



## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 31, 2017*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

For some wacky, unknown reason to me, there is a Red-winged Blackbird that has taken a major liking to my car when it is parked by the house. It flutters around for hours and then spends more time on the rear view mirrors just sitting there. Perhaps he likes to look at himself. I really have no idea. It did the same thing to the three different loaner cars I have had over the months as Chris' car was repaired and then mine was in the shop for various reasons.

Four different cars all of great interest to the same bird. That bird makes me smile even though it has made me a frequent visitor to the car wash. It's just near the mirrors that I have the issues with him and I admit that it has gotten annoying and embarrassing at times. The woman in the toll booth on route one got a huge laugh out of it. People aware of the situation have asked me why I don't do something about it and "get rid of that disgusting flying rat."

The Bible says we are not to treat any of God's creation with contempt. Proverbs 12:10 says "the righteous know the needs of their animals." While I don't like the "reminders" this visitor is leaving me, I would never want anything to hurt or harm him just so he stops messing up my car. God has also sent rain when I have not gotten it cleaned up in a timely manner so I consider this Red-Winged beauty to be a gift more than a problem.

Whether it's domesticated animals like dogs and cats or farm animals like chickens and cows, or wild creatures like my friendly bird or even the skunk that hangs out in my backyard after dark, we are told in scripture to care for all of God's creatures because we have been given authority as stewards for all of the world. When we treat animals, birds, reptiles, amphibians or any type of species poorly we are indirectly treating God in the same way. We are responsible to God for the way we deal with other creatures. But when we care for and treat kindly "every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind" (Genesis 1: 21) then we bring glory and honor to God forever and ever.

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

---

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- ♦ **Vacation Bible School Organizational Meeting**—June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.
- ♦ **Leadership Team Meeting**—June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Carpenter Room.
- ♦ **Vacation Bible School**—June 18<sup>th</sup>—June 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*From the desk of our Bishop .....*

## **Ascension Day – What are you waiting for?**

Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> is Ascension Day. It is the day in the Christian calendar when we remember Christ's Ascension into heaven. It happened 40 days after the resurrection (Easter) and it is recorded in the Book of Acts. Jesus was telling the disciples that he would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and all the ends of the earth. Then Jesus was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. "While they were gazing into heaven two men stood by them in white robes and asked, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10-11)

Recently while I was attending the Council of Bishops I had a conversation with Bishop Alsted from Denmark. He explained that in his country Ascension Day is a national holiday. Some of the churches have torch-led processions around the church building to remember Jesus' ascension and to officially end the season of Easter. They also bless fruits and vegetables at the churches and people have off from work.

It is interesting to me how little we observe Ascension Day in the United States in our churches when truly this is a day of great significance. The men in white, who spoke to those first apostles have a message for us as well: "just don't stand there looking up, get busy." Jesus is coming again and we need to be about the business of being witnesses for Jesus in our day and time. We need to be out of our church buildings and into the world blessing not only fruits and vegetables but the lives of people in our community and the world.

We have not fully completed our celebration of Easter if we are not making the church visible to the world by our witness of words and love in action. This is

time-sensitive business. Jesus is coming again and unless we tell the story people will not know the good news of Jesus' life-giving grace for all people. So what are you waiting for? Tell your story and see how far the news will spread.



