



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Last week I wrote about the judging that takes place during the Olympic Games. Specifically, I find the balance beam competition to be the most excruciating to watch. I fear the gymnasts are not only going to fall but will have some horrible injury as well.

Falls can be debilitating for more than just Olympic athletes. Over this past year we have had scores of our church family take tumbles that caused some serious wounds and bone breaks. Thankfully, after time and care, most have healed successfully. There are still some of our members who are recovering from these incidents so please keep them in your prayers.

But perhaps the most “famous” fall belongs to Adam and Eve. Because of their disobedience in eating from the tree of knowledge they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Subsequently all generations of humanity have had to deal with the outcome. The Doctrine of Original Sin could be a small group study for a month but suffice it to say that different theories abound about what effect it has had on our eternal relationship with God.

In our own lives we figuratively fall every day. While we are on a spiritual journey towards perfection we have not yet arrived. Our

hearts may want to follow God's commandments and our desire is to not sin. Yet we still fall short of that goal.

We also stumble on our spiritual path thanks to trials and tribulations. Life brings times of pain and concerns and there are occasions when that brings us to our knees. As humans we have plenty of reasons to fall.

But it is in those falls when we see God holding us up and lifting us when falter. It may be hard to deal with the outcome of those slip-ups but when we recognize what God is doing for us in the midst of our difficulties we recognize that we are blessed to have a Creator who walks with us through all of our ups and downs.

Psalm 145:14 says "the Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down." The Lord never lets us walk alone and when we face our mistakes and issues – both of which can cause us to fall – we have a savior who is there to help us up and keep moving forward. We learn from our falls and we go on. Having our Savior loving us through it all is the best prize this world could ever give.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

Pastor Henry



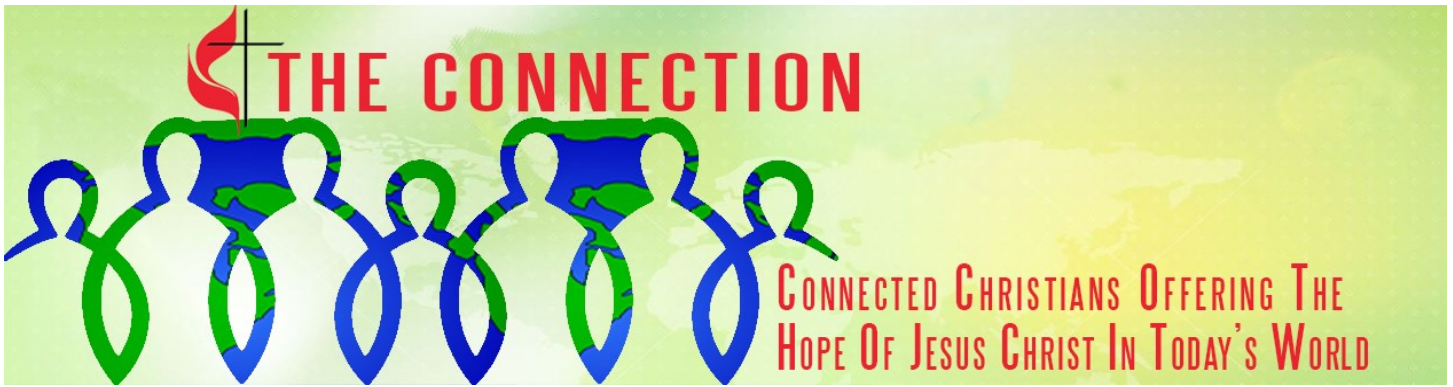
Please Join Us for a Fundraising Event!

Cub Scout Pack 186
Milford– Silicato Way
August 2, 2016 | 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 |  



From the desk of our Conference Director Vicki . . .

My daughter, Joy, and I sat at the dining room table after dinner recently having conversation about race. We began with systemic racism, which the Black Lives Matter movement wants to address, and moved to police officers and individual attitudes. We arrived quickly at the prevailing feelings in our society of fear and defensiveness and weariness, and a sense that we remain stuck hiding behind these walls. Joy expressed a feeling of hopelessness, as if anything we do will be too little, too late. So, we explored that topic for a while and came to a place of challenge and commitment: What are we each doing personally to address the issues of racism and fear and break down barriers to build relationships of trust? And what steps are we willing to take? In that place, we found hope, a hope which reminded me of one of my favorite quotes: “Hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible.” (William Sloane Coffin) And, we know that “All things are possible with God.” (Mark 10:27)

Yet, even with that hope, peace seems far away. We get glimpses of it, though, whenever people take the risk of listening to “the other,” their enemies or people who do not agree with them. We tend to stick with people who agree with our point of view, or else we avoid the topics. However, we can only hope for peace when we cross those lines. Desmond Tutu, a Bishop in South Africa, wrote: “If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.” The work of peace is not for the faint of heart. Still, God calls us to that work, to be ambassadors for Christ who is our peace, as he tears down the dividing walls of hostility. (See Ephesians 2.)

