



The Midweek

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

It has been an “interesting week” in the nation. I have heard from people throughout the entire spectrum of political beliefs about what President Trump has done and plans to do. Some are 100% in favor and others are 100% opposed. There are many others who fall somewhere along the continuum. But everyone says they want what is best for the nation. We just can’t agree on what that should be.

This is not the first time in this nation’s history there have been different opinions on the way we as a country should go or what our role in the global community should be. But I found something when I was researching material for my Scout Sunday sermon that I would like to share with all of you. Therefore, for this week, I am going to copy verbatim from “Strength for Service to God and Country.” It was originally written in 1942 and is a devotional first printed shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and was distributed to military personnel during World War II and the Korean conflict.

This specific devotion was written by Wilfrid A. Rowell of the Hinsdale Union Church in Hinsdale, Illinois and all credit belongs to him. I hope it speaks to you as it did to me.

When ye shall hear of wars and tumults, be not terrified...In your patience ye shall win your souls. – Luke 21:9, 19.

Dark days are upon us. We are beset by tensions, conflicts and devastating fears – for ourselves and our children, for America’s democracy, for our civilization and for Christianity.

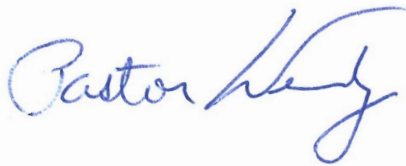
In the midst of these fears we turn to the Gospels to find the guidance of Jesus. He helps now to build a faith that conquers fear, a faith in God. Jesus bids us turn from fear of what human anger, hate and destruction can do, to the forces that are timeless and that

cannot change.

Jesus urges His disciples to exercise a patient endurance during dark days. This means a control over the intellectual life, a determination to keep a calm mind and to develop wisdom and good judgment. It means emotional control when our feelings of love and hate, of prejudice and fear, are deeply stirred. It means spiritual control which helps in mental and emotional control. The sources of this spiritual mastery lie in prayer, the reading and study of the Bible and in worship.

In these dark days Jesus calls us to a new faith in Him and His way of life, to a creative patience that keeps active a spiritual vision and a spiritual power, which in God's own time will make permanent a world of love and peace.

O God, we pray that in life's dark days we may have the light of Thy wisdom and the warmth of Thy love to guide and bless us. May we realize that we are never alone, but that Thy almighty strength is always available to us. Deepen our faith and empower our spirits to live and work for Thee and for the triumph of Thy kingdom of love and unity over all the world. Amen.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Avenue Family,

Erin and I welcomed our daughter Evelyn Rose McCall into the world at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb 8th! Evelyn joined us weighing 8lbs 6oz and measuring 20" long. Both Mommy and baby doing very well.

Erin and I want to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, well wishes, thoughtful gifts, and generous donations. Although we never expected such an outpouring of love, we absolutely appreciate everything our Milford Family has done for us in this time of transition. We feel very loved by everyone at Avenue UMC.

I personally want to thank the staff, leaders, and volunteers that have made it possible for me to take time off, from the ministries I serve in, to focus on transitioning Evelyn into her new (albeit, slightly colder) environment.

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you when I return!

-Pastor Cliff



Evelyn Rose McCall

February 8, 2017

8lbs, 6oz, 20" long



From the desk of our Bishop. . .

An Appeal to Conscience from Bishop Peggy Johnson
Reject Actions Banning Refugees and Immigrants from Muslim Countries

This week President Trump signed an order to suspend any immigration for at least 90 days to anyone from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. These are all Muslim-majority nations. In addition, this same order bars all refugees for at least 120 days and Syrian refugees until further notice.

In response, the Rev. Susan Henry Crowe, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society, issued the following statement: "As followers of Jesus we reject in the strongest terms efforts to halt refugee resettlement or impose a religious test for those facing forced migration. United Methodists around the world are loving their neighbors by welcoming refugees into their congregations and communities."

This action by our president does not make our country safer. People of ill-intent are able to enter our country by many other means and can also radicalize the people in our country who are not even from these Muslim-majority countries. Violence against Americans is not a teaching of the Muslim faith. This order from the president will likely increase the incidences of hate crimes being perpetrated against innocent, law-abiding Muslim people in our nation.

I urge you to have conversations in your churches about this situation, mobilize to write letters, speak to your senators and legislators, and most importantly pray. Pray that our country does not close its borders to innocent people who are living in dire and life-threatening conditions in their home country. Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger.
Prayer to the Immigrant and Refugee by Rev Michael C Johnson

O One who hears the cries of your people in bondage;
The One who feels the terrors of the oppressed;
You sent your beloved children out to seek freedom as refugees.
The nations through which they traveled were full of fear.
Those nations lost your favor when they showed no compassion
and closed they borders to Your people in need.
You would not let their holy prophets speak a curse upon them only blessings,
causing rulers to rage.

We join our prayers with Yours most Compassionate and Merciful
for immigrants and Refugees seeking a land of promise and peace.

Jesus, Refugee and Immigrant, hear our prayers for those like You:
For the children who cling tightly to their mothers for safety;
For the children who see the fear and determination in their father's eyes as they seek for
safety;
For the parents who watch their children suffer, hungry and cold.
You found a refuge where you could stay until the threat ended,
grant these others the same mercy from us.
Forgive our fears.
Forgive our prejudices.
Forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Show us how to repent.
Keep us from sharing in fate of the rich young ruler,
when we turn slowly away from You, our richest blessing.

Refugee and Immigrant God, who came wanting to dwell among us.
Hear our prayers. Amen.



Peggy A. Johnson

Bakers Congo Missionary January Newsletter



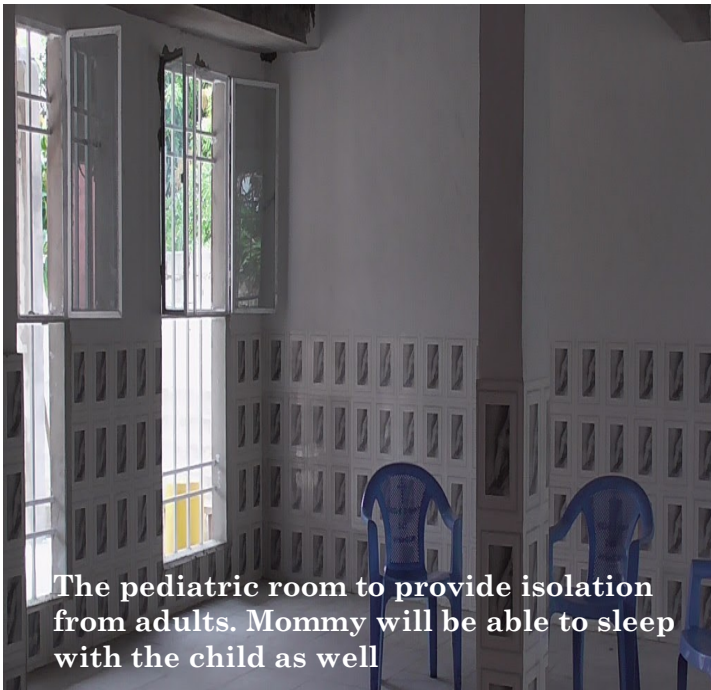
Dreams Turned into Blessings!

