



The Midweek

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Friends, as summer winds down I wanted to share with you the message from Sunday. It highlights our dream for the next three years as we seek to be a dynamic faith community growing in hope, love, and service . . .

The Rev. Samuel Wells, who served a number of years as the Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, shared a story about a class he taught while at Duke.

I once taught a class to a group of trainee youth workers. I was asked to speak on the Ten Commandments. I asked each person in the class to suggest an eleventh commandment. Most of the class came up with something involving the word "respect." As ever, one wise guy said, "Don't get caught." But one student offered something completely different. He said, "Live the dream." I regret to say I laughed, breaking all the rules of Teaching 101. I said, "Er, do you mind me asking which dream that might be exactly?" He said, "I'm not sure, but I still think we should all live the dream."

One of the most important gifts that God gives us is in this life, is the opportunity to dream. The dictionary defines this type of dream as an idea of something that has not come into being—it's something that is imagined that could be real. Today, I want to talk about the dreams that move us forward and give us purpose. I want to talk about dreams that make a difference in the lives of the people around us. I want to talk about dreams that change the world.

Let me give you an example, again from the Rev. Samuel Wells . . .

When the tobacco magnate James Buchanan Duke and the college president William Preston Few dreamed the dream of Duke University in the early 1920s,

they planned a grand chapel to crown the edifice—much like the medieval church builders who wanted to give the people something spectacular to help connect a struggling people to a magnificent, loving, and awesome God. Building Duke's West Campus and transforming what had been the small and provincial Trinity College into Duke's East Campus was a pretty remarkable thing to do. But building on Duke Chapel didn't begin until 1930, by which time America was plunged into the deepest and most notorious economic depression in its history. No one in 1930 was talking about the depression being simply a passing crisis. It was an overwhelming catastrophe. No one would have been surprised if Duke's West Campus had been left incomplete and the building of the chapel left for another day. But the founders of Duke University had a dream. At a time when everyone around them had lost all hope, they pressed on and built the incredible chapel pictured up on the screen, completing the construction in 1932 and the fine details in 1935. They did it in the belief that their vision could bring hope to the university, the community of Durham, and beyond. It was an unbelievable thing to do, and today it serves as beacon of what Methodists can do when we live into the Gospel. They built that chapel because they had a dream.

The scripture for today is short and memorable—where there is no vision the people perish. This comes to us from the King James Version and is the most often quoted translation of this verse. In the NRSV, it says, “Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint.” In the NIV, it says, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint.”

I would say where there is no dreaming, the people are anchorless. They are like a boat adrift on the waters of the sea, blown about by the winds, just waiting for a storm to come along and sink it. Without a dream, without a revelation from God, we are not going to be able to live into our potential. We might as well be lost at sea or checking off the days until we die.

When we dream big, we help to fulfill God's dreams too. God had a dream when God created the world in which we live. God had a dream when God created you. The Bible is filled with people living into the dreams that God has for them. Abraham lived into the dream of being a mighty nation. Moses had a dream of leading God's people out of oppression. Jeremiah had a dream of bringing the people home from exile.

Jesus lived the dream. His vision was to save the world and bring about the Kingdom of Heaven. The Gospel accounts are the recorded descriptions of Jesus living into this dream. The great thing about dreams is that they lead to action, and this helps people engage with something bigger than themselves. The founders of Duke had a dream that lead them to do something amazing during a hopeless time of desperation. Jesus also came to us in a time of hopelessness and desperation. He took his vision and gathered twelve devoted followers. He taught and disciplined them. He shared the good news, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and sacrificed himself for us. After rising from the dead, Jesus turned his disciples loose on the world and they found other followers and took the message of salvation to the ends of the earth. Friends, the world has never been the same.