*Peggy A. Johnson*

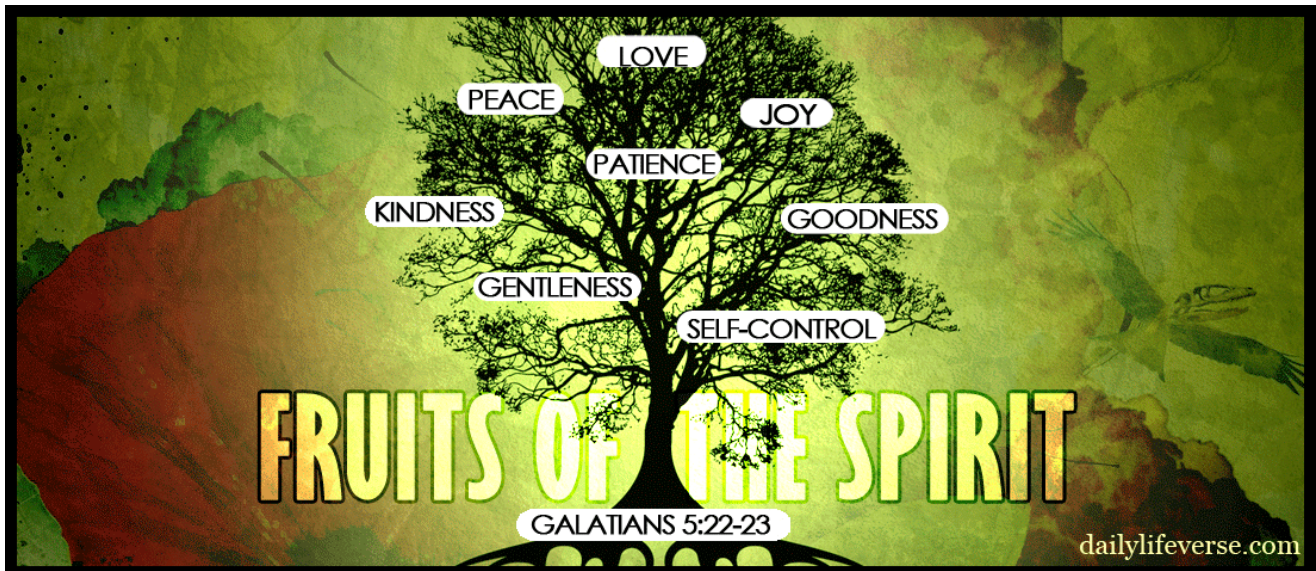


Vacation Bible School  
June 18th - 22nd  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Welcome to our May Newsletter providing some updates on God's amazing work in Congo! We also created a video with the exact same content, but with added music and lots more photos! Here's the link to access the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bK-3vZi8LqQ>



Greetings from your Global Ministries Missionaries serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo!

We had so many “thoughts” as we entered the mission field full time. We thought we were retiring to Florida, for example, to find ways to serve but also play golf 6-7 days a



week! But God had a different plan! Since we had been connected with Congo for many years, we thought we knew a lot about the culture in Congo and truly understood mission work. We thought we had all the skills and experiences through our careers as a pastor and advanced practice nurse to whatever God would call us to do!

Well, we had MUCH to learn! And it's been a fabulous, exciting, often challenging, and meaningful experience as we continue to learn so much about what it means to serve God's children in a materially poverty-stricken country which has only been an independent and peaceful democracy since 2004.

One of the things we are learning relates to what Paul described as a *fruit of the spirit* - **Patience**. In Galatians 5:22, Paul writes, “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (NLT)



We really thought we had patience! But we now realize how acculturated we are having lived in the US and our “instant” need for things to happen. Do you remember the bumper sticker, “God, please give me patience! AND GIVE IT TO ME NOW!” That more accurately describes us! But slowly God is teaching us new lessons.

Can we provide a little perspective on this concept?

Imagine walking into the general store, standing in line for 15-20 minutes to reach the service desk, placing your order (because everything is locked behind glass shelving), standing in line to make a payment at another desk, handing over your Congolese francs, and then waiting for your order to be filled. To purchase one or two small items, such as a can of baby formula for an infant whose mother died during childbirth, can take 45 minutes. And that’s after traveling by motorbike for about 12 kilometers on dirt roads!

Here’s another example: In 2016 several churches, such as New Covenant UMC in The Villages, Florida, Janes UMC in Rising Sun, Kent Island UM, Centreville UM and First UM Church Hurst, Texas challenged their congregations to help provide fresh water in Congo. Some were asked to ‘fast’ from all beverages except water, donate the money they would have spent toward the drilling of wells in Congo. And now, 12 months later, the Partnership awaits the response and quote from yet another engineer who we pray will be willing to bring his work 1000 miles so that the well drilling can begin. The slow response ensues after many hours of conference calls, email exchanges and text messages. Once an agreement is reached, it will take 2-3 months for materials used in the well drilling to be sent by river boat to central Congo! Patience! Please pray that the culmination of so many dreams to have access to clean fresh water in the remote villages will happen very soon.





Consider Mpasa! Since 2004 the Congo people and Partnership have dreamed of a new pediatric building at the Mpasa Medical & Nutrition Center to help better serve the needs of children and their families in this massive refugee area. We needed land, security, and lots of financial resources before we could begin living into this project. So many times we thought the dream would never become a reality. Then a small parcel of land next to Mpasa became available and God brought forth donors to help make that happen! Several years later the staff and community began to build a security wall hoping and praying for the day when a building might become a reality. In 2014, Dawn Taylor Storm, District Superintendent of the Southeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference told us the district was taking on the Pediatric Building, equipment and furniture as a project! Answered prayer!! Now, in June 2017, this new building will be dedicated to the glory of God and in service of thousands of people in the Mpasa region! 13 years!! Patience!



And another...We spent many hours searching for a grinder for the Diengenga Agriculture project so that they could grind their own maniac, beans, rice and corn. Local residents could also use the grinder so that they wouldn't have to travel into Lodja hauling the crops on their backs or bicycles. We had an amazing experience when we located a store in Kinshasa that specializes in all kinds of machinery. It's a Muslim family owned business and they welcomed us so warmly. We had such great conversations about serving God together. Wow! But now, three months later, the grinders remain in storage in Kinshasa because the most affordable boat for shipping has not left the port. In fact, due to low river water, the port for departure is many kilometers away from Kinshasa and not possible to use for the VERY heavy grinders. We're so accustomed to walking into the UPS store, providing the information and the delivery can happen in two days! Right? Lord, please give me patience! Now!