[Mark 4:8](#)

“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some **multiplying** thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

At the United Methodist International English Church here in Kinshasa, the pastor announces “Offering Time” and the people enthusiastically respond, “Blessing Time!” We must admit that we have not always thought about the passing of those brass plates in this way. Yes, we consider this as an opportunity to share a portion of the gifts the Lord has bestowed upon us, but a blessing? Now we get it!

When we give in response to God’s blessings in our lives, God takes our gifts, multiplies and uses them in ways we can’t begin to imagine. Our gifts become blessings to others. Every day we have the opportunity, as your missionaries, to see this lived out in Congo



The pediatric room to provide isolation from adults. Mommy will be able to sleep with the child as well



The assembly of the new surgical lamp.

We see blessings when we see the farm provide food for the hungry and starving and people learn to provide for themselves; When children, once skinny and malnourished, look healthy and happy because of the Partnership's nutrition programs at Miriam's Table & Mpasa. When a father, blind from cataracts, sees his wife and children for the first time in 10 years and sings Hallelujah.. Every day your gifts bring blessings.

Recently, we saw these blessings at the Mpasa Medical Center through the amazing offerings /contributions that have been made by so many generous folks, especially the Southeast District of Eastern Pennsylvania, which have been a vivid example of this! Wow! Those beautiful offerings designated to a 'Dream' for a new pediatric wing at the Mpasa Medical and Nutrition Center have turned into a Reality!!

On Thursday, January 19, we drove out to the Mpasa Center to visit and greet the staff, see the precious children and witness firsthand the progress of the construction. It was moving! We wept with joy when we entered the compound gate. It's going to be a beautiful addition to the already lovely facility and so many area residents will be thrilled to have access to so many resources.



The new addition will offer more comfortable space for patients to await their consultation. Even more importantly, children will be accommodated in a separate ward from the adults, as is the current situation. Also, there will be an isolation room for a child with a highly communicable disease. The steeply pitched open ceilings permit a wonderful flow of fresh air which is so important when the weather offers only heat and humidity.

Beyond the facility improvements, the purchase of additional medical equipment will allow the clinicians to provide even more sophisticated and high quality patient care. An incubator for newborns, especially the premature babies, will grant those children a safe environment for them to become stable and thrive. In the past, only a kerosene lamp provided the needed warmth for the premature baby! Also, an ultrasound for diagnostics, especially for pregnant women, presents an important tool to prevent complications during delivery and detecting issues such as ovarian cysts, hepatitis, and kidney stones.

And so, we extend to you a fabulous example of how offerings turn to blessings. That's how our God works!

Offering time, Blessing time. God takes our gifts and uses them as blessings for others. But then we are also blessed when we give. Offering time blesses us, gives us joy, a sense of making a difference knowing we have demonstrated our love for God and given out of our response to God's amazing grace. We are blessed knowing the difference God makes with us and our gifts. Twice blessed!

Offering time... blessing time!

Thank you all so much for your support of our ministry here in Congo, but especially to make this Dream at Mpasa Come True!

Extreme Nazarene Missions in Boise, Idaho



First Newsletter

by Kirb

I hope 2017 is treating all of you well! Many of you have hopefully been keeping up with me via my blog on Facebook, but this is my first email newsletter. Please feel free to pass this along and if there are more people who would like to be included let me know! My coworkers shared a website with me that should make this easier once I learn my way around and hopefully can send out these updates often. I do want to apologize for not getting a blog post out in January like I had intended, but I do hope that I will be able to utilize both of these venues in addition to Facebook, email, phone, etc. to keep up with most of you!

The good news to share with those of you who don't already know is that although I am not fully funded, they did approve for me to start working full time in January! That is a blessing indeed. I still have to work on fundraising on the side, but to give an update on that. I am in the realm of needing just under \$6,000 more in one time partnerships or monthly commitments of just under \$250 to be completely funded! I do ask that you continue to pray with me that the Lord will move hearts to complete this funding, so that it is not a stressor or detractor from my mission focus and job demands. I know we serve a big God who has access to all the resources we could ever need & I am very thankful that He continues to teach me this as He grows my faith and trust in Him!

The month of January has involved many many things for me. I spent the first week and a half finishing up some intensive training and was tasked with writing my first 20-25 minute message/sermon and presenting that to my coworkers. Overall, it was a positive experience despite the nerves, but a good safe place to begin practicing what getting in front of churches to share on a regular basis may look like. Something I need to spend time working on in February is preparing a few more messages with different focuses. I will sometimes be sharing with youth groups/young adult groups, sometimes with entire congregations, and occasionally at very specific gatherings like a youth camp/retreat where I will need a theme with several messages.

Another task in January involved beginning to make phone calls to churches in the Nazarene districts to which I have been assigned. These calls involve sharing who we are as an organization, a glimpse of our vision, a small bit about myself, and a request to come share at a Sunday service, if possible. I have received a few positive leads from all of those phone calls, but no solid bookings yet. I started in the WA PAC (Washington State) district as this is the closest one I have been assigned. This month I will begin calling churches in my two districts in California, Sacramento & Central Cal. I look forward to the Lord opening up the first specific date so I can begin the process of securing additional connections with youth and young adult groups in the area as well as making connections/meeting with other important pastors, leaders, etc. The goal is to make each trip as productive as possible by making connections and opening up conversation and opportunities for the future! Prayers that these connections would begin falling into place are much appreciated!

