

Doylestown Mennonite Church

VIEWS

PASTOR'S PEN

Pastor Randy did not write a "Pastor's Pen" article this month. We have been appreciating the series of sermons based on four aspects of community life: Affection (Generous Affection), Trust (Trust in Spite of Disappointment), Mutual Sharing (Level Ground) and Accountability (coming up), all under the 2016 Theme of Communion-ity, Learning to Live Together. We look forward to hearing more.



SOME SPECIAL DATES

BIRTHDAYS

Mary Lee Chittick	5/6
William Fennell	5/9
Kendrick Garrido	5/13
Jennifer Gidley	5/13
Ethel Rush	5/16
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

ANNIVERSARIES

Derrick & Naa Garrido	5/19
John & Sally Landis	5/26
Brandon & Jacquie Landis	5/26

KAREN'S PLACE

May 7 - Against the Slate

They are Ryan Bakert and Walter Kondratowski, friends since they were college freshmen. They want to reach both secular and sacred communities with songs that share their struggle against sin and their hope in relationship with God.

May 21 - Simple Tenants

CARE TEAM NOTES

From the Care Team for May 1, 2016 newsletter

The Care Team met on April 18. Psalm 22 provided our scripture focus. We read this long chapter which begins with grief and lament but then ends in trust and praise.

Randy updated us on some ways we have been using money from the compassion fund.

We continue to offer an extended time of prayer during the Sunday school hour the first Sunday of the month and scheduled care team members for June.

We reviewed chapter 9 in The Emotionally Healthy Church about grieving and loss. We talked about our losses and also some losses others in the congregation have experienced. We made plans to share things we have been learning in a skit about some healthy ways to grieve our losses. We prayed for some in the congregation who are facing extra challenges now.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 23, at 7 p.m.

Freida Myers for the Care Team, which includes Sandy Landes, Randy Heacock, Bill Leatherman, and Robin Miller

FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

Partnering with God continues to meet on a monthly basis here at DMC with two more meetings scheduled, Saturdays, May 15 and June 11, 8:30 am – 10:30 am. It is fine to come even if you have not attended yet. It has been a rich time of learning and practicing together.

Kris Anne Swartley writes about the April meeting:

“A group gathered on April 23 to consider what it means to practice “Opening our Eyes to Everyday Possibilities,” as we partner with God. We considered our distracted culture and our tendency to get wrapped up in our own busy lives and schedules so that we miss the people around us. We reflected on Jesus’ interactions with people, even when they interrupted his life. Then we went out to the places around DMC and practiced noticing people and places. We shared our experiences and questions with one another upon returning. We asked God to keep us aware of those we share our community with each day.”

The next meeting on Saturday, May 14, 8:30 am – 10:30 am will focus on “Inviting God to transform our Daily Habits and Challenges.” One of the good things about these gatherings has been the freedom to bring our questions and wonderings into these discussions. Consider what your challenges are in partnering with God in your daily routines and bring those to our next meeting. Your input will help to enrich our conversation and learning together. These equipping sessions are intended for everyone and we encourage everyone to consider coming out to our next session on May 14. Please RSVP to Jenni Garrido in the office that you plan to attend.

Prayer Together moves to a regular Thursday evening for the month of May. We will meet to pray as the worship team practices at the same time, lifting them up in prayer as well as personal, congregational and community needs.

Thursday, May 5 is the National Day of Prayer and we will meet at 7 pm – 8 pm in the Upstairs Prayer Room to pray for the local emergency services, schools and health care

centers here in our community. **Prayer Together** is an informal time of praying silently, aloud (as you are comfortable), sharing and scripture. You are invited to come and join together with others in prayer.

Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

THE COMFORTER PROJECT

Over 20 more comforters have been completed and are ready to be delivered to MCC for shipping to needy areas. Again this week we have heard of more tragedy in the world, more people injured and homeless.

