

NEWS & VIEWS

September 6, 2020

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Doylestown Mennonite Church

PASTOR'S PEN

The votes are in! I want to thank all those who sent in their prioritized lists of conversation topics. The combined totals came in as follows, with one being the highest priority.

Theological

1. Creation and Science
2. Eschatology
3. Christology
4. Calvinism/Arminianism
5. Soteriology

Issue

1. Nationalism
2. Racism
3. Individualism
4. Consumerism
5. Social Media

Our focus for September will be creation and science. The first Sunday of each month I will address the topic via my sermon. Throughout the rest of the month there will be four different opportunities to join a discussion group. The goal of these discussion groups is to increase our ability to have meaningful conversation. We want to provide safe places for people of all ages to freely express their personal convictions. Making sure we hear and understand other points of view will be critical.

The thrust of these conversations will be from our Anabaptist Christian faith rather than from a political or educational perspective. While we will not try to develop one common understanding, we will name those areas in which there seem to be agreement. We will also identify ways to build up the community of faith as well as speak words of caution to one another. A summary of each group will be distributed to the congregation at the end of each month. It is expected that an individual participate in only one discussion group in a given month.

The following topics will be addressed with the corresponding month as follows:

Nationalism—October

Eschatology—November

Racism—December

-Pastor Randy



COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Abigail Zeo	9/3
Narges Bonyad	9/3
Aimee Gourley	9/7
Christian Zeo	9/8
Susan Bartels	9/17
Janice Wyble	9/20
Ben Swartley	9/21
Donald Heckler	9/24
Joyce Zuzack	9/25
Betty Good	9/28
Glenn Wyble	10/6
Dean Bartels	10/6
Heidi Swartley	10/8

Keller left his position with a church to follow God's leading to start a church in Ft. Myers, FL. Those first two years were very difficult for him and his family but they depended on God and the church grew immensely. Lest some of us feel we don't fit into his narrative of someone called to do great things, he points out that God may call us to minister to one person or help in one small way. He encourages us to throw off whatever excuses hinder us from doing what God calls us to do.

I enjoy the Grace Chapel Inn books published by Guideposts. Each author follows three sisters who manage a B & B next to Grace Chapel where their father had been pastor. They have many interesting guests. Eight different authors wrote the ten Grace Chapel Inn books in our DMC library. A list of these books was posted in the library at the beginning of the library section so you can find them more easily. Keep reading.

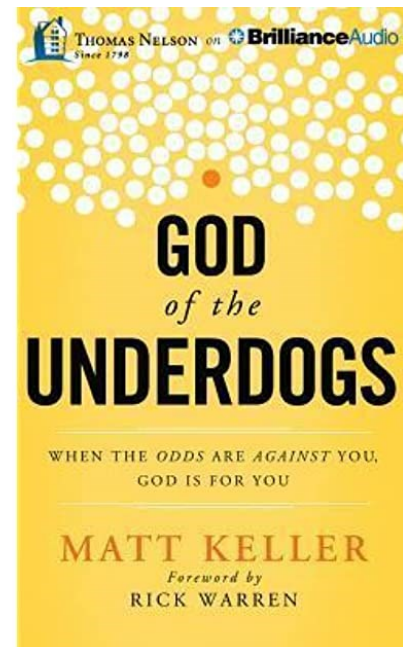
Freida Myers, Librarian

Anniversaries

Mark and Lisa Reiff	9/15
Robert and Suzanne Schwabe	9/25

From the Library: Book Review

God of the Underdogs by Matt Keller is a challenge to anyone who may sometimes feel like an underdog. The subtitle of the book is "When the odds are against you, God is for you." Keller uses Biblical characters to demonstrate different excuses not to do something, i.e. Jacob whose reputation was too scarred, Moses who was insecure, Gideon whose resources were too scarce, David who felt unqualified, Paul whose past was too bad, John the Baptist whose dream was too radical.



