

# NEWS & VIEWS

February 5, 2023

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Doylestown Mennonite Church

## PASTOR'S PEN—

### Created in the image of God...

Steve and I attended a Christian Camping and Conference Association regional meeting January 24-26 at Sandy Cove Conference Center in MD. It was good to have a few days away from work and responsibility, but it was also good to connect with some of Steve's coworkers and hear the stories of what God is doing through the camp and conference center ministry. I went with the mindset of being a learner, not sure what God would have for me to learn.

The first workshop I attended was entitled, Disability and the Gospel. Stephanie Hubach began with an emphasis on our worldview. Beginning with a worldview that sees each person as created in the image of God, while at the same time living in a world marred by sin and brokenness, we can recognize the need for grace and truth as we relate to others and ourselves. Stephanie related the importance of treating all persons with respect and holding up their value, no matter what their disability. Seeing a person as created in the image of God also recognizes they have gifts to bring to the health and well-being of a community. Her son, Tim, who has Down's syndrome brings much joy to the customers at the local grocery store where he takes care of the carts.

I work with residents in a retirement community, some of whom are struggling with dementia. We encounter neighbors who have no faith in God and seem to be lost. We are discussing human sexuality in our SS hour and there is concern expressed about the many ways sexuality is lived out in our culture that don't seem in line with God's plan. Gun violence continues to take many lives.

As we ponder these ways that sin and brokenness are a part of our fallen world, how do we keep the truth of each individual being created in the image of God as "front and center?" How do I show honor and respect to the resident who can't communicate anymore due to dementia? How do I communicate God's love to my neighbor who seems to have no faith? How do we respond to the person who has very different views on sexuality? What role do we play in being persons of peace as we relate to others?

As Jesus lived among people, he constantly ministered to the humanity of each individual, always with love, often crossing cultural barriers and inviting each person's giftedness to shine. In what ways might God remind you that each person you meet is created in the image of God, but also living in a world marred by sin? Just as you and I carry the effects of our sin nature within us, so does our neighbor. The good news of the gospel is the transforming power of Christ's presence within us to share his love with a broken world, offering his grace and truth to each person, **who has been created in the image of God.**

-Pastor Sandy Landes



## COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

### Birthdays

Isaac Garrido	2/1
Jeff Buckwalter, Jr.	2/3
Jon Swartley	2/4
Mary Leatherman	2/26
Suzanne Schwabe	2/26
Coleen Ryan	3/3

### Anniversaries

Don & Judy Derstine 2/14

## KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

*Open the first and third Saturdays of each month,  
7:00-10:00pm, October -June.*

February 9- Patrick O'Connor

February 18- Patrizsha and the Soultierior Motives

March 4- The Stephen Bell Trio

## CARE TEAM REPORT

The Care Team met on Tuesday, January 17 via zoom. Present were Freida Myers, Aimee Gourley and Sandy Landes. Randy Heacock was serving in his role as a Leadership minister with another Mosaic congregation.

We are thankful for the presence and wisdom of Robin Miller on the Care team for the last several years. We met with Robin in December to pray blessings for her as she and Ron have moved to Maryland this fall. She asked us to pray that she would find a faith community where she can worship and be connected to other believers. At this time, we have decided to remain a group of 4 people and will discern in the future if we need to invite another person to serve with us.

At our meeting we read Romans 8:1-11, a text which describes living by the Spirit. We reflected on the freedom we experience in Christ. This text fits well with our theme for the year, "Spirit-produced fruit."

At each of our meetings, we review one part of our "job description." This month's focus is: *Such work will take varied forms, but it will always work at using the many gifted people within the congregation.* We are grateful to the Spirit for the many ways our congregation has been gifted to bring the kingdom of God here on earth. We seek to encourage and bless these gifts.

We reviewed the use of the Compassion Fund. As always, please speak to any member of the Care Team if you are aware of needs where we can make wise use of the money in our Compassion Fund. We always spend time lifting up individuals and families in prayer.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21.

-Sandy Landes

## ANOTHER 2023 THEME SONG

We're growing blueberries of love, joy and peace  
We're growing blueberries, trusting you'll send rain  
We're growing blueberries, Knowing you'll provide

1. Father, You've planted gift among us  
Talents for service, wisdom and care  
Bind us together in your love  
To make our differences your strength.

2. Jesus, you modeled life with the Spirit  
Balancing grace with self-control  
Give us courage against our fears  
For a freedom that makes us dangerous

3. Spirit, your fire drives us onward  
Chasing a more fruitful world  
Help us to know the risks we must take  
In bringing heaven here on earth.