Another key element of my job is connecting with individuals who have expressed an interest in learning more about what being a missionary with Extreme Nazarene might look like. I have had the amazing opportunity to start this process with connections that came from a Facebook ad we ran over the holidays and a couple of local leads that were given to me. That is a blessing because normally I would not be able to acquire such leads until I have been able to book a speaking engagement and re-

spond to response cards from that event! I am getting to practice all facets of my job at the same time. Sometimes, that can feel overwhelming, but mostly it has been good to dive in full force!

It is still a balance figuring out how to manage all the various types of connections that need to be made, but I am thankful for the tools, software, and coworkers who are available to help when I am unsure of something. I have learned all about the importance of creating tasks for myself on our data entry program as well as document any timed events on my google calendar! These two things are incredibly important to help me stay on task and accomplish the juggling act of many different needs throughout the day.

Please check out the video and column below about our special event happening this summer called, Pedal to Plant! It is an amazing thing, which I am super excited to be a part of for about 3 weeks in July! I have been hard at work securing churches for my part of the route and continue to do so. I am prayerfully hoping to have all 3 weeks of connections, which are my responsibility, confirmed by the end of February or very early March!

It has been a very tough month on a personal level, the details are not something I can share here, but I do want to remember also that God is and has been good to me in many ways this month. I want to share a few things of those things with you. I have officially been here in Idaho now just about 3 months (this is crazy to think about sometimes), but the Lord has already provided me 2 churches to attend regularly with the option of trying out several more any time I wish. The church group I am attending on Sunday nights is primarily young adults on fire for the Lord. I have been so blessed to join this group as they seek the Lord with passion. Several of my coworkers also go to this group, but I am also developing some other friendships from individuals that attend. During this extremely hard month, it has been clearer and clearer, that even though I've been here a short while, doors of opportunity for community, friendships, and meaningful connections are available and growing all around me! This is such a blessing as I often begin to feel lonely and isolated when crisis/trauma is happening on a personal level. Another amazing thing is that I was seeking a counselor for over a month, but with my extremely limited budget there did not appear to be any options I could financially afford. I sat down and looked at my very specific budget quickly realizing none of the counseling options I had been presented with would work for even a once a month session. This was something I strongly believed I needed currently and the Lord has provided, yet again! I was not only recommended a counselor who has been extremely gracious working with me in the financial status (which I was almost embarrassed to have to present), but has now seen me 3 weeks in a row and helped tremendously through this most difficult month! Jesus is certainly good to me and provides at just the right time, never too early or too late! So, despite the extreme difficulties of this month, I have had my eyes opened to new and positive friendships, the community of church, the assistance of counseling, & the approval to work! Overall, not as bad as it could seem if I only looked at the hardships of this month. Another reminder of just how much perspective matters!

I want to wrap up for now and will try to send out another newsletter like this very soon as well as keep up with my blog better in the month of February as I learn to balance all of my work tasks. Please use the links below to connect with me on Facebook, my blog, email, etc. I would love to hear from you and to know what I can be praying with each of you about, as well! My ability to work full time in ministry/missions is only an option because of each and every one of you who is supporting me financially, with prayers, encouragement, and so much more! Please know that you make a big difference in my life and even more so you are a part of something so much greater than any of us, you have a hand in sharing Christ's love & forgiveness to all!

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Church Council Meeting
Minutes
January 25, 2017

Present: Robert Berglund, Jim Clendaniel, Tom Chilton, Carolyn Humes, Joe Lear, Pastor Tom Pasmore, Barbara Rutt, Ed Steiner, Joyce Voshell, Vaughn Webb, and Jo Wood

Guests: Joyce Bonnoni

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom who also led the opening prayer.

Minutes from the October 26, 2016 meeting of the Church Council were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Jim Clendaniel, Barbara Rutt seconded, and was unanimously approved.

2016 REVIEW:

LEADERSHIP

No meeting in January. Report was deferred until next meeting since all business was captured in the committee reports.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was submitted by Chair, Bob Berglund, and included various year-end reports, including Budget vs. Actual Spending and Balance. Bob briefly review these reports and mentioned that we finished the year with a \$6,000 surplus. He did also point out that due to a number of intersecting circumstances the church's cash reserves are quite low. Bob answered several questions about the reports. There was conversation about the Bach Fund and how we should use the interest from the account. Ed reviewed the status of AUMC Properties, which owns the Isaiah James house and manages it for the church.

TRUSTEES

Jim Clendaniel, Chair, reported for the trustees. It was a good year much was accomplished in the last year, including multiple building improvements: Grier Room was redone, carpet in sanctuary was stretched, paint and other improvements happened. Russ Nagle, the church handyman, has done excellent work and saved us a considerable amount of money. Discussion then focused on the HVAC system which is showing problems with condensation and leaks in the system. Trustees will be working with the contractors to try to get this remedied. We will probably have to pay for most all of this. There was then considerable discussion on this. The remedy will most likely include new valves, some repiping, and considerable re-insulation of the piping. Lack of adequate drawings has slowed the analysis of the problems in the system. Council recommended trustees develop a plan as soon as possible. Trustees will report back to leadership team and Church Council as more information becomes available and as the plan is developed.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Pastor Tom reported for SPRC since Jack Sheaffer could not attend. The report focused on the staffing transition that took pat the beginning of the year. The Music Director role was reduced from full-time to 3/4 time. For the most part this has gone smoothly. Pastor Tom and Pastor Wendy have assumed all responsibility for worship, leaving Kevin to focus exclusively on music.

MINISTRY REPORTS/GOD-SIGHTINGS

- A. Matthew Project reported another fantastic year in ministry. God is at work through all that she and the other volunteers. Still looking for new leadership for this ministry.
- B. UMW reported that they have distributed their year missions funds to the various organizations that the leadership has decided to support.
- C. Code Purple is up and running and doing amazing ministry. Things are moving along and the ministry is growing and sharing the love of Christ. Joyce came into the meeting and shared several instances where God is at work in the ministry and how we are walk with guys who are trying to turn their lives around.

There are of course those who are contented where they are, but they are the exception, not the rule. God is doing a new thing at Avenue through Code Purple.

PASTOR'S TIME

Pastor Tom recapped the vision of the church and plan from 2016. The three year church plan was also reviewed, year one is focused on Revival, year two is is focused on starting Small Groups, and year three is focused on sending people out in mission. Pastor Tom then asked two questions that he is praying about and asked the council to pray on them too.