MY SUMMER AT SPRUCE LAKE

For those of you who don't know, I worked this summer as a counselor at Spruce Lake Day Camp in the Pocono Mountains. God provided for and protected our ministry this summer in ways that I cannot express in words. However, I do hope that this story will give you a taste of how God was working at Spruce Lake this summer:

One way we encouraged good behavior in my Day Camp group was our sticker chart. Kids earned stickers for doing kind things like holding doors, sharing, and using good manners. After earning five stickers, campers could pick from the golden prize box. The prize box had yo-yos, bouncy balls, toy cars, parachute toys, and lots of other exciting items. In addition to those items, the prize box also had pocket-size Bibles. On his last day of camp, one of my campers picked a Bible from the prize box. He flipped through the pages, and I noticed how small the words were. I asked him if he had a bigger Bible at home, and he told me that he didn't. I offered to give him a bigger Bible that he could keep and take home with him. Because he was still learning to read, he wanted to know if the Bible would have pictures. I told him that I could find him one with pictures. He dropped to the floor with excitement, and pure joy washed over his little face.

When I came back to our room with a Bible in-hand, the first thing my camper wanted to know was which picture in the Bible was God. He wanted to see and know God. Oddly enough, my camper had opened up to the story of Moses. Since "Pharoah, Pharoah" is a Day Camp song favorite, I sang a little bit of the tune to him and showed him which picture was Pharoah and which was Moses. I told him the whole story of crossing the Red Sea and pointed out each of the characters in the pictures. My camper watched and listened attentively.

As a counseling staff, we are taught that we will not always get to see the fruit of our labor. We are merely planting seeds. However, there are moments that remind us of the powerful impact we can have on our campers and how God is moving in and through us. This was certainly one of those moments. And while my camper did not see a picture of God in his Bible, I was certainly seeing God as I had that conversation with him.

-Heidi Swartley

REMEMBERING JENNI

The funeral service for Jenni Garrido was held on August 22 - a sad but beautiful occasion in celebration of her life with fruit and flowers and many precious memories. We can hardly believe she is gone so soon, having died on August 7, shortly before her 33rd birthday. Her devoted husband Kirk and dear sons Alejandro and Juliano are left without the special person she was. She is greatly missed by all her extended family and many friends.



FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE

Thirty one of us showed up at Pinebrook at 10 am on August 30; Steve Landes was ready with a list of projects and promptly assigned a job to everyone. This is Karl's report:

The idea of devoting the 5th Sunday of a month to driving over 60 miles, working all day cleaning buildings, doing yard work and performing a variety of other chores at an 80-plus year old Retreat Center and then driving over 60 miles back home again seemed worthwhile but would require a lot of effort. By contrast, driving only a few miles to church, singing several hymns, contemplating several passages from the Bible, praying together and hearing an inspirational message requires relatively minimal effort.

Now that all of our Sunday morning worship services are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week on our DMC Facebook page, though, we can now be doubly blessed by serving God with our friends in worthwhile ministries such as this Day of Service and also enjoy every moment of our weekly worship service at our convenience afterwards. As an added bonus to this service ministry, we can also sleep very soundly that 5th Sunday night after having just used a number of muscles that we have not used in a very long length of time.

Everyone who participated in our August 30th Day of Service at the Pinebrook Christian Retreat Center in East Stroudsburg was richly blessed by the experience. We also have a much better understanding of the resources that are available at Pinebrook and a deep appreciation of the staff's challenges, goals and wonderful ministry opportunities there.

God created Adam and Eve to be fruitful, multiply, and tend the garden and everything that He had created. It is obvious that God also created the Pinebrook and Spruce Lake Retreat Centers to assist in bringing people of all backgrounds closer to Him. It was suggested at the beginning of this Service Day that we focus on Him and everyone who would be coming to Pinebrook as we each did all of our various tasks that day. Several of us were especially blessed by joining Sandy in a prayer walk around Pinebrook near the end of the day.

-Karl Strauch



CELEBRATION OF A MARRIAGE

These days, it seems one after another couple reaches the special milestone of 50 years of marriage. On Saturday August 29, Glenn and Janice Wyble drove to the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Kate and Kyle Phipps. They were surprised to see an unexpected number of cars parked by the house. In addition to their own family and grandchildren they found inside some of their own siblings, maid of honor at their wedding, a friend from Glenn's Honduras service and a number of church friends. Some had come from the Lancaster area of their youth, including Charles and Grace Snyder.



DEADLINE for submitting items to the October News & Views: September 29

PARTING THOUGHT:

We are bringing you good news.....turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. ...He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

-Paul, in Acts 14: 15-17

Pastor: Randy Heacock

randy.heacock@doylestownmc.org

Prayer Minister: 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

Minister of Worship & Administration:

KrisAnne Swartley

krisanne.swartley@doylestownmc.org