I believe that God has given us a dream—a dream to be a dynamic faith community growing in hope, love, and service. We are to be a beacon of light in a

dark world and help people find an anchor in the ever shifting sands of our culture. I see this dream continually becoming a reality as we focus on the same things that Jesus did. Bringing people the good news, connecting them to God and one another, helping them grow their faith, and sending them out into the world. This vision is to make a difference in the city of Milford and the surrounding area. During the next three years, we are going to try to live the dream in a powerful way.

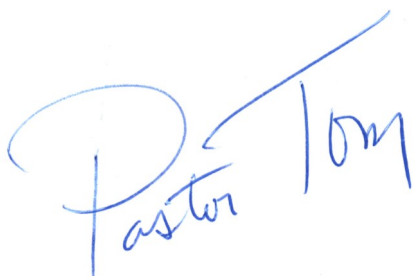
This year we are going to look to call people into a new relationship with God. We're calling it "**Fresh Start**" and it will focus us on bringing people to meet Jesus. Sometimes that will mean meeting Jesus again, but ultimately we want you to make a new start as we begin a new school year!

To focus on our Fresh Start, we will begin a brand new sermon series with the same name on September 18. This Fresh Start will help us dedicate or re-dedicate ourselves to following Jesus. This series and the others that follow it are being designed to encourage us to say yes to the Gospel and the free gift of God's amazing Grace. In addition, we are launching a new worship service on Thursdays at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This service will help bring us to Christ and nurture us as we get to know Jesus better. Throughout the year we will be looking at different ways to make a Fresh Start with God, a Fresh Start with one another, and a Fresh Start in our world. We pray that it will be a year that Jesus can transform us as individuals and as a congregation, will bring hope to us all.

Next year, we will be embracing a chance for us to grow together. We are calling it "**Get Connected**," and it will be an opportunity for to go deeper with one another and with God. We hope to do this by creating more additional Bible Studies that will be led by lay people in the congregation and also by developing a strong and healthy small group ministry. These small groups will allow the participants to get to know one another allow them to share openly for mutual support and accountability. These should help us to stay in love with God and develop a renewed love for that people that God brings into our lives.

Two years from now, we will focus on taking the learning we done out into the world. We are calling it, "**Sent**." Jesus sent his disciples and God will send us out to make a difference right here in Milford through special service projects, events and mission opportunities. This will be a year of emptying ourselves as Christ emptied himself for us.

In Matthew Chapter 5, Verse 14, Jesus says, "You are like a light for the whole world. A city on a hill cannot be hid." God's dream for us is to be a city on a hill. We are to be a dynamic faith community growing in hope, through Fresh Start, growing in love, through Get Connected, and growing in service through Sent. We are to go out and live the dream, God's dream, and watch it change us and the world around us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Tom". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Tom" is written in a more blocky, stylized cursive.



From the desk of Bishop Johnson . . .

If you See Something, Say Something

It is written all over train stations and airports: “If you see something, say something.” This slogan is an important safety mantra that reminds us that suspicious behavior of strangers out in public needs to be reported to the authorities. It can save lives and a million heartaches. However we don’t have to use this slogan only to mean the reporting of nefarious activity. If we see something good we can say that too! How often our hearts have been encouraged by a kind word or an unsolicited “thank you.” Sadly we are too quick to say something negative or speak up about things that are not going our way and we neglect to appreciate the carefully prepared communion table, the flowers in the front yard, the faithful clerk at the post office holding your mail while you have been on vacation.

I carefully follow bills that pass through the halls of our state governments that have implications for children, the poor, health, and social justice. Again and again those who work to lobby for human rights remind us to thank the lawmakers after they fight for a bill that brings a voice to those without power. Often lawmakers and public servants hear more complaints than commendations. Everyone needs encouragement from top to bottom.

If you see something, say something. Be like the Apostle Paul who reminds us: “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8) And then “say something.” Give a good word today!



Peggy A. Johnson

From our partners in Ministry: Jonathan & Donna Baker . . .