1. What does mature discipleship look like?
2. How does the local church help someone become a mature disciple?

The way that we answer these questions will help set the course of the church beyond the three year plan that we are currently on, and will define the way that we live into our vision. The council then spent time discussing this.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Lear led the group in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Addendum:

The Leadership team met on February 7, at 7 p.m., and approved the plans to fix the HVAC system, which includes reinsulating the system, fixing the leak in the Choir Room, and adding some valves to the system to better isolate sections of the system if future leaks develop. The total cost of these fixes is unknown, but we anticipate that they will be less than \$50,000. If the cost exceeds this number, the leadership will gather to reevaluate the scope of work. The hope is to have all the work done by the time that the air conditioning is turned on in May.



February 8, 2017

Dinner at 6:00pm and Study at 7:00pm

at the home of Poncho and Lisa Johnson

Led by Donny Hopkins



A New Class on Christianity

Thinking our way through the Gospel of Mark

Starting: Sunday, February 19th

3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Led by Dan Nelson



Presents an

AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Celebration Concert,

Make Them

HEAR

You.



**Sunday,
February 12
3 p.m.**

**Unitarian
Universalist Society of
Southern Delaware
30486 Lewes-Georgetown Hwy.
Lewes, DE 19958**

**Tickets are \$10 (under 18 free)
at the door.**



This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency committed to promoting and supporting the arts in Delaware. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

www.southerndelawarechorale.org

Grotto Pizza[®] Community PIZZA NIGHT



Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Cub Scout Pack 186
Milford– Silicato Way
March 2, 2017 | 4 to 9pm

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 20% of your total bill will be donated to Cub Scout Pack 186.



This offer valid for dine-in and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com |  

Grotto Pizza[®] Community PIZZA NIGHT



Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Avenue United Methodist Church
Alaska Mission Trip
Milford– Silicato Way
March 9, 2017 | 4 to 9pm

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount equal to 20% of your total bill will be donated to Avenue United Methodist Church.



This offer valid for dine-in and takeout only | GrottoPizza.com |  

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.

END OF THE YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS are available on the Foyer table.

ALTAR FLOWERS: 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: The family and friends of Alan Boltz, Kim, Christopher, Olivia Davis, Kayla Horn, Barbara Vederose, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Code Purple guests and volunteers, Carolyn Williams, the nation and its leaders, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Brenda Powers, Allison Parker, the family and friends of Skip Venable, Bill Salvin and family, Hannah, Jon, Jean's Mother, Lillie Brittingham, Mark Emery, Carolyn Wright, Bill Strahle, Conner, Don Meyer, Larry Eisenhauer, Tom Price, Kathy Sullivan, Jayne Frank, Patsy Sullivan, Jason Franklin, the Mispillion Chorus and Baltimore-Washington Conference youth revival.

Recently hospitalized: Deanna Elsberry and Neil Burke.

Rejoice with: Peggy and Larry Hughes, JoAnn Carter and Olga Stayton.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Carolyn Williams, the family and friends of Betty Lou Williams, the family and friends of Gardner Shugart, Beth Parker and Ronda Ramsburg and their families in the death of sister/aunt Barbara Vederose, the family and friends of Lt. Steven Floyd, Hannah Matthew, Christopher, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Code Purple guests and volunteers, the nation and its leaders, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Bill Salvin and family, Hannah, Jon, Jean's mother, Lillie Brittingham, Jodi, Betty Ziesel, Mitch, Cindi, Beth, Kathy Sullivan and Eileen Hazzard.

Recently hospitalized: Neil Burke (in rehab).

Rejoice with: Kathryn Barnes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Josh and Elaine Willey who will celebrate their **59th** anniversary on **February 14th**.

SYMPATHY TO:

✠The family and friends of **Gardner Shugart** who passed away on January 31, 2017. Gardner joined Avenue on December 24, 1978.

‡The family and friends of **Betty Lou Williams** who passed away on February 2, 2017. Betty Lou joined Avenue on April 3, 1955.

‡**Beth Parker and Ronda Ramsburg** whose sister/aunt Barbara Vederose passed away on February 5, 2017.

‡The family and friends of **Carolyn Horvat-Williams** who passed away on February 4, 2017. Carolyn joined Avenue on November 18, 1990.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪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.

UPCOMING

Avenue will be hosting the **DOVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING** classes on **February 25th** from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the following committees or ministries please contact the church office.

Staff /Parish Relations

Lay Leaders

Trustees

Finance

Nominations and Leadership Development

Evangelism

MissionInsite

Worship

Prison Outreach

Race Reconciliation

Youth Ministry

Prayer and Healing Ministries

Safe Sanctuaries

Connectional Giving for Mission

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES are held each Wednesday at noon followed by a soup luncheon at various churches.

The schedule is:

March 1st, *Houston UM Church*

March 8th, *Calvary UM Church*

March 15th, *First Presbyterian Church*

March 22nd, *Church of the Nazarene*

March 29th, *Mt. Enon Baptist Church*

April 5th, *Avenue UM Church*

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: The next AUMM pancake breakfast will be on **March 12th** after all 3 worship services.

ALASKA MISSION TRIP 2017 is scheduled for **June 10th-17th**. The team is now forming! Several people have expressed interest and we always have room for more. If you would like to be a part of this amazing experience, talk with Pastor Tom or Mike Williams. We will keep you posted on our next meeting and hope to see you there.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study "John" on **February 14th**. 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.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2nd Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **February 13th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

EXPLORING FAITH BOOK CLUB meets on the third Sunday of the Month at 12:15 in the Grier Room. Our next study is **February 19, 2017**. The Book is "The Will of God" by Leslie Weatherhead. When bad things happen to good people, is this the will of God? If it is not, what is the will of God? If these questions have sparked an interest in you, then plan to come and "explore your faith" as these questions and others pertaining to God's Will are discussed.

A NEW CLASS ON CHRISTIANITY: Thinking our way through the Gospel of Mark led by Dan Nelson. Class starts on February 19th, 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will meet **March 1st** at 2:00 p.m. in the **Heritage Room**. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

OUTREACH

HELPING HANDS: If you like to bake items such as cookies, brownies or other bars, and would be willing to make an occasional batch for a funeral reception, we would love to hear from you. You can contact Harriet Davies at 422-7194 or by email at Harrietda@aol.com. We could use 2-3 additional people who like to bake. We could also use a couple more people who would like to part of our kitchen crew for funeral receptions.

