

# NEWS & VIEWS

October 3, 2021

Volume 20 No.10

Doylestown Mennonite Church

## PASTOR'S PEN—

### Encouraging Discipleship

In the last 24 hours a friend said to me, "If I could retire today, I would." When I asked what makes his work so difficult, he clearly identified the following, "It is the increasing demand to be responsible for results in an environment with a decreasing amount of resources." I could easily feel his exhaustion. It is not that he no longer enjoyed the type of work he did, felt underpaid, or no longer liked his company. It was clear that the frustration came about because he felt overwhelmed from his work responsibility.

I sense this experience of being overwhelmed has become more common in the past few years. Whether it be caused by responsibilities at work, personal health issues, political conflict, or strains in relationships, many people seem to be rather frustrated and want an out. Our scripture focus for this month is most timely.

**Matthew 11:28-30** declares, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

For the rest of this month, I encourage you to place this passage in a place where you read it often. Read it focusing on how it is a real invitation from Jesus to you personally. Each week I will send out a reminder to help you focus particularly on one aspect of this invitation.

As we begin this first week, I want to encourage you to clearly hear who Jesus invites. How does Jesus qualify those who make the cut to be invited? It is not the most faithful. There is no testing of one's Biblical knowledge. One's intelligence or work history does not seem to matter. The only qualification is that one be weary and carrying a heavy burden.

Do you qualify? What burden have you been carrying that has become quite heavy? What daily task makes you weary? As you reflect on this passage, allow God to identify the burdens you are carrying that make you weary. Stay tuned for the rest of the invitation!

-Pastor Randy



## COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Dean Bartels	10/6
Glenn Wyble	10/6
Heidi Swartley	10/8
Mike Ryan	10/10
Freida Myers	10/17
Lisa Reiff	10/19
Abe Landis	10/21
John Landis	10/24
Karl Strauch	10/28
Nancy Heacock	10/31
Ron Miller	10/31

### Anniversaries

Angel Mejias & Sandra Maldonado	10/3
Garry & Cyndi Landis	10/12

## KAREN'S PLACE

The coffeehouse reopened on October 2 with Once Called Saul. Coming up:

**October 16** - Beauty for Ashes—Also celebrating the 23rd anniversary of Karen's Place

**November 6** - Wendy Schettig

## CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on Monday, September 20, 2021 and discussed the following items:

We opened our meeting with devotions and read the following: Luke 4:14-21. The team started reading a book called A Time to Heal by J. R. Briggs, and we discussed the first two chapters of the book. We also talked about how we participate in this Luke 4 scripture. God tells us that this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing and that now is the time to act. We pondered on how listening and sharing your own story may be what someone needs to hear.

We all agreed that there are many stresses in our society and our lives, they could be related to the pandemic, recent storms, family issues, and anxiety are just a few examples. In our study of this book we are learning...What does it mean to be a healer, God invites us to be creative, His ways are larger than we can even comprehend. We may need to change the way we do things in our lives and in our church, even go through a period of reorientation, and that certainly takes time and patience as we get used to new ways of doing certain things. Through joys and suffering God always walks with us!

We have a standing agenda item at each meeting to discuss compassion fund needs. Additionally we prayed for our congregation and for church members in need. We also talked about folks in our congregation who may need transportation to church.

Our next Care Team meeting is planned for Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm

-Robin Miller for the Care Team



## FROM THE LIBRARY– BOOK REVIEWS

### The Cat that God Sent by Jim Kraus

I recently read this book, which was recommended by Freida. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is the story of a young minister beginning a new position at a church in Western Pennsylvania. He is visited by a cat, who seems to know that he is in need of spiritual help. Jake Wilkerson, the minister, had been questioning his ability to lead a congregation, and to be a total believer in God, due to a situation at a previous church that greatly disturbed him.

The story has many humorous happenings. The cat has an uncanny way of helping Jake to regain his faith and become a positive leader to his congregation. The book is well written and fun to read.