Wonderful New Relationships



*“So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.”
Romans 5:11 (NLT)*

God continues to teach us so much about life and our roles as Global Ministries missionaries. Every day it seems as if we are in God’s classroom! In our first 18 months as missionaries, one of the most profound lessons we have learned is about the importance of relationships: with God, with one another, with God’s people, and others who are part of the Body of Christ.

But what truly defines a relationship? Someone at the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship recently polled his friends with this same question. He received responses such as, “Relationships are what you build with people, nature, and creation. It is not a mere attachment with the other but it is a connection you nurture and renew every day because it needs to grow. Just as a rose needs her gardener and the gardener cares for her rose, all must mutually grow and find beauty in the other.” And, “A relationship for me, means an interdependence based on trust between two or more parties.”



The foundation for the new primary school has begun!



Dr. Chantal is just a few months Away from the completion of her Medical training.

From a missionary perspective, we would include “all of the above” plus a few more synonyms that describe relationship including:

Association

Connection

Affiliation

Liaison

Bond

Here are just a few examples of how God has been calling us to develop relationships here in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United States and all over the world and what happens when those relationships are valued and nurtured!

UMCOR – When a horrible storm ravaged the village of Diengenga in February, we “just happened” to arrive two days later, which was planned for months! Wow! God’s timing is amazing! And so, we were able to reach out to UMCOR and their disaster relief department for possible funding. Jonathan completed the very detailed application and it was approved! Just a few weeks ago, the funding arrived and the construction for the foundation commenced. It was a very, very exciting time for this village whose primary school had been destroyed. The ministry of presence is a huge part of our role as missionaries. It is a “Holy Spirit Moment” when everything comes together as it did with this project and it couldn’t happen without relationships. When the cornerstone was recently laid, Bishop Yemba inserted a Bible & Song Book in their native Otetella dialect and we sang “On Christ the Solid Rock We Stand” and, as we looked around, everyone celebrated that all leadership in this project: committee, architect, contractor, workers, and teachers were all Congolese! While one of our primary roles is to help, it is also to step aside and nurture the incredible leadership that is present just waiting for an opportunity to serve.

UMC Women’s Division – Did you know that no schooling, not even kindergarten is free in Congo? Can you imagine if your monthly salary equaled \$80 and you had six children and tuition was \$6-10 per month per child? And then your children pursue your dream for them to attend college! Wow! The tuition fees mount up exponentially! In the US we certainly can understand that. We recently learned that, through the generosity of donors over many years, the Women’s Division of the United Methodist Church provides scholarship opportunities for youth with goals for their life but do not possess the finances to move forward educationally. What a joy it has been to assist several students who are currently pursuing their dream but whose family income will not allow the completion. Here’s an example: Chantal, a UM pastor’s daughter had completed her medical school semesters. However, the family did not have the means to provide the final payment for her internship. Government rules require the internship to begin within twelve months of the medical school completion. Because of relationships, in Congo and in the US, a young woman has been able to complete her medical training with the goal of serving the church in the remote villages where today many medical centers have no doctors! Praise God!

And Chantal’s story is legion! Every day many very capable students share their dreams and challenges with us looking for God to help make a way!

Global Health – Some of you may remember the report from the 2014 Cataract Surgery Mission facilitated by the Congo Partnership. Over 4000 patients registered for the mission to be assessed by the three doctors and multiple ophthalmological technicians / nurses! We ran out of medications! So many of the patients presented with conjunctivitis, glaucoma, river parasites in their eyes, and infections, all of which required medications. Therefore, in preparation for the next cataract mission, we applied for a grant through Global Health to purchase medications and it was approved!

