

NEWS & VIEWS

October 6, 2024

Volume 23 No. 10

Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

Nancy recently harvested her sweet potatoes from the garden. Harvesting always includes two discoveries. First, did any moles destroy the potatoes and secondly, how well did the plants produce? A third less important learning is the unique shape of the potatoes. I believe this year's harvest was average. One thing that is not a mystery when Nancy begins digging up the plants is the type of vegetable she unearths. For example, she never anticipates finding an apple or a pumpkin underneath the ground. Nancy always harvests the fruit of the vine she has planted. We understand this as a basic law of nature.

In a similar way we are instructed in Galatians 6, that we harvest what we plant. If we plant to the spirit, eternal life is harvested. If we plant to the temporary nature of this world, we will harvest corruption. This is not to suggest that there is a cause and effect to all of life. However, it does invite us to plant with confidence, trusting the spirit will produce that which leads to life. This life that is promised often takes years and even decades to appear.

Though not limited to this, the reality of harvesting what one plants is often evident in our relationships. I have had the privilege of observing this in a variety of relationships.

When my daughters were young, I would comment that my mother would do anything for them. Whether that was sitting on her lap or playing a game together, there was no question of her love for them. She also encouraged and instructed them to live a life honoring to God. As my daughters matured and began living on their own, they made regular trips to visit their Grammie. In these past few years, I found myself saying the same thing about my daughters regarding my mom as I said about her towards them. They literally would do anything for her. My mom commented frequently how good my girls were to her. I simply said, "Mom, you reaped what you planted."

This is but one example of this promise from Galatians 6. I am aware that what we plant does not always produce the harvest during this life time. However, I do believe our relationships routinely produce what we plant. As you observe your relationships and what you are harvesting, regardless of your stage in life, consider what you are planting. What and how will you plant that leads to life? When you don't see the desired harvest, will trust you God to guide you to keep planting that which leads to life?

- Pastor Randy

COMING UP ...

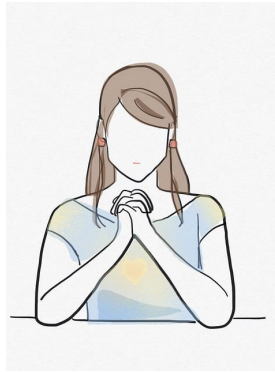
SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Dean Bartels 10/6
Glenn Wyble 10/6
Sierra Ryan 10/9
Mike Ryan 10/10
Freida Myers 10/17
Lisa Reiff 10/19
Abram Landis 10/21
John Landis 10/24
Karl Strauch 10/28
Nancy Heacock 10/31
Denny Bartels 11/1

Anniversaries

Garry & Cyndi Landis 10/12



FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

During the month of September, our prayer practice focused on the words of Jesus, inviting us to come to Jesus with our burdens. One of the thoughts that was shared as we gathered to discuss the prayer practice was the tremendous gift we have in the body of Christ to lift us up in prayer when we are carrying heavy burdens. We may find it difficult to stop and share a burden with each other for prayer.

A very accessible way for us at DMC to ask for prayer is to make use of the prayer usher ministry available here every Sunday during worship. Whether you have a burden or a praise, a problem or a joy, the prayer ushers are simply there to listen and bring you to the throne of grace.

The prayer ushers follow guidelines that help them to protect confidentiality, to focus on prayer and not to give advice, and to listen to the Spirit to guide them as they pray.

You are welcome to visit the prayer ushers as life brings you challenges and wonderings, joys and sorrows. I trust you will be blessed!

- Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Karen's Place reopened on October 5 with Red Words, a band with less-than-traditional sound that seeks to draw in those less likely to pursue a spiritual path – a sonic signpost pointing to Christ.

Coming up:

* October 19 - Our 26th anniversary celebration, a big event with prizes and giveaways, featuring Jim Winder and the Race, known for his adaptation of Pilgrim's Progress and journey to the celestial city. They have performed at Karen's Place many times.

* November 2 - Vanessa Milanesi, an award winning singer, songwriter and artist from Bergen County, NJ.

BON VOYAGE

On Sunday September 22 we held special prayer for Gideon Youssef and his daughter Madison, who left on September 30 for Egypt, Gideon's home country. He will be going to the Coptic Christian Church of Cairo with relief supplies and also help with food assistance to an orphanage called The Mother of Peace. Members of the congregation helped with some of the funds for these needs. It will be Madison's first visit there. We're looking forward to hearing a lot more about this trip!



FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE

It was another Fifth Sunday opportunity to spread God's Word through service in the community. One group led a worship service at Harborview Nursing Facility in Doylestown Borough, attended by a very responsive group of residents. They particularly enjoy singing hymns and fellowship afterward. The one-on-one attention and conversations with DMC guests is treasured. They were also offered the opportunity for individual prayer and a copy of the Bible for anyone who wanted one. Hopefully our presence helps them know that God loves them and they can trust in that knowledge. A few led a similar service at Neshaminy Manor in the afternoon for those who attend the Bible class led by Karl Strauch. It had an enthusiastic welcome by around a dozen people.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, a team of hearty landscapers spread six yards of mulch on the playground, and raked and tidied up the prayer garden and Broad Street walkway. Those wheelbarrows and rakes were cookin'! The group even had a visit from Daisy the border collie, who enjoys a run almost daily on our open property.