From the Library:

Summary of The Impossible Dreamers: Secret of the Lost Colony

by Heidi Swartley

This book follows the story of Lindsey, Andrew, Ben and Thomas Jefferson (T.J.) Wakenoris. T.J. is Lindsey, Andrew and Ben's home school tutor. T.J. has a lot of insight to provide in the lives of his three students- even beyond just the textbook truths. And while this is recognizable, there are some textbook truths that may prove to be more helpful than what any of them originally anticipated, especially when it comes to history.

Lindsey and Andrew are siblings, and Ben is their cousin. Lindsey, and Ben alike, are doing very well under T.J.'s careful instruction. Lindsey has even grown to enjoy it, quite a bit. However, Andrew is a very different story. He is difficult, and teases his sister for relishing her classes so much. The rift between himself and T.J. only grows when his world is upturned because of T.J., or rather his world is his no longer.

During a lesson on Roanoke (The Lost Colony), T.J slipped into one of his sleeping spells. Every once in awhile, T.J. would suddenly just fall asleep. It didn't have to be for any particular reason, for it was the result of a rare disorder called narcolepsy, and not the result of a boring lesson he was required to teach. Lindsey immediately felt she should wake T.J. up. She attempted to bring T.J. out of his dream and back to reality, but she only found herself in the same dream - or maybe reality is the better word- T.J. was in. And if it was a reality, it was a very different reality than the one she had known before. Eventually, all three of T.J.'s students were in this strange new place. And that place, they found, was the same place they had been studying just minutes before- Roanoke.

T.J. didn't know how to handle the situation, and neither did his 3 students- who in this reality were his children. They braved the trials of that day's time. It was tough. Each of them had a lot of learning and growing to do. How were they supposed to fit in and meet the impossibly hard expectations of fellow settlers? T.J. gave the best advice he knew- trust God. Each of them had trouble actually following the advice, though they knew it was just what would save them. And it was the only thing that they could do when the disaster that destroyed Roanoke struck.

It's easy to tell (though I refuse to spoil the ending) that this story embodies something we are all called to: to trust God in the midst of crazy. This book not only brings to light that calling, but also does an amazing job of incorporating adventure and suspense with these facts of life. I encourage children- and even adults alike- to explore this novel.

Heidi Swartley

REMEMBERING WILLARD & MARION GROSS

Willard left us on April 4 at age 93. He and Marion were married for 67 years. They are remembered for the many ways they served us during their married life, especially by the friends of their own age and the young people who grew up with their children. They were dearly loved by many, who were always greeted by Marion's smile and ready laugh, and Willard's friendliness. For a number of years they were youth sponsors and accompanied them on retreats. Willard was a caring husband who assisted Marion in many ways as she gradually lost her eyesight. He loved to tell stories and enjoyed telling about getting to know Marion after she broke through the ice while ice skating; he rescued her, carrying her up to her room. In earlier days he was involved in farming, then worked for many years as a truck driver. He loved hunting and training his dogs to hunt pheasants, as well as ice skating, ice hockey, golf and RV camping.

His funeral was held on Sunday, April 10. At that time memories were shared by his family. Son Jack remembered how his Dad helped him find a career and get the training to become an electronics engineer. Daughter Pam remembered that she and Joel as children played in the old pickup truck on the hill - headed for the pond. She remembered his stories which contained all the details, modeling his faith, his great work ethic and sacrificial giving in his care of Marion. Daughter Cyndi spoke of learning to drive on a tractor with her mom's poodle. Son Joel remembered times of conflict with his Dad as a youth but when he reached his 30's he saw him as a man who did the best he could with what he had. There was honesty, excellence, truth-telling, courage and loyalty. Those who knew them were blessed by their presence.



Deadline for submitting items to the April News & Views: May 31

PARTING THOUGHT:

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found,
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn
Let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.
Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Anonymous 9th century, Translated Omer Westendorf 1961

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