

NEWS & VIEWS

June 7 2020

Volume 19 No.6

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

For several months, a popular quote has been running through my mind. It is a quote that I am not sure of its origin. In fact, when I searched on the internet I discovered that while many have used the quote, there is no consensus who first articulated this quote. Some say it was John F. Kennedy, others Edmund Burke, and still others say John Stuart Mill. Here is the quote: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Naturally, we would quickly clarify that the phrase men is to represent people.

It is very disturbing when great tragedies are done to other humans. Right now our society is being threatened by civil unrest in response to George Floyd losing his life while in police custody. The behavior of the officer who caused his death is appalling to me. However, his behavior is not what I find most disturbing. It is the behavior of his fellow officers who watched for not 10 or 15 seconds but for over 7 minutes as George Floyd cried out he could not breathe. Had the video showed them intervening to save Floyd's life, I am guessing we would be seeing a different response.

That which enables evil to triumph is for good people do nothing when blatant evil is done in front of them. In every scandal that has ever been uncovered, there have always been good people who did nothing. This is a human problem that impacts society, church and family that threatens us to the core. Sexual scandals have plagued churches of all denominational affiliation, theological perspective, size and ethnic makeup. Physical abuse has destroyed families of rich and poor, educated and uneducated. In most of these situations good people knew bad behavior was happening but said and did nothing.

In my conference work, I hear many stories of one individual railroading decisions and causing all kinds of havoc in congregational life. Again, the common denominator is that many good people do nothing. I hear of business owners who are less than ethical in the way they run their business or the way they treat employees. Christian friends know and talk about it but do nothing.

The apostle Paul would say this ought not to be so. I am not suggesting that we become judgmental and critical of one another. I am suggesting there is a time when we stand up and say, "Not on my watch." Particularly those of us who have been given power need to speak and act in ways communicating that we will no longer keep silent in the face of evil. I pray for us a church to begin to learn to use our voice and our power to no longer let evil have its way.

-Pastor Randy



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

BIRTHDAYS

Garry Landis	6/1
Charles Snyder	6/1
Camille Garrido	6/5
Noah Gidley	6/6
Justin Christiansen	6/10
June Histan	6/15
Dave Zuzack	6/15
Ronda Histan	6/21
Ray Swartley	6/28
Rebecca Landes	7/1
Gary Garges	7/2
KrisAnne Swartley	7/5
James Beyer	7/6

ANNIVERSARIES

Randy and Nancy Heacock	6/5
Karl & Cindy Strauch	6/15
John and SarahFaye Moyer	6/16
Don and Kathy Heckler	6/20
Cesar and Judy Garrido	7/1

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

No events are planned for June and July. We now anticipate to still have our August Monday night concerts. Starting in August we will be live streaming all of our Karen's Place events.

A LOOK AT THE PRAYER GARDEN

The Outdoor Prayer Garden at DMC received a spring spruce up with the help of Tim Landes, who found the new chairs quite comfortable. The space provides a respite for anyone passing by and a mailbox to drop off prayer requests. Stop in sometime this summer to enjoy a relaxing place to sit and pray.

Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

CARE TEAM NOTES

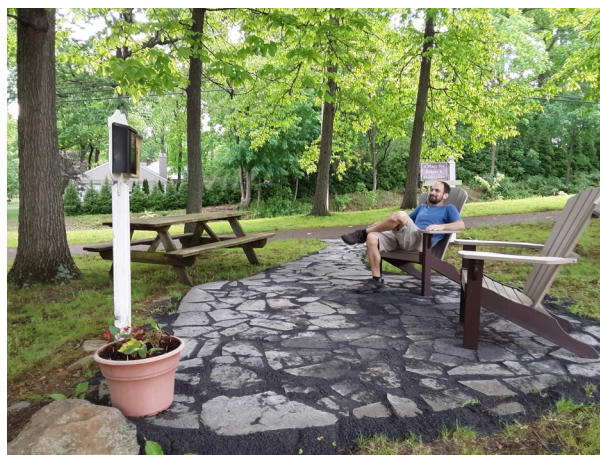
The Care Team met via zoom on Tuesday, May 29, 2020. Pastor Randy, Kendrick Garrido, Robin Miller, Pastor Sandy and Freida Myers were present. After checking in with each other, we read Philippians 1:1-11, where Paul, writing from prison, expresses thanks for the ways God is at work in the people of God even as he is separated from them. We too see how God is at work among us as we live through this pandemic.

The Care Team would like to encourage the congregation to continue to stay connected to each other. Might there be someone you could reach out to? Perhaps take a look at the church directory and see who God puts on your heart. (Don't forget people of all ages!) What if we pray for that person and then send them a note, a text, an email or gave them a phone call to let them know how the Spirit led you to pray? Let's see how God is at work among us!

We discussed the Compassion Fund and how God may want us to share during this time of need. Please reach out to any Care team members if you have financial, relational, or other needs. We seek to be stewards of God's grace with confidentiality and wisdom.

We prayed for individuals and families as well as our congregation to know God's leading for our next steps of reopening. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30.