Champions for Christ - Recently, while in a remote village, someone introduced us to a young couple from Ohio who had felt called to build an orphanage in a nearby village. Their dream of adopting an orphan from central Congo rapidly evolved into the building of this orphanage when they learned that the existing facility presented a façade for trafficking of young children! The wife, a pediatrician specializing in intensive care, and the husband, an electrical engineer with a specialty in solar engineer became amazing resources for our ministries! Not only have they become good friends, including their two young precious children, but opportunities for us all to connect and enhance each other's work. Nicole graciously assessed and treated two little babies that had undiagnosable (to the local clinicians) problems. Awesome! And Will has now become a huge asset to multiple clinics who have difficulty with their solar or electricity sources. With screwdriver in hand, Will repaired the refrigeration system so that medications can be stored effectively. A very special aspect of our relationship has been Will's revelation as to his own 'ministry'. With the family's repetitive trips to Congo to oversee the construction of the orphanage and Nicole's research on malaria in children at local hospitals, Will resorted to functioning as the 'stay-at-home Dad' to homeschool the children. Because of our connection and association and affiliation, his engineering skills have taken on new meaning here in Congo. His high level education and experience bring amazing strengths and qualities to so many. And we were also provided an opportunity to be the liaison to them and the Mama Tola Social Program in Diengenga. This program educates young mothers (some as young as 12 or 13 years old) to care properly for their children, as well as vocational skills. Because Will and Nicole's orphanage employs a "family model" and the children will live in small homes with caring women, the staff of the Mama Tola Social Program are training these caring women. What an awesome opportunity for affiliation and bonding!

Relationships! God continues to reveal to us the importance of building relationship in Congo and when we are in the US sharing the story of the amazing things God is doing in Congo. While many projects of the Congo Partnership and Global Health consume our time, it is often in the "unexpected" moments that God's Spirit blows powerfully with opportunities to network and connect with God and others. It reminds us constantly that this is not *our* work, it is the *Lord's* work! Thank you for your prayerful support of us in our mission in DRC. Your love sustains us, your prayers carry us, and your financial support enables dreams to become realities. May God bless you with such joy knowing you truly are God's vessels through whom God's love flows into the world!



Be Inspired ... Be Transformed ... Become

Family Bonfire

Sunday Sept 4th

6-9pm

Bring Your
Family and a
Lawn Chair!

2600 Canterbury Road
Milford, DE

Benvenuto!

*Come, Join us to Bless & Celebrate
Sunset Cove's Tropical Oasis.*

Date:
September 5, 2016

Time:
2:00 P.M.

Address:
Sunset Cove, 3 Haven Lake Ave, Milford, DE 19963

R.S.V.P by:
August 29, 2016
302-422-1086

(We must have an accurate number of people attending.)

EAT AT HOMETOWN DINER AND SUPPORT THE AUXILIARY OF MILFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL!



10% Give Back Night at HomeTown Diner

First Tuesday of the month

611 N Dupont Blvd, Milford, DE

302-424-1100

(Next to Central Tractor Supply)

Come join us the first Tuesday of the month between 10 a.m - 7 p.m and 10% of your food receipt will be donated to the Auxiliary of Milford Memorial Hospital.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Proceeds benefit  **Bayhealth**

FALL KICK-OFF

CELEBRATION

Join us for the biggest Sunday of the Fall

Sunday, September 18

Worship 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00

Sunday School 9:30

Evening Picnic Celebration 5:00

Outside on the Lawn

Thursday, September 22

New Worship Service 6:30

Fellowship Hall

Join us for a **Fresh Start** this fall as we kick-off
a brand new year of ministry here at Avenue Church.
Sunday, September 18, is going to be a very special day.

Three choices for worship in the morning,
Sunday School for preschoolers through grade 5
and church picnic in the afternoon, featuring DJ B.E.S.T.,
inflatable games and mini-doughnuts for desert
made right on the lawn.

Then on **Thursday, September 22**, the new worship service
starts in Fellowship Hall.

May God bless this **Fresh Start**!

COMING THIS SEPTEMBER TO AVENUE **The Mispillion Children's Chorus**

All students AGES 6-12 years old
are invited to begin attending
rehearsals here at Avenue Church

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6th
Tuesday evenings 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Also available at the original rehearsal location:
The Milford Boys & Girls Club
Tuesday afternoons 4:30-5:30 p.m.