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: As the new year begins we want to express our gratitude to all of you for the support you give **The Milford Community Pantry**. We had a busy year in 2016 and expect that need to continue this year. If you want to bring food to the Pantry we suggest peanut butter or jelly. If you would like to volunteer call Tita Lewis (302) 664-1321.

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.

SOUTHERN DELAWARE CHORALE PRESENTS: African-American celebration concert **Make Them HEAR You, Sunday, February 12th, 3:00 p.m.** at Unitarian Universalist Society of Southern Delaware, 30486 Lewes-Georgetown Highway. **Cost: \$10 at the door (under 18—Free).**

LIFE LINE SCREENING: Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is please to offer a preventive health event at Avenue United Methodist Church on **March 24, 2017**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers.**

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	71	60
9:30	343	168
Sunday School	75	80
11:00	75	107
Thursday Service	0	5
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	564	420

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 2/12 ~ Scout Sunday

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:45 a.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 1:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop Comm Meeting,
 Heritage Room
 5:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
 Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 2/13

10:00 a.m. Hospital Auxiliary Meeting,
 Grier Room
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group,
 Grier Room
 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 140, Heritage Room
 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts—Tigers, Fellowship Hall
 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 2, Room 206
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. Pack Comm. Meeting, Grier Room
 7:00 p.m. First State Harmonizers,
 Music Room
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 2/14

10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room
 2:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop, Nursery
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team
 Rehearsal, Wesley Room
 6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,
 Wendy's Office
 6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Choir,
 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

WEDNESDAY 2/15

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
 5:00 p.m. Instrumental Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Music Room
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts—Webelos 1,
 Wesley Room

THURSDAY 2/16

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts-Wolves, Wesley Room
 6:30 p.m. New Worship Service,
 Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY 2/17

11:00 a.m. Wrap Around DE, Holz. Room
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 2/18

3:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony, Sanctuary
 and Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 2/19

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club,
 Grier Room
 3:00 p.m. Explaining Christianity in the
 Secular World, Fellowship Hall
 5:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
 Fellowship Hall

**“A Dynamic Faith Community Growing in
 Hope, Love and Service”**

Avenue United Methodist Church

CHURCH COUNCIL

January 25, 2017

Agenda:

Opening Prayer

2017 Review:

Admin Reports: Leadership

Finance

Trustees

SPRC

Ministry Reports/God Sightings

Pastor's time

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Avenue United Methodist Church		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Balance Sheet 1/24/17		Liabilities	
	Total	Current Liabilities	
ASSETS		Other Current Liabilities	
Current Assets		2200 Walk To Emmaus	2,854.97
Bank Accounts		2200-10 Walk to Emmaus Distribution	-400.00
1000 Checking - PNCBank	13,007.25	Total 2200 Walk To Emmaus	\$ 2,454.97
1005 Money Market	0.00	2220 Received for Parish Purse	2,060.25
1005-20 Money Market for Bldg Improvement	88,097.46	2220-10 Transferred to Parish Purse	-2,035.25
Total 1005 Money Market	\$ 88,097.46	Total 2220 Received for Parish Purse	\$ 25.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 101,104.71	2310 Due to Investment Funds From GF	4,829.91
Other Current Assets		2312 Council Restricted	261,641.51
1400 Investments - Other		2314 Permanently Restricted	179,187.40
1400-10 Merrill Lynch-Restricted	246.98	2320 Buidg Imprv Fund (Capital impro. deprec., purch)	108,643.90
Total 1400 Investments - Other	\$ 246.98	2325 Journey of Faith	20,171.68
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 246.98	2334 Choir Fund	898.27
Total Current Assets	\$ 101,351.69	2335 Health Ministries	1,420.27
Fixed Assets		2345 Matthew Project	2,684.00
1600 Buildings and land estimated value	6,000,000.00	2345.5 Matthew Project Distribution	-1,147.62
1700 Capital Expenditures 2013	163,796.23	Total 2345 Matthew Project	\$ 1,536.38
1710 capital expenditures 2014	166,915.94	2350 Memorial Fund	16,795.26
1720 Capital expenditures 2015	47,007.62	2351 Music Concerts	2,073.89
1730 Capital expenditures 2016	75,235.02	2375 Rimmer Scholarship	203.20
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 6,452,954.81	2400 Youth Program Funds	
Other Assets		2420 MYF Activities	0.00
1500 AUMC Properties, LLC	50,138.25	2420-20 Youth Rally	1,284.14
1510 MAUMF restricted	205,000.23	2420-30 Youth Special Events Funds	-105.15
1520 MAUMF Bach Fund	259,715.00	Total 2420 MYF Activities	\$ 1,178.99
1530 Other Long-term Assets	34,715.74	Total 2400 Youth Program Funds	\$ 1,178.99
Total Other Assets	\$ 549,569.22	2500 BENEVOLENCES	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,103,875.72	2525 Food Pantry	110.00
		2535 Code Purple	2,120.84
		2535-10 Code Purple Distribution	-100.00
		Total 2535 Code Purple	\$ 2,020.84
		2605 Volunteers in Mission	11,123.13
		Total 2500 BENEVOLENCES	\$ 13,253.97
		2545 Love offerings	2,395.00
		2556 Peninsula -De Conference special collections	0.00
		2556-43 Central Congo Partnership	380.00
		Total 2556 Peninsula -De Conference special collec	\$ 380.00
		Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 617,089.60
		Total Current Liabilities	\$ 617,089.60
		Total Liabilities	\$ 617,089.60
		Equity	
		Opening Balance Equity	5,804,510.22
		Retained Earnings	669,507.64
		Net Income	12,768.26
		Total Equity	\$ 6,486,786.12
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 7,103,875.72