I read a wonderful story demonstrating how these dividing walls can come tumbling down. Perhaps some of you have heard it, by now. In Wichita, Kansas, police officers and protesters from the Black Lives Matter movement came together for a feast on Sunday, the same day a man killed three police officers in Baton Rouge. At a Black Lives Matter protest last week, Police Chief Gordon Ramsay met with some of the leaders to hear their concerns. Notice, he first listened! Then, he suggested that instead of another protest, which leaders had

scheduled for Sunday, the police force and community come together for a barbeque. The Black Lives Matter leaders and community responded positively, with over one thousand in attendance.

At the picnic, called “First Steps Cookout,” the police cooked and served hamburgers and sat with members of the community, starting to build and renew relationships. One woman said that she felt she could introduce police to her teenaged son, and they could get to know him as a person, instead of a threat. Police officers felt that the community also got to know them as human beings, instead of only seeing the uniform. The police held a question and answer session afterwards to continue to listen to the frustration of the community over unequal treatment. Chief Ramsay said: "This isn't something we're going to change overnight or tonight. It's just going to take continual effort on everybody's part. And work on policy changes, relationships. And that's what's going to get to the heart of the issues." Can you glimpse the hope there?

Ultimately, these issues that divide us are heart issues, are they not? They are spiritual issues which can only be solved through the grace of God: giving us the courage to trust again, even after our trust has been repeatedly broken; changing our attitudes toward one another as we learn to grow in relationships; and strengthening us to address the harder issue of systemic racism, our policies and practices which favor one group of people over another. This work of righteousness (setting our relationships in right order and alignment) takes hard work, but it does bring hope! And it begins with each one of us.

So, I ask you today: What are YOU doing to tear down the dividing walls of hostility between racial groups and law enforcement? What is your CHURCH doing to build trust within the community between disparate groups? Lyndon B. Johnson said: “Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time.” What step will you take to join me on this journey of peace?

Psalms 85 reminds us that God: “...speaks peace to his people and to his faithful ones. Don’t let them return to foolish ways...Faithful love and truth have met; righteousness and peace have kissed...Righteousness walks before God, making a road for his steps.” Let’s create a road for God’s steps toward righteousness (right relationships) and peace.

Blessings on the journey,

Vicki

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Director of Connectional Ministries

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

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

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

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

NO AUDITIONS!
NO FEES!
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!



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

QUESTIONS

themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com

Kevin B. Chamberlain (302) 422-8111

Sharon Starling (302) 422-2785

2016 ANNUAL YARD SALE

AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thursday, August 4th: 2:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. [\$1.00 Admission this day only]

Friday, August 5th: 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 6th: 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Workers Needed

All days, full and part time; as many hours as you can give.

Cashiers, Walkers and Lifters needed on Thursday through Saturday.

Thursday only Free Lunch offered for all workers.

DONATIONS NEEDED . . . NO RECALLED ITEMS . . .

Tax Receipts available.

☺Clothing – Adult/Children

☺Electronics – No TV's

☺Housewares

☺Outdoor Items

☺Linens

☺Holiday Decorations

☺Home Decorations

☺Children's Items

☺Furniture – Good Condition

☺Toys and Games

☺Jewelry

☺Sporting Goods

☺Treasures/Antiques

Items not accepted:

Books, Baby Furniture, Large Appliances, Computers, Mattresses,
Carpet Pieces, Shoes, Newspapers, Magazines,
TV's or Furniture in poor condition.

Drop Off Days

July 25th — August 1st: 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Large Item Pick-up Days

Call for appointment for pick-up:

Larry Hughes (302) 745-4331 or Sonny Meck (302) 690-4953

Questions

Call Peggy Hughes (410) 212-7391 or Clareann Phipps (302) 670-7527

Sponsored by Volunteers of Avenue United Methodist Church.

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



10% Give Back Night at HomeTown Diner

First Tuesday of the month

611 N Dupont Blvd, Milford, DE

302-424-1100

(Next to Central Tractor Supply)

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Proceeds benefit  **Bayhealth**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

ALTAR FLOWERS: The following dates are available in **2016:** September 18th, 25th; December 4th, 11th. If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Country Flowers. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK: Ellie and Al Lauckner and family, the friends and family of Tim McClanahan, Jack Heinback, Jeanie Zaimes, Lee Tyrrell, Cindy McBroom, the family of Bob Van Gorden, Jim McGee, Katie Meadows, Pastor Tom, for all needing healing, Bill Gustin, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Jim Greenly, Linda Archer, Valerie Burd, Caroline, Aunt Ada, the family of Kathryn Barnes, Ann, all victims of violence in this nation, the murdered police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, the victims of the hospital shooting in Florida, for the victims of the terrorist attack in Nice, the people of Turkey, for this nation and her citizens, for everybody involved with the first political convention in Cleveland including residents, law enforcement, attendees, delegates, nominees, media, protesters and everyone else that will in some way be part of this event.

