

The Midweek

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Some of you may remember when I did three weeks of parable sermons. There were the parables of the Mona Lisa, Gatorade and chocolate covered cherries. For those of you who enjoyed it, you are in luck because I am going to be doing three weeks of Midweek articles based on the parables of HGTV. For those of you who didn't like those sermons, you will not upset me if you jump straight to the announcements.

HGTV is the House/Garden television network. They do a lot of shows on buying and renovating homes, decorating, and landscaping. Some shows combine multiple elements of these and every show ends with a supposed "happy ending" where the potential buyers find their dream homes and face a future of carefree, maintenance-free living.

One of my favorite shows is House Hunters. It is also the subject of my first week's parable.

In this show a couple is looking for their perfect home. The problem is that there is never an agreement between the two on what they are looking for. One person wants an ultra-modern, urban condo with every amenity available and the other person wants a classic charmer with a massive backyard and mature trees. Debate ranges all over the housing spectrum regarding farmhouses, midcentury split levels, craftsman style, condos, townhouses, multi-family, duplexes, and semi-detached options.

There is usually some agreement on the number of bedrooms and bathrooms but that is about where the consensus ends. In the middle of these differences is the real estate agent whose job is to not only find that perfect property but also serve as mediator and mind reader of the couple. (I could do an entire parable about religion just based on that premise but I will save that for some other time in the future.)

Encompassing this whole process is the idea of compromise. When opinions are that divergent it is obvious that nobody will get everything he/she wants unless the other person completely gives in. Very often one of the two is willing to bend and will acquiesce more than the other as to what is being bought. But on other episodes the agent shows the couple a house that neither expected and both fall in love with it. Those are the episodes where both "win."

As a viewer, I am always "on the side" of the person who seems more open to compromise. An individual who continues to push his or her choice at the expense of the other's thoughts, wishes and suggestions annoys me. Rather than move me into the corner of the pushy person, he/she has caused me to completely disregard his/her position. It does not seem fair for someone to be demanding when there are two people involved in a very large decision. I find myself cheering for the underdog to get the home of his/her dreams. It's not as bad when the overbearing individual recognizes he/she is being strong willed and backs off a bit.

However, when someone is pulling the "his/her way or the highway" routine I dismiss the desires of the bully immediately because there is no room for that kind of selfishness. I often wonder about the rest of the home life when someone is so unconcerned with the feelings and sensitivities of the other person.

The question I always have is how much would I be willing to compromise for the sake of the people I love? I think it's fair to say that I would go pretty far for my son. But what if I were to have to compromise with strangers who didn't agree with my style or wishes?

Thankfully I don't have to worry about sharing a residence with anybody I don't know. But I do share God's kingdom on earth with people that I am commanded to love by our Savior Jesus Christ.

So if we are willing to compromise on a home with the people we love, should we not be willing to compromise in God's kingdom with people who are our brothers and sisters created in God's image? Can we keep from being pushy and demanding that our opinions be the only ones that are important? Do we side more with the individuals and causes that appear open to compromise because we consider them to be selfless and therefore more likely to be concerned with doing the right thing and not just forcing an egotistical outcome? Can we remain open to finding that place of compromise that nobody saw coming?

Scripture is very clear that we are to consider the opinions and thoughts of all others, not just those we are closest to. Philippians 2: 1-4 says, "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

I understand that people want the house where they feel most at home and that is very often different than what the others around them want. It is just like when we are most comfortable with our own opinions. Life takes compromise. It also requires an open mind and consideration for others so that we can all find that place where living can be good for everyone involved.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

Paston h



Lenten Bible Study

Restored Finding Redemption in our Mess

By: Tom Berlin

Monday, March 27th

7 p.m. in the Grier Room

Led by Pastor Wendy



From the desk of our Bishop..

House to House

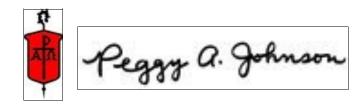
The morning that the email came informing the bishops that Bishop May had been diagnosed with cancer I immediately texted him with assurance of our prayers and support. Bishop May called me a few minutes later and we had a memorable conversation, one that I will never forget. It was the last thing he ever told me. He said "when I was a child growing up in Chicago some missionaries from a Baptist church came to my family home and brought in a flannel board and told us stories about Jesus. They came to the people telling the good news. It had a profound effect on my young life. Tell your pastors and churches to do that. Get out into the streets with this message." What good advice, what a timely word for us because we live in an era of "personal pan pizzas" and privacy and the things of faith are so often kept locked inside of church buildings. People back then and still today do not all come flocking to the doors of our sanctuaries. We need to intentionally go out to peoples' homes. Bishop May's words need to be in all of our hearts as we continue the ministry God has set before us.