Avenue United Methodist Church				
Budget vs. Actuals: 2016 - FY16 P&L				
January - December 2016				
	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
3000 Revenue/Receipts			0.00	
3010 Contributions for General Fund			0.00	
3010-10 Envelopes	523,533.67	525,000.00	-1,466.33	99.72%
3010-15 Plate Donations	20,075.03	15,000.00	5,075.03	133.83%
3010-25 Initial for envelopes	797.00	500.00	297.00	159.40%
3010-30 Stock Contributions	2,655.84		2,655.84	
3010-35 Christmas	4,791.00	6,000.00	-1,209.00	79.85%
3010-45 Easter/Lent	3,868.00	3,000.00	868.00	128.93%
3010-50 Electronic deposits	53,878.00	50,000.00	3,878.00	107.76%
3010-55 Thanksgiving	1,483.00	2,700.00	-1,217.00	54.93%
3010-90 Music	540.00	0.00	540.00	
3010-96 VBS	438.00	0.00	438.00	
Total 3010 Contributions for General Fund	\$ 612,059.54	\$ 602,200.00	\$ 9,859.54	101.64%
3015 Designated Ministries Income			0.00	
3015-30 Family ministries		500.00	-500.00	0.00%
3015-50 Flowers	1,481.25	200.00	1,281.25	740.63%
3015-70 Youth/Fusion	2,643.00	2,500.00	143.00	105.72%
Total 3015 Designated Ministries Income	\$ 4,124.25	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 924.25	128.88%
3030 Sunday School	1,763.04	1,000.00	763.04	176.30%
3040 Other Income		0.00	0.00	
3040-10 Building Use	3,153.00	2,000.00	1,153.00	157.65%
3040-99 Miscellaneous	18,675.58	4,000.00	14,675.58	466.89%
Total 3040 Other Income	\$ 21,828.58	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 15,828.58	363.81%
3050 Transfers To Church GF	78,009.18	0.00	78,009.18	
3055 Bequests	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
3060 Investment balance changes	21,784.39	0.00	21,784.39	
3090 Journey of Faith	11,651.18	0.00	11,651.18	
Total 3000 Revenue/Receipts	\$ 752,220.16	\$ 612,400.00	\$ 139,820.16	122.83%
Total Income	\$ 752,220.16	\$ 612,400.00	\$ 139,820.16	122.83%
Gross Profit	\$ 752,220.16	\$ 612,400.00	\$ 139,820.16	122.83%
Expenses				
5100 Sr Pastor			0.00	
5110 Salary	43,000.08	43,000.00	0.08	100.00%
5120 S S Allowance	4,819.92	4,820.00	-0.08	100.00%
5130 Housing Allowance	19,999.92	20,000.00	-0.08	100.00%
5140 Health Insurance	16,044.00	15,372.00	672.00	104.37%
5150 Pension & Disability	11,064.00	11,064.00	0.00	100.00%
5160 Expense Allowance	3,675.61	4,041.00	-365.39	90.96%
5170 Continuing Education	1,200.00	1,000.00	200.00	120.00%
Total 5100 Sr Pastor	\$ 99,803.53	\$ 99,297.00	\$ 506.53	100.51%
5200 Associate Pastor			0.00	
5210 Salary	39,000.00	39,000.00	0.00	100.00%
5220 S S Expense	3,749.25	3,750.00	-0.75	99.98%

5230 Housing Allowance	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00	100.00%
5240 Health Insurance	7,200.00	7,200.00	0.00	100.00%
5250 Pension & Disability	5,612.57	4,264.00	1,348.57	131.63%
5260 Expense Allowance	1,442.63	2,000.00	-557.37	72.13%
5270 Continuing Education	825.00	1,000.00	-175.00	82.50%
Total 5200 Associate Pastor	\$ 65,329.45	\$ 64,714.00	\$ 615.45	100.95%
5300 Youth Pastor			0.00	
5310 Salary	40,800.00	40,800.00	0.00	100.00%
5320 S S Expense	3,121.20	3,150.00	-28.80	99.09%
5350 Pension	2,448.00	2,550.00	-102.00	96.00%
5360 Expense Allowance	2,191.62	2,600.00	-408.38	84.29%
5370 Continuing Education	1,908.00	1,500.00	408.00	127.20%
Total 5300 Youth Pastor	\$ 50,468.82	\$ 50,600.00	-\$ 131.18	99.74%
5400 Administrative Staff			0.00	
5410 Secretary			0.00	
5410.1 Secretary Salary	16,562.50	16,250.00	312.50	101.92%
5410.2 S S Expense	1,267.02	1,500.00	-232.98	84.47%
5410.3 Pension		245.00	-245.00	0.00%
Total 5410 Secretary	\$ 17,829.52	\$ 17,995.00	-\$ 165.48	99.08%
5430 Custodian			0.00	
5430.1 Salary	15,180.50	12,000.00	3,180.50	126.50%
5430.2 S S Expense	1,161.32	850.00	311.32	136.63%
5430.3 Administrative Staff Custodian Pension	717.12	720.00	-2.88	99.60%
Total 5430 Custodian	\$ 17,058.94	\$ 13,570.00	\$ 3,488.94	125.71%
5440 Nursery Caretaker		0.00	0.00	
5440.1 Salary	3,966.75	5,000.00	-1,033.25	79.34%
5440.2 S S Expense	303.46	385.00	-81.54	78.82%
Total 5440 Nursery Caretaker	\$ 4,270.21	\$ 5,385.00	-\$ 1,114.79	79.30%
Total 5400 Administrative Staff	\$ 39,158.67	\$ 36,950.00	\$ 2,208.67	105.98%
5500 Ministry of Music			0.00	
5510 Salary - Director	67,800.00	67,700.00	100.00	100.15%
5520 S S Expense	5,186.70	5,180.00	6.70	100.13%
5550 MUSIC DIRECTOR'S PENSION	4,068.00	4,062.00	6.00	100.15%
5560 Music Director's expense allowance	3,516.63	3,500.00	16.63	100.48%
5570 Music Dir Continuing Ed	1,599.35	1,500.00	99.35	106.62%
Total 5500 Ministry of Music	\$ 82,170.68	\$ 81,942.00	\$ 228.68	100.28%
5600 Church Programs			0.00	
5680 Programs & Ministries	41.98		41.98	
5681 Adult Education	3,340.51	2,500.00	840.51	133.62%
5681.5 Reimbursement-adult ed	-1,119.75	-500.00	-619.75	223.95%
Total 5681 Adult Education	\$ 2,220.76	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 220.76	111.04%
5682 Contemporary Worship	2,037.76	2,000.00	37.76	101.89%
5683 Education - Sunday School	435.43	1,000.00	-564.57	43.54%
5684 Evangelism	871.38	2,000.00	-1,128.62	43.57%
5685 Family Ministries	1,195.83	1,000.00	195.83	119.58%
5685.5 Reimbursement - Family ministries	-100.00	0.00	-100.00	
Total 5685 Family Ministries	\$ 1,095.83	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 95.83	109.58%
5686 Fellowship	2,133.30	1,000.00	1,133.30	213.33%
5688 Connections		2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00%
5689 Communications	2,995.80	2,000.00	995.80	149.79%
5690 Missions	5,750.66	4,100.00	1,650.66	140.26%

