy Mann Band with Wendy Schettig
- August 21 Call Me Found with Art Salfagno
- August 28 Prophet Priest with Corpus

Karen's place re-opens in October to celebrate our 25th year.

FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team (Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Aimee Gourley and Freida Myers) met in person at DMC on July 18. Our scriptural focus was Mark 6:6-13 about Jesus sending out his disciples two by two with no extra shirt or money. Jesus gave them authority to preach that people should repent and to heal the sick. But they were also vulnerable without food or money to take along. We continue reading Strong and Weak by Andy Crouch and talked about

vulnerability and authority. The author says "Our goal is to see others act meaningfully and take meaningful risks—to see both authority and vulnerability flourish in communities as small as a family or as large as a nation." We noted this connects with our church vision statement, "Taking risks with and for Christ." Our Care Team approved giving some funds from our compassion fund to a person in financial need. We started talking a bit about what it means to be a welcoming community. Some initial phrases included: a desire to follow Jesus, belonging, come as you are, transformation, learning about the way of Jesus, community. We concluded with prayer for individuals in our congregation. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22 via zoom.

Freida Myers for the Care Team

THANK YOU From the Swartley's

Thank you all so much for the personal expressions of thanks, the beautiful scrapbook and bulletin board, the gift certificate, delicious cake, the "Jon puzzle"... and all the love! Special thanks to Sue, Mary Lee, Joyce, Dave and others who coordinated the celebration. Our hearts are full of gratitude to this dear congregation, for all of your support and care over the years. We will miss you all so much and hope to connect in other ways around the community going forward. DMC will always have a very special place in our hearts; you are precious and have been a true gift to us!

Love, KrisAnne, Jon, Heidi, and Ben

A THANK YOU

A big Thank You to Angel and Sandra for the work they do to make our Church Picnic such a success. The grill meister and his right-hand helper are on their feet for hours, sweating over a greasy fire, turning out delicacy after delicacy. Not to mention the prep work ahead of time, making rice and sauces, packing up gear, then cleaning it all up. We are spoiled!! Thank you, Angel and Sandra!!!!

FROM THE LIBRARY - Book Review

This is an easy-reading, interesting 172-page book written by Mary Leatherman's brother-in-law Andy, the 3rd of 4 children born to John and Catherine Leatherman (Lois, Bill, Andrew and Steve.) Andy's older brother Bill married Mary. A plethora of photos in this book make it a relatively quick read. This listing outlines the first 20 years of Andy's life up until 1961 when he began to keep a written journal of his conversations and relationship with God ...

- 1936 – Parents were Mennonite missionaries
- 1941 – Andy was born in Tanganyika
- 1945 – furlough back in PA for one year
- 1946 – went back to Africa
- 1950 – back to PA for 2nd furlough
- 1952 – took freighter back to Africa
- 1953 – baptized on Easter in Bumangi
- 1956 – back to PA for schooling in Lancaster
- 1958 – Eastern Mennonite College
- 1961 – began writing a prayer journal

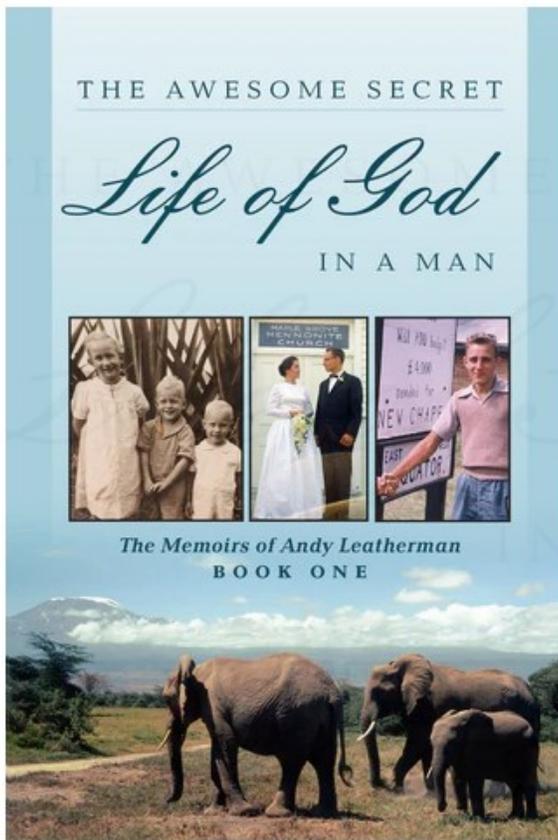


Here is a photo of Andy, his wife Dot, and Mary Leatherman at Mary's in June 2023.