As I met with the latest ordination class for a time of reflection and prayer recently we reviewed the Historic Questions of John Wesley that are asked of every person seeking full membership and ordination. Among them is this question: "Will you visit from house to house?" The centuries between John Wesley's time and ours perhaps make us pause about the practicality of this mandate. People are not always welcoming of visitors in their homes. Some people are often not even at home much of the time. Some pastors are not comfortable visiting peoples' homes for a variety of reasons.

In his book *Have you Faith in Christ? A bishops insight into the Historic Questions asked of those seeking admission into full connection in the United Methodist Church*. Bishop Ernest Lyght reminds us that "it is still appropriate for pastors to visit from house to house in today's culture with all of its limitations. There is no substitute for personal contact with one's parishioners, however, one must understand local culture and govern oneself accordingly." He gives this further advice:

"Visit from house to house in all the places where this is acceptable to your parishioners. Use the telephone to call people and let them know that you are thinking of them. Invited small groups to come to the parsonage for dessert and conversation. Have a breakfast meeting with a small group of people. Visit people at their work site by appointment. Go to the places where people gather in your community (post office, general store, volunteer firehouse, and so on). God to places where young people gather (sporting events, school plays, concerts). Make contact with the small groups that are a part of the church's program. Participate in town meetings and community events. Cautiously use social media as a means of communication with people. Get involved personally in an ongoing community project. Join a civic club or participate as a volunteer in a community organization. (p. 61)

I urge you, along with the wisdom of Bishops May and Lyght to "visit from house to house." Clergy as well as our lay leadership will further the cause of Christ as we do. We never know who we might visit who might later become a future great leader in our churches.



Vacation Bible School Meeting March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Grier Room

Please join us if you are interested in helping out.



THE AUXILIARY OF MILFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRESENTS

ARTISANS & ANTIQUES

PREVIEW WINE & CHEESE PARTY

Friday, March 24 from 5 - 8 p.m. Milford Century Club Building Tickets are \$30 each

Purchase in advance by calling Cynthia Jones at 302-270-1842.

Public viewing
Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tickets at the door are \$2 each

Artisans, by invitation, include: Anne Carroll, printed notecards from paintings; Alice Cataldi, knitted accessories; Deandra's Creations: Diane and Bruce Fisher, Country Flowers; Nancy Kemble, The Squirrel's Nest Candy; Vicki Mulligan, paper artist; Judy Struck, painted slates from Avenue United Methodist Church; Gail Gingrich, Brenda Williams, assorted bead jewelry; Liz Irwin, wire wrapped dichroic glass jewelry; Beach Stone Jewelry; Jean Mazur, painting and mosaics, and others. Don Post and Linda Sockrider will offer antiques.

For more information, call 422-8620.

BAYHEALTH.ORG



Easter Flower Order Form

The Sanctuary is never prettier that it is when the spring flowers arrive for Easter. Placing Lilies and Tulips in the church in memory or honor of loved ones is a beautiful and cherished tradition.

This year we will again only be ordering 6" pots of Lilies and Tulips at \$7.50 each. The Altar Guild has requested that we only order 100 pots of flowers and the Tulips will be PINK. All additional funds will go to the Parish Purse.

Name		
Memory		
of		
Honor		
of		
	The cost of the Lily's and Tulips are \$7.50 each	

Please us a **separate order form**

Lily

Tulip

For each name in memory of or honored

Please Print Clearly

Names of sponsors and those remembered and honored will be in the Easter Sunday Bulletin Please make checks payable to Avenue United Methodist Church

Orders must be in no later than April 3rd

We are sorry but NO orders will be accepted after April 3rd as the flower order will be called in.



March 15, 2017

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

at the home of Poncho and Lisa Johnson

Led by Donny Hopkins



Explaining Christianity in the Secular World
Thinking our way through the Gospel of Mark
Sunday, March 19th
3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Led by Dan Nelson

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF **DONALD BUXTON**, we proudly present...

Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m.

Dover Downs Rollins Center

Route 13, Dover

Spring Classical Concert

Featuring
Dvorak's
New World Symphony
&

Romance for Violin & Orchestra
Performed by
Stefan Xhori

Prices are:

Adults - \$20

Seniors/Students/Military - \$15

Young people under 18 free with a paying adult

Tickets can now be purchased online at

www.doversymphony.org



Or Call 302-270-1903

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency,

in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts

The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.