5691 Music	6,931.02	6,500.00	431.02	106.63%
5691.5 Praise Team	150.00	0.00	150.00	
5692 Scholarships	3,700.00	3,250.00	450.00	113.85%
5693 Stewardship	190.62		190.62	
5694 Vacation Bible School	2,127.71	2,000.00	127.71	106.39%
5695 Worship	3,256.57	4,000.00	-743.43	81.41%
5695.2 Upper Room	1,030.59	1,000.00	30.59	103.06%
5695.25 Reimbursement - Upper Room	-20.00	-50.00	30.00	40.00%
5695.3 New Service	457.00		457.00	
5695.5 Flowers	3,605.40	1,500.00	2,105.40	240.36%
5695.6 Events	1,150.00		1,150.00	
Total 5695 Worship	\$ 9,479.56	\$ 6,450.00	\$ 3,029.56	146.97%
5697 Youth	9,202.54	10,500.00	-1,297.46	87.64%
5697.6 KICS	149.99	200.00	-50.01	75.00%
Total 5697 Youth	\$ 9,352.53	\$ 10,700.00	-\$ 1,347.47	87.41%
Total 5680 Programs & Ministry	\$ 49,514.34	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 3,514.34	107.64%
Total 5600 Church Programs	\$ 49,514.34	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 3,514.34	107.64%
5800 Buildings & Grounds - Everyday expenses			0.00	
5881 Cleaning Service		0.00	0.00	
5881-A Restroom supplies Contractor	3,569.50	4,000.00	-430.50	89.24%
5881-B Contract Labor Floors	6,532.21	5,500.00	1,032.21	118.77%
Total 5881 Cleaning Service	\$ 10,101.71	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 601.71	106.33%
5883 Electric, Sewer & Water			0.00	
5883-A Electric	24,002.24	25,000.00	-997.76	96.01%
5883-B Sewer & Water	2,736.53	2,500.00	236.53	109.46%
5883-C Trash Pick-up	2,450.11	2,500.00	-49.89	98.00%
5883-D Utility tax	1,017.93	1,420.00	-402.07	71.69%
Total 5883 Electric, Sewer & Water	\$ 30,206.81	\$ 31,420.00	-\$ 1,213.19	96.14%
5885 Fuel	11,517.60	17,500.00	-5,982.40	65.81%
5887 Church - Maintenance	611.99	0.00	611.99	
5887-10 Electrical Repair & Maintenance	45.43	1,000.00	-954.57	4.54%
5887-20 Fire & safety - repair & maint	1,153.00	3,000.00	-1,847.00	38.43%
5887-40 Elevator maintenance	2,822.46	3,000.00	-177.54	94.08%
5887-50 HVAC Maintenance	4,921.78	5,000.00	-78.22	98.44%
5887-60 Auto-Van	603.82	1,000.00	-396.18	60.38%
5887-70 Building Maintenance	14,898.45	15,000.00	-101.55	99.32%
5887-80 Archives	50.00	1,000.00	-950.00	5.00%
5887-90 Plumbing		2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00%
Total 5887 Church - Maintenance	\$ 25,106.93	\$ 31,000.00	-\$ 5,893.07	80.99%
5888 Grounds Maintenance	243.78	525.00	-281.22	46.43%
5888.5 Repair & Maint	6,687.00	4,000.00	2,687.00	167.18%
Total 5888 Grounds Maintenance	\$ 6,930.78	\$ 4,525.00	\$ 2,405.78	153.17%
5891 Insurance			0.00	
5891-1 Property & Liability Ins	16,726.00	15,300.00	1,426.00	109.32%
5891-2 Workmans Comp	3,603.00	3,200.00	403.00	112.59%
5891-3 Van insurance	1,197.00	1,500.00	-303.00	79.80%
Total 5891 Insurance	\$ 21,526.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,526.00	107.63%
5895 Technology	2,679.20	5,000.00	-2,320.80	53.58%
5896 Kitchen Supplies	548.78	1,000.00	-451.22	54.88%
5899 Cemetery	4,363.93	4,000.00	363.93	109.10%
Total 5800 Buildings & Grounds - Everyday expenses	\$ 112,981.74	\$ 123,945.00	-\$ 10,963.26	91.15%

5900 General & Administrative	25.00		25.00	
5910 Administrative	1,005.80	1,000.00	5.80	100.58%
5920 Office Supplies & Expense	5,002.05	2,000.00	3,002.05	250.10%
5920.5 Office reimbursement	-1,046.30	-1,000.00	-46.30	104.63%
Total 5920 Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 3,955.75	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,955.75	395.58%
5922 Copier Lease	13,010.04	13,000.00	10.04	100.08%
5923 Copier use and supplies	6,317.25	7,000.00	-682.75	90.25%
5925 Postage	3,074.51	3,000.00	74.51	102.48%
5930 Telephone	5,289.70	6,000.00	-710.30	88.16%
5935 Staff Development	25.00	500.00	-475.00	5.00%
5940 Christmas Gift	600.00	700.00	-100.00	85.71%
5950 Secretarial			0.00	
5959 Pension Lurwick	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 5950 Secretarial	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 0.00	100.00%
Total 5900 General & Administrative	\$ 35,103.05	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 1,103.05	103.24%
5911 Bank Charges	855.44	750.00	105.44	114.06%
5915 Ministry Works Payroll Charges	740.55	750.00	-9.45	98.74%
5960 Finance	936.72	1,100.00	-163.28	85.16%
5965 Pension Make-Up	6,359.64		6,359.64	
6000 Apportionments & District Office	75,730.00	75,730.00	0.00	100.00%
Total Expenses	\$ 619,152.63	\$ 615,778.00	\$ 3,374.63	100.55%
Net Operating Income	\$ 133,067.53	-\$ 3,378.00	\$ 136,445.53	-3939.24%
Net Income	\$ 133,067.53	-\$ 3,378.00	\$ 136,445.53	-3939.24%
Tuesday, Jan 24, 2017 05:45:08 PM PST GMT-5 - Cash Basis				

2016 Matthew 25:35-40 Project

JOHN 15:4, 5 Stories of blessings - fruits - because of your generosity to your fellowman.