NO AUDITIONS!

NO FEES!

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!



*Just a commitment from parents and
guardians that students attend regularly
and participate in performances.*

QUESTIONS

themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com

Kevin B. Chamberlain (302) 422-8111

Sharon Starling (302) 422-2785



GriefShare is a network of 12,000+ churches worldwide equipped to offer grief support groups.

The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from your grief.

Learn more about GriefShare at www.griefshare.org

GriefShare

begins September 8th and runs thru December 8th
(barring any cancellation due to inclement weather)

Classes run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Meets in the Grier Room

Avenue United Methodist Church

20 N. Church Street

Milford, DE 19963

(302) 422-8111

www.avenueumc.com



Bishop's Dover District Day
September 15, 2016
Long Neck UMC
32051 Long Neck Road
Millsboro, DE 19966



Please plan on joining us as we welcome Bishop Peggy A. Johnson to the Dover District

Clergy Session - will start at noon with lunch and conclude at 3:00 pm

Lunch - \$7 per attendee

Note: this meeting takes the place of the September Clergy Gathering

Laity Session - 5:00 to 8:30 pm

includes dinner prepared by District Board of Laity



To assist in planning for this event, please respond to CMyers@Pen-Del.org by no later than Thursday, September 8th.

If you have any special dietary restrictions please let Cathy know when you respond.

Please specify if your response is for the **Clergy Session** or the **Laity Session** as we need headcounts for both sessions.



Be Inspired ... Be Transformed ... Become

God is Spirit and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.
~ John 4:24

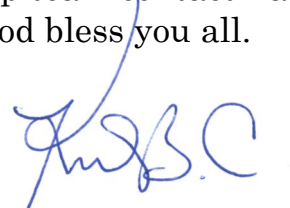
In the Spirit of the Lord, Avenue Church is getting ready to start a fourth worship experience. Beginning on September 22nd, this new service will be on Thursday evenings in Fellowship Hall. Start time is 6:30 p.m. and will last about 45 minutes.

So what's different about the Thursday program from Sunday worship and who is this for? It's for everyone! While we recognize that some people work Sundays or need public transportation that is not available on the weekend, this worship is not just for people who can't make it to church on Sundays. It's also for anyone who wants that midweek boost of spirituality and fellowship.

What makes it unique is that the service will be more introspective and reflective. The Word will continue to be at the heart of worship but the message will be contemplative. The music will be changing weekly and offer eclectic, new pieces. Some weeks may include acoustic piano and other services might have cultural aspects like instruments or melodies. It's also possible that the music will be a different type of genre altogether. There will also be plenty of time to pray.

Mark your calendars and come prepared to "be inspired . . . be transformed . . . become."

If you are interested in being part of the worship team contact Pastors Wendy or Kevin. Let any of us know if you have questions. God bless you all.



*Call to me and I will answer you
and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.*

~ Jeremiah 33:3

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

Saturday, September 24, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Conley's United Methodist

The theme of the 2nd Dover District Revival Prayer Day will be "Why Pray?"

Why do we pray?

Do you pray to be restored?

Do you pray to reach out to the nations?

Let's gather to listen to God's answers!

This day-long prayer session will focus on praise, worship, the teaching on "Why Pray", practice of corporate prayers as we lift up the Church, our country, the world, and one another, along with the Holy Communion and anointing. You will experience the power of prayer and spiritual breakthroughs during this event.

Come, and be blessed to see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

All clergy and laity are welcome to attend.

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5

Lunch will be provided by the Dover District Board of Lay Ministries.