One more example...Imagine booking your flight to leave the tiny village via a small airport about 10 kilometers away, sending your baggage to be checked, and then hours later learning that the flight had been cancelled. And the next flight is tomorrow or so they said! And all of our medications and vitamins and 'essentials' are in the bags and the airline would not release the bags to us! Well, we know that this can happen in the US also, but in Congo there is only one flight per week! Knowing there would probably not be another flight for 7 days, we decided to try a "cargo plane". Talk about patience as well as an adventure! Sitting on bags of rice next to goats and other supplies was a first for us! It taught us so much – mostly that God's timing is always perfect!





These examples are what we might call, “the tip of the iceberg”. So God continues to teach us patience so often through our Congolese sisters and brothers who daily face these challenges and do so with a spirit of joy and trust in God. Occasions for the ‘stretching’ of our patience, provide opportunities to GROW our patience!

*In James 1: 2-3 - Dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*

James was so right! If our flight hadn’t been cancelled, we wouldn’t have had such special fun with the children that day in the village of Diengenga! If we hadn’t been standing in the long line in the general store in Lodja, we wouldn’t have had the opportunity to chat with several people who provided their testimony about their blessed experience at the 2014 cataract surgery mission. And the list goes on and on.



In John Waller's song *While I'm Waiting*, he sings these words:

I'm waiting, I'm waiting on You Lord  
And I am hopeful, I'm waiting on You Lord  
Though it is painful, but patiently I will wait  
And I will move ahead bold and confident  
Taking every step in obedience

And so, we invite you to wait with us and to join us in our journey on the pathway to patience.

“For those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint”. (Isaiah 40:31)



# Cub Scout Pack 186 Fundraiser



This is the 1st fundraiser of this type the pack has ever done. Please come out and support us with an evening of fun and enjoyment :-)

**WHEN:** July 17, 2017  
**WHERE:** Avenue United Methodist Church—Fellowship Hall  
20 N. Church St  
Milford  
**TIME:** Painting will start at 6:30  
**PRICE:** \$40/pp

Please send names of attendees via an email to:  
[pack186@comcast.net](mailto:pack186@comcast.net)

\*\*\*Pre-pay by cash, check (written to Pack 186) or credit card.

Mail check to: Avenue United Methodist Church  
attn: Carrie Huot  
20 N. Church St  
Milford, DE 19963

Credit Cards via: [cubscoutpack186.ecwid.com](http://cubscoutpack186.ecwid.com)





## A V E N U E   C H U R C H   P I C N I C

JOIN US AS WE SEND-OFF OUR GRADUATING SENIORS  
THE EVENT INCLUDES: GAMES, PRIZES,  
LIVE MUSIC  
INFLATABLES  
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**JUNE 11TH 5:00PM**  
**ON THE LAWN**

W W W . A V E N U E U M C . C O M

## 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:** If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Milford Plant, Flower and Garden Shop at (302) 422-4961. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

**PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK:** The family and friends of Jennifer Wiley, the Alaska Mission Team, Jackie and Bill, Gary Law, all those with family issues, Pat Lane Jr., Curtis, Bill Salvin, Dave and Sharon Dawson, John Siegrist, parents with health issues, Paul Shay, Mary Ann Shay, Jennifer Cummings, Aidan, Ryan Lore, Molly Cummings, Kirsten, Eileen and Robert Gould, Katie and Brandon, Christopher, April McIntyre, Kim Webb, Colleen Dunham, Howard Haverkamp, the homeless, Peggy Hughes, Jo Wood, Michael Williams, a mother in stage four cancer, all children waiting for sponsors, Stacey Swain, Linda Swain, Granddaughter Lori, a family experiencing many deaths, Bill Gustin, Bonnie Carmine, Jeff, Johnny, Ping, all needing traveling mercies, Julia, Maddison Remick, Kirsten Pierce, all who complain and gossip but don't see their own shortcomings, the world situation, Mary Ann Zeveney, Aunt Anna, Alex and family, Adriel and family, the family and friends of Rob Wild.