On December 6th Ed Bailey called, offering items from his late, wife, Elsie, that might be useful to another family. Women's clothing, shoes and kitchen supplies, sewing kit, blankets, bedding and some extra man items from Ed. These items were perfect for a young family of man, woman (who, like Elsie, was of small frame) and 3 children, ages 11 months, 2 and 4 years. They were residing with her parents and were to move into their first apartment December 19th and had no furniture or household items. So volunteers picked up those items from Ed, who also donated a new, collapsible wheelchair, and medical supplies. When volunteers arrived to donate the women's and men's clothing and household items, they saw a handicapped ramp leading to the parent's residence. The young couple gratefully received items for themselves and their new apartment to be. When they saw the medical supplies and wheelchair they were overjoyed. Her mother was an invalid and needed both. The young woman said: "God is Good!" The family moved in December 19th and through other Avenue Church member donations, the 3 children are sleeping in a crib, toddler bed, and single bed. A set of pots and pans filled the kitchen, and TV, and love seat were moved into the living room. On, December 23rd, Judy Struck telephoned offering a kitchen table and benches, "in case someone is desperate for a table for Christmas". Judy's daughter Jennifer and husband Jason Potocki, were the actual donors of the table, which they loaded in their vehicle and delivered to the family. A bed for the couple, and chair are arriving as this is being written. Their household is established.

In August, 2016, Avenue's United Methodist Men cut and cleaned up wood from dead and uprooted trees on Avenue Church property. A stack was left for a working husband and wife and their granddaughter who burn wood for heat. They gratefully picked up the wood and have been kept warm. By the beginning of December, the family was in need of more wood and with his work hours diminished, it has been hard to make ends meet. He called to see if we had any contacts where he could cut wood without cost. We tried but found none. A call to Delmarva Hardwood Co. responded, they could provide "almost- well- part of a dump load for \$200.00". Using carefully, the family said it could last from December through February. Avenue committed to the company and wrote a check, enabled by your monetary donations given to help families. A grateful husband, wife, daughter grandchild called to say: the company sent an overflowing, generously-measured, dump truck load.

Many year member of Avenue, Eleanor Lurwick, moved to Virginia to be with a daughter and family. Kitchen items: microwave, cart, blender, toaster, cupboards and drawers were boxed, labeled and placed, by her two daughters and son-in law, in a packed, stacked pick up truck. Referred by Delaware Social Services, a young family has a completely stocked kitchen beyond their wildest dreams.

December 1st a pregnant woman called asking for shelter for the night. It was past office hours for churches in Milford. Avenue is a Code Purple Shelter, for men only. Called on his personal cell phone, Pastor Ritchie Portalain of Milford Community Center/ Multicultural Church, renting the old Fisher Appliance Center, responded: Tell her she is welcome".

87 Huge Thanksgiving boxes: turkey, dressing, fresh white and sweet potatoes, turnips, canned vegetables, rolls, butter and pie, were supplied by Avenue this year. Half were for needy families known by the Milford Police Department. Half for families known by Avenue Church during the past year. Volunteers of Avenue made calls and specific arrangements with the families on their list. One family, called by Avenue, came to pick up their box. They brought a neighbor with many children and no job, whose need was food and asked if this family could possibly receive a box. While a volunteer counted the remaining boxes and the remaining names on the list to see if it was possible, the family interrupted saying: "If there is not enough, he can have my box". You were generous, there was enough.

78 families received Chrismon Tree gifts from your donations. The UM Men transformed Fellowship Hall and great volunteers sorted and bagged and lovingly dispersed or delivered to grateful families. The UM Women sponsored extra Chrismon Tree tags, Christ Episcopal Church congregation took a family, Delaware Superior and Supreme Courts took a large family, Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study had a mother/daughter combined family and Lincoln United Methodist Church and the Cedar Creek Landing Association helped with a large family. Several individuals donated extra games, toys, and more. Many circumstances prevail in families who received Christmas gifts. Easily identifiable causes were death or absence of a parent; additional children adopted into families; grandparents raising grandchildren; temporary/permanent illnesses; lack of employment.

Categorized subjects on the next page show how your monetary donations, for the Matthew 25:35-40 Project, were applied to benefit families. You will understand the categories. They are the same that affect every family.

Matthew 25:35-40 Project Categories and Checks Written 1/1/16 – 12/29/16

Rent	\$2,054.25
Vehicle parts/repair/insurance/payments	790.68
Food	297.00
Medical/dental	180.00
Fuel heating, cooking	347.00
Bed parts	509.98
Mortgage	517.87
Gasoline	230.00
Electric	594.23
Clothing	140.00
Milford High School Students needs	205.00
Shoes	100.00
Birth Certificates	100.00
Household Repairs, Refrigerator, Oven, Plumbing	986.50
Laborers – men needing work, lifting heavy items	674.25
Miscellaneous:	1,096.84
Bedding new and used, appliances, shoes, gasoline, diapers, food, medicines, used table, used chairs, kitchen items, cleaning supplies, lumber for slats for beds, used washing machine, new air mattress, used sofa.	
Grand Total 2016	\$ 8,823.60

General Summary of 2016 Household Donations:

2 washer-dryer sets 2 electric stoves, 1 gas stove, 5 microwaves, 1 refrigerator, 1 freezer

1 whole kitchen: cooking and baking items, utensils, small appliances and many additional kitchen items from other donors

2 cribs, 2 high chairs, 2 bassinets

15 back packs for school children many children's toys and games and books.

many donations of baby, toddler and older children's clothing, shoes

6 dressers and some mirrors

20 beds (fold up, single, trundle, full, double, queen, king) and many frames

many bed linens, blankets, quilts, towels

many women's and men's coats, clothes, shoes

chairs (recliners, club, rocking, side) tables (end, side, coffee and kitchen)

1 wheelchair and numerous walkers or canes

1 outdoor grill and 1 outdoor lawnmower and outdoor table and chairs set; window fans

10 sofas and love seats 2 desks carpets and rugs 7 televisions

6 cases of raw, chickens for families

Avenue Church donors have been generous, understanding and supportive. Those who have volunteered to transport or to help lift are the literal backbone of these donations. It is important to remember that many volunteers have helped 20 years and lifting and transport is heavy and demanding. No known incidents of volunteers being hurt or accidents have occurred. A safety record some commercial companies would probably envy. In the last few years, numerous Christian Ministries have expanded their outreach. They have professional employees and vehicles designed for moving items and in turn give back to the community. It seems the season to support these missions has come. A list of those missions is available. This suggestion is not meant to apply to the annual Church mission yard sale that occurs in two weeks in late July or early August.