Please enclose check, or money order and **return no later than September 17, 2016** to:

Dover District Office Attn: Cathy Myers, 30 Loockerman Plaza Dover, Delaware 19901

Please call the District Office with any questions at [\(302\) 526-2629](tel:3025262629)

Please print

Attendee's Name: _____

Church: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please note any special dietary requirements: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITAL VISITS: Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (302) 422-8111 when someone from the church is hospitalized.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is being offered at Avenue Church. An *Information Sheet with Authorization Agreement* is available on the table in Fellowship Foyer. Simply fill out the authorization agreement and return it to the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The following dates are available in **2016: December 4th, 11th**. If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Country Flowers. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: Barbara Vederose, The grandson of Mitch Carrara, Morgan Roberts, For the family and friends of Dorlene Fox, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Jim Greenly, our world for peace & acceptance of our differences, Jean Murphey, The Harold Meyers family, Paul Russel, Stephen Parons, Ed, Randy, Sam Wylie, Dylan Hilligoss, Gary Seal, Anita Price, The family of Arlene Veith, The family of Dawn Marcelle-Seagrave, Samantha, Mike, Joan Tolbert, Carmella & Richard Bergez, Keith Jewell, Jeanie, Madalyn Foxwell, Bill Gustin and Steve Zeveney.

Recently hospitalized: Charlie Clendaniel and Gary Seal.

Rejoice with: McKenzie Betts ,Tristen Collins and her new daughter, Ava Lyn and Charlie Clendaniel.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Cal and Ginny Clendaniel and family, Stephen Zeveny, Barbara Vederose, the fourth worship service, all who are getting ready for the fresh start to come, Ila, Paul, Sharon's two sisters and mother, a sister-in-law, Cynthia Fritz, Gary Seal, all the students heading back to school, all the teachers, professors, staff, administrators and support teams, Wayne Farissier, George Carey, Olga Slayton, Mrs. Killen, Troop 186 and Pack 186 and all scout leaders, Kathleen Shockley, our nation, Diana, Debra, Dina, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, all who suffered a loss of any type, Carol Evans' daughter, Jerry Jackson, David Johnson, Ronnie Wharton, Calvin Baker, Bill and Shannon and family, The Avenue UMC Praise Team and The family and friends of Madalyn Foxwell

Recently hospitalized: Cal Clendaniel and Ron Hearn.

Rejoice with: Brie and Lance Wyatt and the baby about to be born.

SYMPATHIES TO:

The family and friends of **Madelyn Foxwell** who passed away on August 25, 2016.

The family and friends of **Cal Clendaniel** who passed away on August 29, 2016. Cal joined Avenue Church on April 15, 1973.

Nancy Dickerson whose mother Catherine Killen passed away on August 28, 2016.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Ferd Nelson who will celebrate his **95th** birthday on September 6th.

Lida Wells who will celebrate her **93rd** birthday on September 8th.

MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULES:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Music Room

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Mispillion Children's Chorus

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

♪AveNotes

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? If you are interested in using your musical gifts here at Avenue Church please contact Kevin Chamberlain, kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com or (302) 236-1276.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY

On **September 6th** we will view "The War Room". On **September 13th** we will be doing cards and **September 20th** we will begin a 6 week study "Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed" with presenters Priscilla Shirer, Kay Arthur and Beth Moore. Please call Ginny Van Tine (302) 422-4282, Brenda Powers (302) 422-8821 or leave a message in the church office if you would like to join us. We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room.

UMW BOARD will meet on Tuesday, **September 6th**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room, upstairs. Please plan to attend this meeting to get all the latest information to take back to your Circle.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will meet Wednesday, **September 7th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2nd Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **September 12th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will resume its study of God's Word on **September 12th** at 6:30 p.m. with *The Patriarchs – Encountering the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob*, by Beth Moore. We welcome and encourage anyone interested to join our group. Please call Cheryl Pusey (302) 381-2474 or the church office by August 28th to register.

GRIEF SHARE: Regardless of the circumstances, grief recovery is a difficult and painful process. If you are hurting from the loss of a loved one, please prayerfully consider attending GriefShare—a Christ-centered, biblically based support group for people grieving the loss of a loved one. This 13-week cycle begins on **Thursday, September 8th** from 6:30–8:30 p.m., in the Grier Room. Please call the church office for additional information or to register.