Father, sprout our seeds!  
Jesus, light our way!  
Spirit, drench us in your love.

-Lisa & Mark Reiff

## FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

New addition to the library: [The Story of my Life](#) by Dale Lee Nafziger. Dale's subtitle is "To the 'Top of the World'...and Higher." Dale begins his story recording his birth in 1954, growing up in Vincent Mennonite Church, school days, with many close relatives.

He attended Pennsylvania State University, rode bike from coast to coast in 1974 and again in 1975. Upon graduation with a degree in electrical engineering, he considered going into voluntary service with Mennonite Central Committee. There were two job openings for engineers: one in Bolivia and one in Nepal.. He found the one in Nepal more appealing and accepted it. When he returned to the U.S. that first time he traveled extensively on to Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Rapa Nui, Chile, Peru to Miami. He attended graduate school. He does a lot of mountain climbing especially when family and friends visit in Nepal. He quotes Ed Viesturs: "Getting to the top is optional. Getting down is mandatory."

Dale includes a lot of meaningful quotes throughout the book. One time he quotes Don Jacobs' Proverbs, ten items "On How to Live Happily in the Third World." Many of them could apply to other situations. One is "Forgive yourself so you can forgive others. Never reverse the order. Blessed is the forgiven one."

Through friends he started corresponding with a young woman, Bethsaba Subba RN/RM (registered nurse/registered midwife). He was impressed and wanted them to meet in person which was arranged. After meeting her, he thought "There is one smart girl. I hardly feel like I deserve someone that good." He felt that Bethsaba was a natural nurse and in more recent years also sees her as a "natural church deaconess." Although short engagements were the custom in Nepal, he convinced the pastor that he needed more time for his family to travel from the States. Many family members came to their wedding on November 27, 1994. Dale's family support was wonderful throughout his time in Nepal.

There are many pictures throughout the book. He completed his book as he concluded his tenth term in Nepal from 2020 to 2022.

As Dale finishes the book, he says: "My prayer in recent months continues to be that of 'relationship building' with God, i.e., getting to know Him in an even more-intimate way. If I walk away from the past number of years having simply "solved" a problem... that will represent only a temporal gain. If, alternatively, I move forward knowing God more deeply, the returns will be perpetual."

-Freida Myers, Librarian

## TWO SPECIAL EVENTS

**January 1** The baby new year brought us a baby! Angela Mejias and Ryan Scholl brought their new daughter Catalina Danielle for dedication. It was a major event, with a number of their family and friends present.



**January 22** On the first mission Sunday of 2023 Dale, Bethsaba and Sushma Nafziger were with us for the worship service and an informal time of fellowship during the Sunday School hour. There was a presentation showing Mennonite Mission Network and their work and life in Nepal. Dale has been involved in business related to production and sale of coffee, and Bethsaba is one of the leaders of their church, now officially a deaconess. They brought copies of Dale's book about his life, which could be purchased with the aid of Sushma. The coffee business had suffered greatly due to competition and Covid and was officially closed. However Dale informed us that it has now been re-activated, in charge of daughter Shova in partnership with Dale, and with a plan for gradual transfer of interest from himself to Shova. Dale's book is a personal memoir of his life from childhood, to a term of service in Nepal, followed by committing his life to continuing service in Nepal. Dale, Beth and daughter Sushma will be going back to Nepal in a few months.



-pictured here are Dale, Bethsaba and Sushma Nafziger

## FIFTH SUNDAY DAY OF SERVICE

On Sunday Afternoon, January 29, a group of us went to Harborview nursing center for a service with the residents. The residents present were very responsive to the singing, and a short message focused on the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15. Several people acted out the parts of the story as it was read, which they enjoyed. They were eager to visit with us for a short time afterward.



**Deadline** for submitting items for the March News & Views: **March 7**

## PARTING THOUGHT:

Lord Jesus, I receive Your **Love** and release my insecurity. I receive Your **Joy** and release my discontent.

I receive Your **Peace** and release my anxiety. I receive Your **Patience** and release my impulsiveness.

I receive Your **Kindness** and release my indifference. I receive Your **Goodness** and release my ungodliness.

I receive Your **Faithfulness** and release my disloyalty. I receive Your **Gentleness** and release my severity.

I receive Your **Self-Control** and release my self-indulgence. Amen.

-author unknown

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**Pastor: Randy Heacock**

randy.heacock@doylestownmc.org

**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

**Pastor of Prayer & Pastoral Care:**

**Sandy Landes**

sandylandes1311@gmail.com

**Pastor of Worship & Administration:**

**KrisAnne Swartley**

krisanne.swartley@doylestownmc.org