**Rejoice with:** McKenzie Betts, all our graduates and scholarship winners, everyone staring a new chapter of their lives after an academic milestone.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Jennifer Wiley, victims and families of the Manchester bombing, all our military men and women, Louie, Shirley Longaker, For the family and friends of the two men killed on the train in Portland, Oregon, Pop pop, Milford High School Softball team who is playing for the championship on Tuesday, Frances, Elfi Pann, Chip and Nancy Lee, Piraila, Our country and our president, Joyce Bonnoni, Judy, Betty, Bonnie, Theresa, John Siegrist, Dave and Sharon Dawson, For the family and friends of Olivia, Jill Gustin, April McIntyre, Dottie and Jerry Jackson, Colleen Dunham, The family and friends of Carolyn Wright, Mitchell, Edie's son and family, Howard Haverkamp, The homeless, Peggy Hughes, Christopher, Jo Wood, David, Eric Porter, Bonnie Carmine, Andrea and Julian, traveling mercies, Janice, Janet Dill, Karlyn, Diana, Kirsten Pierce, Jeanette, Sarah, Bethany, Donny, and Sammy, traveling mercies, Al, Jake, Katie and Brandon and Tim Jacoby.

**Rejoice with:** Helen Snell, a new graduate of Rochester College and the daughter of Rev. Adam and Susie Snell and granddaughter of Fran Jaquette and Bill Gustin.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Ted & Edna Newhouse who will celebrate their 56<sup>th</sup> on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Gene and Alva Hemshrot wo will celebrate their 61<sup>st</sup> on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:**

### **♪Handbells**

Resume on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♪MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♪Mispillion Children's Chorus**

Resume on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

### **♪Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♪Sanctuary Choir**

Resume on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

### **♪AveNotes**

Resume on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

**ALASKA MISSION TRIP 2017** is scheduled for **June 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**. Please be on the look out for stock sales in the Foyer after worship on Sunday.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR VBS:** Please bring in paper towel and toilet paper tubes for craft project for VBS.

**FATHER'S DAY** is just around the corner and we are accepting donations for carnations in loving memory or honor our fathers. Envelopes are in the pews. Carnations are \$5.00 per stem and proceeds will benefit the Parish Purse. All orders need to be placed no later than June 14<sup>th</sup> so they can be added to the bulletin for Father's Day. If you have any questions call Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will finish our study *IF* "Trading your *IF* only regrets for God's What *IF*" possibilities by Mark Batterson will be led by Pastor Wendy. We will meet on **June 6<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00 a.m. in the **Grier Room**.

**NEW ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** at 9:30 A.M. in the Grier Room. During the month of June we will be studying the Judges. The Book of Judges continues the history of Israel after Joshua's death. God raised up a series of national leaders called judges. Empowered by God, judges delivered the people from their enemies. The judges we will be studying in June are: Deborah and Barak; Gideon; Jephthah; and Samson. Please come any Sunday that you can.

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



**WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP** will resume on **September 6<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. in the **Heritage Room**. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

## **OUTREACH**

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL: Registration for the 2017-18 school year.** Registration is now taking place for current and former Avenue Preschool families for the 2017-18 school year. Please contact the school as noted below if you are a former family interested in enrolling your child. Registrations must be done in person. Space is very limited. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>. You can contact the preschool office at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org). Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org).

**The Milford Community Pantry** had a slow start to the year with fewer families than last year . That trend seems to be changing and we are back to a more active stream of families so the backlog of food is now almost gone. We need cereal, we prefer the low to no sugar varieties since we are trying to train families in good food choices.

We also need someone with a pick up and daytime availability. We go to the Food Bank ONE DAY A WEEK at the most. We have some drivers with SUVs but there are times when we need a larger cargo area. Is the Lord nudging you to use your time and your pick up???? Call Tita Lewis 664-1321 or Diane Dolan 242-5125.

## **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	72	44
9:30	187	152
Sunday School	28	17
11:00	68	68
<b>FUSION</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>281</b>

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY 6/4 ~ Pentecost Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272, Heritage Room  
 4:00 p.m. The Music School of DE:  
 Suzuki Strings Recital,  
 Sanctuary  
 7:00 p.m. Pat Fisher Piano Studio  
 Recital, Sanctuary

### **MONDAY 6/5**

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 140, Heritage Room  
 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers, Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. Troop 186 Parents Night, Sanctuary

### **TUESDAY 6/6**

10:00 a.m. Archives Comm. Meeting, Archives Room  
 10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study,  
 Grier Room  
 12:00 p.m. Card Ministry, Grier Room  
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
 Room 206  
 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting,  
 Carpenter Room  
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **WEDNESDAY 6/7**

10:30 a.m. Diabetes Prevention Program,  
 Heritage Room  
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room  
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
 Room 202

### **THURSDAY 6/8**

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
 Room 202  
 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Meeting, Grier Room

### **FRIDAY 6/9**

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

### **SATURDAY 6/10**

12:00 p.m. Draper Graduation Party,  
 Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SUNDAY 6/11**

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 5:00 p.m. Fall Kickoff, Sanctuary, Grier Room and  
 Fellowship Hall

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