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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 Country Flowers. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: The family and friends of Ralph Spain, April McIntyre, Al, Colleen Dunham, Darryl Jopp, Stephen Webb, Leslee, Karen Moore, Mrs. K, Ashley Bonnoni, Arthur Mosher, Steph, Jayne Frank, Sierra, Joshua, Jasey-Rae, George Huesten, Christopher, Gary Seal, family and friends of Ronnie and Bev Vincent, Mary Smith, traveling mercies, Shirley, Mary, Hannah, Charles Sandifer, Lloyd and Nancy Webb, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Lillie Brittingham, Kirsten Pearce, the Marney family, Kathy Sullivan, Dominic Lake, Charles Harding, Evelyn Townsend, Emma Burton, Bob, John Siegrist, Sean Morris, Irene Hazzard, Code Purple, Susan Coles, Ed Hudson, Howard Haverkamp, Art Blanchet, job and insurance issues, for peace, hope and love in the world.

Recently hospitalized: Betty Ziesel, Doris Warren and Carolyn Wright.

Rejoice with: The Reph family, Joe and Patty Shockley, Lindsay Hearn and Clay Rosenbrook, Marti and Gary Seal and Lillie Brittingham.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Lizzie, Matthew and James Stangl, in the passing of their grandmother, April McIntyre, Al, Colleen Dunham, The Ennis and Jopp families in the passing of Darryl Jopp, Marion Jarrell, Bruce Workman and his family, Stephen Webb, Leslee, Karen Moore, Jayne Frank, Sierra, Joshua and daughter Jasey-Rae, George Huesten, Christopher, Traveling mercies for all who are traveling, Shirley, Mary, Hannah, The family and friends of Charles Sandifer in his passing, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Lillie Brittingham, Kirsten Pearce, Kathy Sullivan, Charles Harding, Emma Burton, Bob, John Siegrist, Sean Morris, father-in-law has passed away, Our nation and its leaders, Code Purple leaders, guests and volunteers, Ed Hudson, Howard Haverkamp, Art Blanchet, Betty Ziesel, Everett Tyrrell, For the 20 million people facing the famine in Somalia, Kenya, Yemen and the South Sudan, Emma Burton, Dawn Kifer, Patricia Marney, Pat, Carolyn Wright, Yvonne Nelson, Brenda Faulk, and healing for Jimmy and Jake and all those who need your healing touch.

Recently hospitalized: Carolyn Wright, Everett Tyrell, Vada Sample and Brenda Faulk

Rejoice with: Marti and Gary Seal, 50th wedding anniversary on March 11th, Don and Pat Fisher, 50th wedding anniversary on March 18th, John and Cindy Horsman, 43rd wedding anniversary on March 12th, Mrs. K, and Jacob who is a part of the Avenue and Johnson family.

BELATED WISHES TO:

Gary and Marti Seal who celebrated their 50th anniversary on March 11th.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Don and Pat Fisher who will celebrate their 50th anniversary on March 18th.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

#Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

JMispillion Children's Chorus

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

♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

ISanctuary Choir

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

JAveNotes 1 4 1

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

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

The schedule is:

March 15th, First Presbyterian Church

March 22nd, Church of the Nazarene

March 29th, Mt. Enon Baptist Church

April 5th, Avenue UM Church

LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS ~ 12:05—12:35 P.M.

All recitals are held at Avenue Church each Thursday during Lent. A soup luncheon held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following all recitals. All are welcome.

The Schedule is:

March 16th, Kevin B. Chamberlain

March 23rd, Melanie Leinbach

March 30th, Jon Rania

April 6th, Kevin B. Chamberlain

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Everyone interested in becoming a member of Avenue Church is encouraged to attend the next New Member Orientation on **Sunday, March 26**th from **12:00-1:00 p.m**. We will meet in the Grier Room where we will get to know the Pastors better and

receive an orientation on the heritage, values, mission, and vision of both The United Methodist Church and Avenue. If you would like to attend, please email the church office at churchoffice@avenueumc.com

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. Our next meeting is March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

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

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will continue our study on March 21st, Women of Easter by Liz Curtis Higgs. 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.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP will meet on **April 5**th at 2:00 p.m. in the **Heritage Room**. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

H.O.P.E.: H.O.P.E. stands for Hold On, Pain Ends. H.O.P.E. is a safe place to talk and express your feelings. H.O.P.E. is designed to incorporate inspiration and hope into your life when you are struggling with sadness, feeling discouraged, living with pain, or handling things that feel hopeless. Through H.O.P.E., we can all become better, happier, and healthier in our lives. H.O.P.E. will continue every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Holzmueller Room. If you are interested, please contact Brittany Gunderson at blg2011motherof2@yahoo.com for details and questions. Hold on because Pain does End.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be April 10th 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 Holzmueller Room. Our next study is March 26 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.

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 31st. You can contact the preschool office at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: <u>office@avenuepreschool.org</u>. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: www.avenuepreschool.org.