BOOK CLUB: We will be meeting on **September 18th** at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Bring your lunch. We will continue to read "Finding My Way Home" by Henri Nouwen. New to the group read through page 85. If you were with us last year, then read pages 53-85. All are welcome.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) are ready to gather in small group Circle meetings and at large quarterly Unit meetings for the fall of 2016. If you are part of one of the Circles that meet on the third Tuesday each month in the morning, afternoon or evening, that is wonderful. If you would like to be part of a UMW Circle, please just come out to one of the meetings. We meet at 9:45 a.m. (Sarah), 1:30 p.m. (Mary/Martha) and 7:00 p.m. (Esther).

Check the weekly calendar to find the Circle that best fits your needs. UMW is about mission and working to enhance the lives of women and children, in particular. UMW serves, educates, loves God and grows in relationship to Christ. Too busy for a meeting, then consider the electronic circle (e-circle). E-Circle members are informed about meetings, service projects and have an opportunity to be a part of activities when you are able. UMW will be working with the whole church to expand our commitment to our missionaries, Donna and Jonathan Baker in the Congo. We have a new exciting project to participate in. Come join us. If you have questions, contact the church office.

OUTREACH

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Milford Community Pantry is so thankful for the folks at Avenue who support us with gifts of food, gifts of time and gifts of money. The need has grown over the years and currently we feed over 100 families every month. We are okay right now with our volunteer help but I will put the call out if that changes.

Let's make August and September CEREAL months. If we serve 105 families that means we use at least 105 boxes of cereal! You were so helpful last time we asked so this is our wish for the next two months. **AVENUE PRESCHOOL** has a limited number of openings for the 2016-17 school year. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31st. We are a Star Level 5, Delaware Stars rated program offering a high quality early education experience. For more information contact office@avenuepreschool.org or (302) 422-8111. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: www.avenuepreschool.org.

FIRST STATE HARMONIZERS: "An A Cappella Extravaganza IV" featuring the First State Harmonizers and The Pride of Delmarva Choruses. **Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** the Milford Senior Center. For tickets call Harry Humes (302) 422-8620 or Chuck Culotta (302) 236-5211.

CHRISTIAN MART: The Christian Mart (formerly the Mustard Seed) would like to invite you to stop in to browse the through the new store. More merchandise comes weekly, so come check us out. They are now accepting applications for a few part-time employees. If you are interested please stop in for more information. Located in Airport Plaza on DuPont Highway in Milford. (302) 422-8808

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	71	60
9:30	229	194
Sunday School	47	0
11:00	65	71
Total	412	325

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 9/4 ~ Communion

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Grier Room
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MONDAY 9/5 ~ Office Closed

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Webelos 2, Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 9/6

10:00 a.m. Archives Comm. Meeting,
Archives Room
 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,
Grier Room
 1:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room
 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting,
Conference Room
 1:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting,
Heritage Room
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team
Rehearsal, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,
Wendy's Office
 6:00 p.m. Pre-Diabetes Program,
Heritage Room
 6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,
Music Room
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts-Bears,
Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting,
Conference Room

WEDNESDAY 9/7

10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary
and Music Room
 4:00 p.m. Widow/Widowers Group,
Grier Room
 5:00 p.m. Instrumental Rehearsal,
Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. Webelos 1, Wesley Room
 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. New Service Rehearsal,
Sanctuary

THURSDAY 9/8

9:00 a.m. DCOM, Heritage and
Holzmueller Room
 9:00 a.m. Preschool Meet the Teacher,
Grier Room and Fellowship
Hall
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 12:00 p.m. MAMA, Fellowship Hall
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
 6:30 p.m. GriefShare, Grier Room

FRIDAY 9/9

12:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting Luncheon,
Fellowship Hall
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 9/10

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 9/11

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Grier Room
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

"A Dynamic Faith Community Growing in Hope, Love and Service"