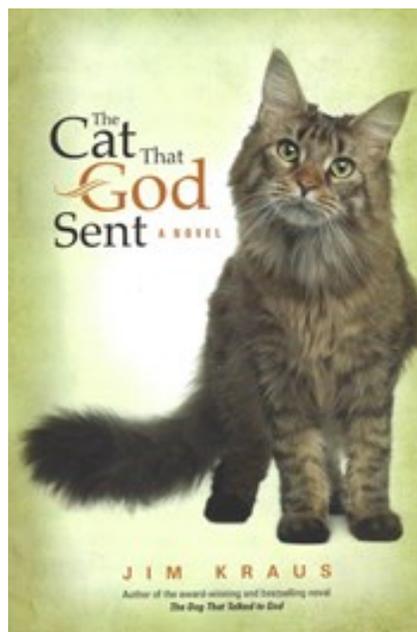
-Cindy Strauch

This is a delightful book about a young pastor who accepted an assignment at a small local church in Coudersport, Pa. Both my wife Cindy and I recently enjoyed this book and highly recommend it. The Bible contains a number of stories about God using animals in a variety of situations...such as bringing all of the animals to Noah at the ark, giving a ram to Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac, having a donkey speak to Balaam in Exodus 22, protecting Daniel in the lions' den, having the big fish carry Jonah.

Many of us have heard about incidents where animals have actually saved people's lives. Cindy and I heard about one at her high school class reunion last month, where one of her classmates credited his dog for saving his life when he suddenly had a heart attack. Coincidentally, one of our Purina pet food plants up in Canada has a Hall of Fame that credits a number of cats and dogs for saving people's lives. The things that those pets did in those situations are truly amazing. So are all of the things that God does to bless us and demonstrate how much He truly cares for us. This novel is accurately classified as fiction, but it would not be much of a stretch of imagination to consider it to be a plausible tale about a cat drawing people closer to God.

I'm not an expert on animals, but I worked for Purina for almost 30 years and my first wife and I had over 30 cats before she died after 54 years of marriage. Each animal definitely has its own purrsonality and I can easily envision God using at least one pet at some point in our life to draw us into a closer relationship with God, His Son Jesus Christ, and His Holy Spirit. Every life should have nine cats!

-Karl Strauch



## BOOK REVIEWS (CONTINUED)

Stories: Beyond Ourselves, by Edgar Stoesz

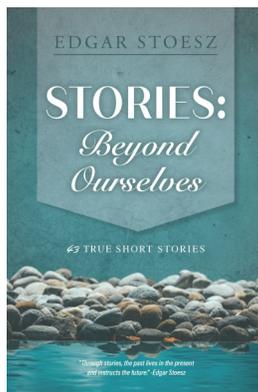
-Review by Lois Myers

Edgar Stoesz served Mennonite Central Committee in six different administrative roles over a period of 35 years. After retiring he continued his service on various faith based boards of directors, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Heifer Project, the Leprosy Mission and Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. He also served as moderator of Atlantic Coast Mennonite Conference. As a result of these involvements he traveled far and wide and met many interesting and influential people.

In this book he gives us a glimpse into the wider world of MCC and of people whom God used to do marvelous things. His short stories tell us something of what it was like to know them personally. Some are well known to us and others we never heard of. The work of MCC and Habitat and their people are described. In his job with MCC he traveled to the countries where work was being done and met the people involved at many levels.

On my second trip to South America in 2009, he was with our group from the World Conference in Asuncion to the Mennonite colonies in East Paraguay and the Chaco. We were privileged to have him telling us about the history and development of the areas we visited, well known to him from his involvement with MCC. I was personally able to see some of what had been accomplished between my visits in 1972 and 2009- 37 years.

Edgar's stories are delightful, each not over two pages long but packed with interesting details gathered over a lifetime of experiences. They can be read in any order, since most of them do not need to follow in sequence.



### PARTING THOUGHT:

“Come unto me, ye weary, and I will give you rest”

O blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed!

It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace and peace,

Of joy that hath no ending, of love which cannot cease.

-William Chatterton Dix, 1867

**Deadline** for submitting items for the  
November News & Views: **Oct 26th**

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