Those are just a few of Andy's notes in his first 58 pages. The 114 pages after that describe his life up until 1980. Andy's personal relationship and unique adventures with God are summarized in his Introduction on page vi and his Forward on page vii which is a word from the Lord that was given to him in 1999. Andy wrote this "Book One" in 2022. He is still very much alive at 82 today and is currently working on "Book Two" and "Book Three".

As a contemporary of Andy's, born to a nomadic family in the same year, I can relate to many of the things that he described in this book. I am impressed by his thoughtfulness in beginning a diary and faithfulness maintaining it for so many years. I accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior a decade later than Andy did, but never thought about keeping a journal like his. I wish I had done so. Our Omniscient Father, God, knows everything about our relationship, but I do not have any written notes to refer to, just some very precious memories. Thank God, He gave us His Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth (BIBLE) to go by. May God richly bless you as you look toward Him, strengthen your relationship, and peacefully work toward that day when we will all be together in heaven.

- Karl Strauch



FROM SOCCER CAMP

On Saturday July 15th and 22nd, we hosted our annual DMC soccer camp. Thinking back, I believe this was actually the 10th year we've hosted this free camp to the community (we started in 2012 and skipped '20 & '21). So a special THANK YOU to Cesar for the idea back then and leading it for all these years!

This year we again had a great turnout with about 40 children, with many returning from previous years. We had great weather on both days and had the children break into groups of similar ages and ability levels for skills instruction. They all had a great time learning from the coaches and competing with the others. We took a break during the sessions to learn a lesson around the theme scripture Psalm 5, 11-12, which the children were engaged and sharing their perspective. For the 2nd of half of the sessions, we had more soccer instruction & competition, and then wrapped up the sessions with pizza, then prizes those who memorized the verses.

We had many volunteers from our congregation who made this a success, as well as other friends who've helped coach for several years now. Even some parents who want to help out next year. So thank you to everyone who helped make this outreach possible! We also set a travel record this time with Jeffrey's nephews joining us from San Francisco

Kendrick Garrido



FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE - July 30

There were three locations to choose from.

A group led by Sandy Landes went to lead a service at Harborview, a rehab facility located in Doylestown. The group led in singing, and read scriptures. Sandy led in a communion service, which was greatly appreciated by certain of the residents. They were very responsive to discussion questions and enjoyed visiting afterward.

A group led by Jon and KrisAnne Swartley went to Redemption Church in Bristol to create an outdoor labyrinth, do cleanup and electrical work inside and landscaping outside.

A group coordinated by Steve Landes worked at Pinebrook. They were splitting wood for campfires, weed-ing flower beds, washing windows and other housekeeping tasks. They said it was a good time.



CHURCH PICNIC - August 7

This year's picnic began with the worship service on the basketball court. At the end there was a special time of recognition for KrisAnne and her family. Words of appreciation for Ben were shared by Don Heckler, for Heidi by Mary Leatherman, for Jon by Judy Garrido and for KrisAnne by Mary Lee Chittick. A scrapbook compiled by the congregation with additional gifts was presented to KrisAnne. The picnic meal was the usual great food, ending with a big sheet cake to top off the other desserts. Children enjoyed the pool and adults enjoyed the fellowship. It was a good time, but we are sad to be sending off our dear friends.



Deadline for submitting items for the September News & Views: **August 29th**

PARTING THOUGHT:

You are salt for the earth, O people, salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people, life in the city of God
You are a light on the hill, O people, light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people, shine for the kingdom of God!

--Marty Haugen, 1988

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