Sandy Landes, for the Care Team



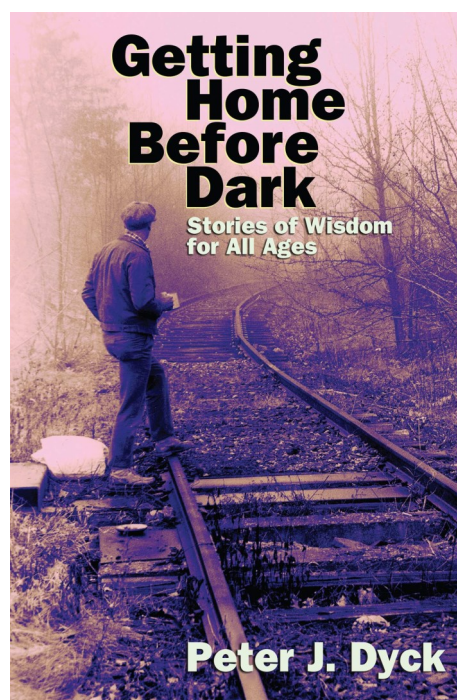
FROM THE LIBRARY- Book Reviews

When Lightning Strikes by Hugh Alan Smith is a short “historical fiction with a touch of romance” book about a young Russian Hutterite boy who often dreams about going to America but then is suddenly orphaned in 1874 when a bolt of lightning strikes both of his parents. This is a truly captivating, easy-to-read book consisting of 34 short chapters in only 170 pages (an average of only 5 pages per chapter). Both of us thoroughly enjoyed this very inspiring book which coincidentally gave us more insights into some of the types of situations our ancestors may have faced as they also emigrated here from Europe back in the 1700's and 1800's. Definitely a “must read”.

The fugitive - Menno Simons by Myron Augsburger is a very comprehensive, almost 400 page, historical novel about the life and writings of Menno Simons (1496-1561), completely dedicated follower of our Mennonite way of life. Somewhere back in the days when I was going to school, someone taught me that every good book or story describes a change of personality in the main character of the story. (The only exceptions to that would be God our Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are always the same.) Menno grew up in a town where everyone was Roman Catholic. He served as a young altar boy, entered a monastery, was ordained as a priest, and assigned to a Dutch church. Menno subsequently questioned several Catholic rites and began to earnestly search the Scriptures to find out the basis for those rites. Okay, that summarizes the first 62 pages. Pages 63 through 392 are a fascinating narrative of the real changes that occurred in Menno and the amazing things that he did as a faithful disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. If only we were as dedicated as he...May God richly bless you as you read this book.

Getting Home Before Dark - Stories of Wisdom for All Ages by Peter J. Dyck is an inspirational book that includes 53 thought-provoking stories in 273 pages (an average of just over 5 pages per story), so it is as easy to read as the Reader's Digest or one chapter of the Bible. In other words, if you are busy and only have a few minutes to read at any moment, you can sit down, read a story or two, and then reflect on what you have just read as you go about whatever else you may have been doing before taking that brief break. The author, Peter J. Dyck, worked for many years with the Mennonites Central Committee on projects all around the world. He is still very active at the age of 85 and offers profound insights as to ways that we can continue to grow as disciples and serve the Lord. As Pastor Jerry K. Robbins stated succinctly in the book's Forward, “Dyck's greatest contribution is his advice on how to stay in good religious shape in spite of advancing age. He shows us a way to keep one foot on earth while reaching out to eternity with the other, a spiritual balancing act of extraordinary finesse, strength and beauty.” I'd really enjoy discussing this book with you after you read it, too.

-Karl & Cindy Strauch



THOUGHTS FROM JOHN MOYER

I miss getting together with my church family on Sunday mornings. This past Sunday we commemorated Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus with power as He had promised. Jesus told his disciples to spread the word of God; starting right where they were and to go out to all nations. Today, because of the virus epidemic, we are asked to 'stay in place' and not gather together in large groups because of the possibility of spreading the coronavirus. Do you think this may be God's way of urging us to a new approach to spreading and sharing our faith in God to all nations? We are equipped to do that! We have the Holy Spirit that gives us opportunities to serve those around us right where we are. We have telephones, e-mail, Zoom, Facebook and so much more, to point people to Christ. I feel that God is telling me (us) that we should use these methods to share God's love, mercy and justice with others.

I feel that we must earnestly pray for God's forgiveness, mercy and healing for the people and this world that He created. He knows our weaknesses and our tendency to resist changes. What should our 'post-pandemic churches' look like?

I cherish the fellowship at Doylestown Mennonite Church and I also appreciate the ways that you have reached out to my wife and to me as we moved to Souderton Mennonite Homes and during this time of separation. God Bless you, and Thank You!

John N. Moyer

Deadline for submitting items to the July 5 News & Views: **June 23**

PARTING THOUGHT:

How can we be silent when we know our God is near,

bringing light to those in darkness, to the worthless, endless worth?

How can we be silent when we are the voice of Christ, speaking justice to the nations, breathing love to all the earth.

How can we be silent as we turn our eyes away and ignore the poor and broken who lie bleeding in the streets?

How can we be silent when we're called to heal and serve in the image of Lord Jesus,

who has stooped to wash our feet?

None can stop the Spirit burning now inside us

We will shape the future, We will not be silent.

-Michael Mahler in Sing the Journey

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