Our enthusiastic teen group, with help from some "old teens", held a very successful car wash. The Lord graciously provided a 3-hour span of cloudy but dry weather, and the soapy buckets and brushes got busy, washing community members' and DMC'ers cars. It was a good workout for all; DMC has the shiniest cars in town, and the kids collected \$395 in donations. The proceeds will be donated to A Woman's Place, a very respected local organization that provides programs and services to individuals experiencing domestic violence, their children and the community.



A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE



This summer I took a trip to my Grandfather's home country of Guatemala. During my stay, I learned a lot about the different but beautiful culture of Guatemala. I volunteered at an orphanage for people with disabilities, and it amazed me how the people lived their lives. Though they had a lot less than you and me, they still seemed to be more content than most wealthy people I know.

- Layla Garrido

FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

This year was a challenging one for the volunteers at the community garden, but still a rewarding one. The prolonged drought this summer, combined with the excessive number of 90-degree days, were not the best growing conditions.



Still, we were able to grow a colorful lettuce crop in the spring, along with snow and snap peas, asparagus, onions, beets, carrots, cabbages, kale, and many pints of strawberries to contribute to two area food pantries and the local senior citizen center. In the summer, we grew red and yellow tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, green and yellow beans, watermelons, green and yellow squashes, winter squashes, potatoes and eggplants.

The heat did affect the ripening of the tomatoes, with some tomatoes staying green on the top and inside of the fruits. Now that the weather has cooled a bit, we are trying more lettuce, kale, cabbage, and broccoli. Total donated poundage so far this year is over 2,500, and more items are yet to be harvested.

The garden is tended by about 15 volunteers, with some people helping out multiple days a week, and others pitching in occasionally when they have some time. We make our own compost to use on the raised beds, too, using shredded leaves and other plant materials.

- Ellie Reader

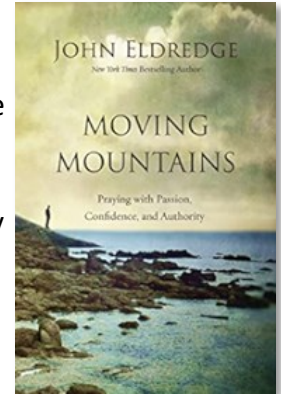
A VISIT FROM THE TYSONS

September 22 was a Mission Sunday. Guests that day were Phil and Pratiksha Tyson with their son Evan. They reported that they moved earlier this year to the US, settling in Virginia. They left Nepal but continue to be involved in the work they were doing there. Phil worked with Beauty for Ashes, now called Himalayan Freedom Company. He had been responsible for the financial affairs of the organization, which provides income for otherwise impoverished women who had been trafficked or were at risk of being lured into slavery by traffickers who promised jobs and income. They produce various small items sold internationally. Before leaving Nepal Phil trained a local person in the day-to-day affairs of the business, and continues to provide support and advice. Pratiksha continues with her job remotely. She works under an organization that has people stationed at exit points to find and rescue those who are being lured away by traffickers. Her own work is the running of homes for needy children.



FROM THE LIBRARY

Moving Mountains (Praying with Passion, Confidence, and Authority) by John Eldredge is a good, challenging book from the prayer section. Eldredge says that “The elephant in the room is this: some prayers work, some prayers don’t, and there is a reason why.” Another quote is “Jesus wants us to become his disciples in knowing how prayer works, to deepen our understanding of how God works in the world and how our prayers can make a difference.” A few chapter titles are: The Cry of the Heart, Bold Authority, Daily Prayer, Listening Prayer, and Praying with Scripture. Eldredge’s favorite scripture to pray for himself and for those he loves is Ephesians 3:14-19. He details how he prays that scripture and concludes by saying, “As you read through the Scriptures and something grabs you for yourself or another person, pray it! It will be fun to search through the Bible finding the prayers prayed over you, finding all the wonderful promises given to us as believers, and then praying them!”



His chapter on the prayer of intervention includes his story of how there was a wildfire in Colorado which jumped lines and moved with great speed. He fled the house with fire approaching. Days later when able to return to their home, he saw that the grass fire had burned right up to the porch. But the major assault had not crossed the property line. Reports of the fire crews left him speechless. A veteran fire chief and a handful of wildfire ‘hot shots’ had gathered on our street to stand in wonder as they witnessed something they had never seen before. The one-hundred-foot wall of flame should have swept down our summer-crisp hillside and engulfed our home in a matter of seconds. But it did not. Every time the advancing fury approached our property line it wavered, hesitated, and pulled back. The raging furnace would not cross our property line. It would advance, then retreat, advance, then retreat—though the winds were at its back and the fire had just covered miles in a manner of minutes. We realized it was at that same moment, three days earlier, that a friend had texted us saying, ‘I saw an angel, above your house, spreading its wings and flapping them against the wind and the fire. I think you are going to be okay.’” He believes an angel and prayers miraculously saved his home and that of another pastor’s home. He knows many of the men and women who were praying for him and his family. - Freida Myers, Librarian

PARTING THOUGHT

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. - II Corinthians 9:6

**Deadline for
submitting items for the
November issue of News &
Views: **October 29, 2024****

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