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: As the new year begins we want to express our gratitude to all of you for the support you give <u>The Milford Community Pantry</u>. 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.

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 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers.

MATTHEW PROJECT FAMILY needs immediately (before or on Sunday, March 19th) warm girl clothing (sizes 9-12 or 18 months). Call Joanne at 422-6152. Clothing can be picked up.

COMMUNITY

AWARD WINNING CHILI AND KRISPY KREME DONUTS COME TO AVENUE!!!!

The Alaska Mission Trip Team will be in the foyer the next three weeks to take orders for pints (\$5) and quarts (\$10) of the Award Winning Chili Cook-off Chili by Seth Wilcox himself!! Additionally, order forms will be available to order fresh, piping hot Krispy Kreme Donuts for \$10 a dozen. Both chili and donuts will be delivered fresh and available for pick up after church services on Palm Sunday, **April 9**th. Thank you for your support!!

LAST WEEK A	T AV	ENUE
Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	52	75
9:30	133	177
Sunday School	67	61
11:00	68	62
Thursday Service	0	7
FUSION	0	34
Total	320	416

CALENDAR

		WEDNESDAY		
SUNDAY 3/19		8:30 a.m.	APS-Grandparents, Fellowship Hall	
		10:30 a.m.	Writing Group, Grier Room	
8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship	1:30 p.m.	Knitting Group, Grier Room	
	Contemporary Worship, Baptism	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary	
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School		and Music Room	
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	5:00 p.m.	Instrumental Rehearsal,	
3:00 p.m.	Explaining Christianity in the		Sanctuary	
0.00	Secular World, Fellowship Hall	5:00 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	-	Room 202	
	Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.	AveNotes, Music Room	
		6:45 p.m.	Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall	
MONDAY 3/2		7:00 p.m.	Alaska Mission Trip Meeting,	
8:30 a.m.	APS-Grandparents, Fellowship Hall		Grier Room	
11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room			
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts—Tigers, Fellowship Hall	THURSDAY 3/23		
6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir, Sanctuary	8:30 a.m.	APS-Grandparents, Fellowship Hall	
7:00 p.m.	First State Harmonizers,	11:00 a.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
	Fellowship Hall	12:05 p.m.	Lenten Organ Recital, Sanctuary	
7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Wesley Room	12:30 p.m.	Lenten Luncheon, Fellowship Hall	
7:00 p.m.	AA, Room 206	2:30 p.m.	Women's Emmaus Reunion,	
7:00 p.m.	Lenten Bible Study, Grier Room	2.50 p.m.	Room 202	
		6:30 p.m.	Pack Comm. Meeting, Grier Room	
TUESDAY 3/2	21	6:30 p.m.	Worship, Sanctuary	
8:30 a.m.	APS-Grandparents, Fellowship Hall	0.50 p.m.	worship, banctuary	
9:45 a.m.	Sarah Circle Meeting at Sharon Brown's	EDIDAY 9/94		
	residence	FRIDAY 3/24 8:30 a.m.	Lifeline Comenium Fellomekin Hell	
10:00 a.m.	Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room		Lifeline Screening, Fellowship Hall	
11:00 p.m.	Youth Workers Meeting, Wesley Room	8:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
1:30 p.m.	Mary/Martha Circle Meeting,	CAMIDDAY		
•	Grier Room	SATURDAY 3		
6:00 p.m.	MomentUM Praise Team	9:00 a.m.	Pride of Delmarva, Wesley Room	
<u>r</u>	Rehearsal, Wesley Room	7:00 p.m.	AA, Wesley Room	
6:00 p.m.	Covenant Discipleship Group,	CIDID AT NO		
F	Wendy's Office	SUNDAY 3/26		
6:15 p.m.	Mispillion Children's Choir,	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship, Baptism	
0.10 p.m.	Music Room	9:00 a.m.	Baptism Party, Fellowship Hall	
6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts—Bears, Fellowship Hall	9:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	
7:00 p.m.	Central Delaware Chess Club,	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
7.00 p.m.	Room 206	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	
7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Rehearsal,	12:15 p.m.	Exploring Faith Book Club,	
7.00 p.m.	Sanctuary		Holzmueller Room	
7:00 p.m.	Esther Circle Meeting at Beverly	12:30 p.m.	New Member Orientation, Grier Room	
7.00 p.m.	French's residence	2:00 p.m.	Pat Fisher Recital, Sanctuary	
7:00 n m	VBS Meeting, Grier Room	3:00 p.m.	Explaining Christianity in the	
7:00 p.m.	v Do Meeting, Grief Mooiii		Secular World, Fellowship Hall	
		6:00 p.m.	FUSION, Wesley Room &	
			Fellowship Hall	

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