

**PASTOR'S PEN**

I hope you have benefitted from participating in Simply Praying that we have encouraged these past few months. I trust that by focusing for an entire month in a particular way of praying that habits will be formed that will shape and guide one for years to come. This month I want to focus on a verse of scripture that I first used over 15 years ago to ground myself. In many ways, praying this verse was the beginning of my personal transformation in how I approach and practice prayer.

The verse is Psalm 51:10. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." This verse comes from a psalm of confession written by David after being confronted by Nathan regarding his sin with Bathsheba. The great king could have become defensive but he trusted himself to the mercy of God. Clearly this chapter is written in the context of an ongoing relationship.

As you seek to develop your relationship with God, for this month I encourage you to pray this simple verse. Often we focus on what we need to do differently, however, this prayer invites us to allow God to work in our lives. Consider that rather than trying harder, the best thing we can do is to trust God to work within us. This prayer is not to change any of our circumstances but rather for God to create in us the

right attitude and approach that we are to have in dealing with our circumstances.

What if we prayed this prayer 3 times daily for the next month? What if rather than checking our phones for updates, we quietly offered this prayer? What if when facing challenges or conflict, we invited God to put a right spirit in us? What if when we are anxious about a loved one, we ask God to cleanse us?

Even as I write this article I am encouraged by what God desires to do. I am convinced we will witness transformation if we actively pray this verse. I pray that as we are reminded of this simple yet powerful prayer, that we will act and invite God to do the work in us that God desires to do.

Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

Pastor Randy

## COMING UP.....SOME SPECIAL DATES

### BIRTHDAYS

Judy Derstine	8/13
Jenni Garrido	8/15
Steven Landes	8/18
Alejandro Garrido	8/25
Sandy Landes	8/5
John Moyer	8/29
Abigail Zeo	9/3

### ANNIVERSARIES

Denny & Susan Bartels	8/9
Abram & Lorraine Landis	8/15
Glenn & Janice Wyble	8/15
James and Louise Beyer	8/29

### OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

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

August 5	Dana Isles & Facedown with Joe Mirales
August 12	Eddy Mann with Lee Goldberg
August 19	Travis Lee Band with Liz Collins
August 26	Regenerated Soul with Wendy Schettig

### FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care team met on July 23 with all members present: Randy Heacock, Robin Miller, Freida Myers and Sandy Landes. Kendrick Garrido joined us by conference call. We discussed the words of Jesus in Matthew 5 to love our enemies. While it may be difficult to name "enemies" we acknowledged that there are people we avoid or distance ourselves from because of differing opinions or past hurts. It is through prayer and trusting in God's love for us and others that we can live with a loving attitude toward all people.

We continue to discern God's leading for the following: Compassion Fund (where might God be calling us to share with those in need?), Baptism and membership class (Randy plans to begin meeting with several people in the next month) and a series on Relationships led by John Drescher Lehman in the fall, The care Team always spends time in prayer for families and individuals within our congregation and are open to praying with anyone who is going through a transition or facing an important decision. Feel free to reach out to any member of the Care Team with questions or concerns.

We planned our next meeting for Monday, September 23.

Sandy Landes for the Care Team

## FROM THE LIBRARY

WHERE A MAN STANDS by Carter Paysinger and Steven Fenton is an amazing book. I saw a bit about what it was like to be a young black teenager in South Central Los Angeles who had amazing parents. One day as a child he saw a group of KKK men across the street and was afraid. His father said "...in the South they don't bother us and we don't bother them" and explained two kinds of racism: the overt kind and the hidden kind. His father taught him how to move on from slights and prejudice. His mother worked very hard and was successful in getting him admitted to a good school in Beverly Hills with mostly rich, white students so he could get a good education.

While his mother was a champion for her boys she required a very high standard. She taught him the importance of doing things the right way. Don't take shortcuts. Don't cut corners. His mother insisted he ask his friend Karen's parents about marrying her. His stern father-in-law appreciated that.

Carter shared that he and his wife Karen struggled with infertility and suffered through five failed adoptions until they were finally able to adopt a newborn son. Carter was very involved in sports. Even though his dream of being a professional baseball player did not materialize, the discipline and leadership he learned in sports and coaching were really good. With his friend Steven's help he was able to be elected as the first Black principal of Beverly Hills High; he made drastic changes to bring the school back to being a good school again with higher test scores than ever before.

He closes the book by repeating some of his mother's teachings: "Don't settle for just being good. Strive to be better. Strive to be great." It is a good book for men, sports lovers, or any of us; we all need family, friends and mentors to challenge and inspire us.

Freida Myers, Librarian

## FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

We meet together to practice listening to God for ourselves, our families, our congregation and our community. We have several prayer opportunities in our congregation that might be helpful for you:

**The prayer ushers** are available on Sundays during worship (they sit out during the sermon) to pray confidentially with you about anything on your heart, a need, a praise, a decision, etc.

**The prayer chain** is a way to invite prayer from the congregation for a specific need. Please contact Sandy Landes to share a prayer need or to join the email list so you can receive prayer requests.

**The bulletin prayer guide** is updated every week and you are invited to share a need or concern with the congregation by contacting Sandy Landes by Thursday eve to include in that week's bulletin.

Learning to pray is learning to know God.

Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister

## **SOCCER!**

During the last 2 Saturdays of July, we hosted our DMC Soccer Camp. This is a yearly tradition offering soccer instruction combined with Biblical teaching. This year, over 30 children joined us each day and we were happy to see several children return, as well as many new faces. Even though we had some really hot days, all the children came prepared with a great attitude to learn, exercise, and compete! The new pavilion worked great as a gathering place during breaks, as the kids learned how to apply the teachings of Jesus in order to have confidence & strength during challenging times in school and on teams. We had a great time with the kids during these days and were happy to be able to share this service to the community again this year!

Kendrick Garrido

## **To our DMC CONGREGATION:**

How could we ever thank so many of you who helped in one way or another over the time of Vernon's passing. This was true of the food that was sent in while the family was preparing for the memorial service, the flowers that were sent to the house and the church, and all the people that dropped by to offer help.

Also for the memorial monies that were received by DMC and MHEP. We were made aware once again of how caring this congregation truly is.

I know that many of you just pitched in at the last minute to help park cars, carry chairs and direct the overflow crowd that came to pay respects to Vernon the night of the visitation and memorial service. It did not go unnoticed by our family.

Most of all, we have felt the prayers ascending in our behalf and for the entire family. I cannot fathom how anyone can go through this kind of an experience without the family of God behind them and before them.

Thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Love,

Blanche, Jim, Rose, Sue, Bev and Carolyn and the whole family

From Susie Churchmouse

I never know when something exciting is coming. There's going to be another church picnic (to which I'm not invited!) and for the past two weeks there are children all over the place for the Peace Camp. Before that there were children around for the soccer camp. It wasn't exactly a joyful occasion but a few weeks ago the Althouse family was here for a funeral and shared a lot of interesting memories. I think I'm in a good place.

**DEADLINE** for submitting items to the September 1 News & Views: August 27

## **PARTING THOUGHT**

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2.



---

**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