Recently hospitalized: Dorlene Fox.

Rejoice with: Adriana Nelson, Victoria Nelson, Louise Combs, Boy Scout Troop 186, everyone celebrating a July birthday, Jen Antonik, Bishop Johnson and all who took part in the D.C. Christian event.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Cindy McBroom, the family and friends of Jack VanGorder, Lynne Pusey and family, Barbara Vederose, Billy Combs, Chuck Culotta Jr. (not Chuck Sr.), Sara, a friend whose son committed suicide, Katie Meadows, Jeanie Zaimes, Jerry Jackson, Charlie Harding, Joann's friend, Greg Coverdale, Gwen Bennton, Donna Robinson, Larry and Joan Wadman's son, Carol Reed, Jean Murphy, Bill and Shannon, Bill Gustin, Mike and Karen Williams, family and friends of Linda Archer, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Cindy Reph, Dorlene Fox, Lee Tyrrell, Everett Tyrrell, Pearl Bock, Mike, the victims of the Munich massacre, Donald, Anne, the family and ministry of Rev. Dan Lehigh, for our nation, for all involved in some way with the DNC in Philadelphia, the Pasmore family, for all working outside, for all living things dealing with this heat, for all dealing with violence and for ourselves.

Rejoice with: Everyone involved with the Delaware State Fair, Valerie Burd, Nicole and Chris, everyone who enjoyed Camp Pecometh and Bill Gustin

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Cindy McBroom** who joined the kingdom eternal on **July 19th**. Cindy joined Avenue Church on October 28, 2012.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CUB SCOUTS 186 FUNDRAISER: Cub Scout Pack 186 will be having a fundraiser night at Grotto Pizza in Milford on Tuesday, August 2nd. Vouchers will be in the church foyer. A percentage of the proceeds go to our pack.

MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULES:

♪Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Music Room
[rehearsal resume September, 12th.]

♪MomentUM Praise Team

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Praise Team

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♪Sanctuary Choir

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., Music Room
[rehearsal resume September, 7th.]

♪AveNotes

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
[rehearsal resume September, 7th.]

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY

We will continue to meet through August with a variety of topics. Please join us at any time. Contact 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 Wednesday, **August 10th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Come join us. Contact Janice Abbott at (302) 422-1863.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2nd Monday of each month**. The next meeting will be **August 8th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

BOOK CLUB: Our next meeting will not be until September in the Grier Room. We will continue to read "Finding My Way Home" by Henri Nouwen. All are welcome.

OUTREACH

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: Thanks all of you who have donated food and hygiene supplies to our shelves. The **3rd Sunday** of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. If you forget you can always leave donations at our door in the education wing. **Looking for volunteers in the Pantry** please call Tita Lewis (302) 664-1321. **Food Pantry Summer Hours: June 13th—September 2nd the Food Pantry will be open from 10:00 a.m. thru 2:00 p.m.**

MATTHEW PROJECT FAMILY needs any type clothing size 5-6 boys and girls size 10-12.

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. Contact the preschool office at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: office@avenuepreschool.org. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: www.avenuepreschool.org.

CONCERT: On **July 31st at 6:00 p.m.** the New Life Baptist Church is hosting the Gospel Herald Group from the Appalachian Bible College, which is located in Mount Hope, West VA. The musical program is entitled "**Grace Overflowing**" consists of 4 ladies and 4 men. The students are on the last leg of a 10 week tour covering the North East. A member of the group is Hannah Jones, the granddaughter of Larry and Joan Wadman.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	74	62
9:30	150	175
Sunday School	35	33
11:00	70	58
Total	329	328

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 7/31

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

MONDAY 8/1

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Wesley Room
8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 8/2

3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting,
Conference Room
6:00 p.m. MomentUM Praise Team
Rehearsal, Wesley Room
6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,
Wendy's Office
6:00 p.m. Pre Diabetes Meeting,
Heritage Room
7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
7:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting,
Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Chrystalis Meeting,
Holzmueller Room

WEDNESDAY 8/3

5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202

THURSDAY 8/4 ~YARD SALE

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

FRIDAY 8/5 ~ YARD SALE

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

SATURDAY 8/6 ~ YARD SALE

4:00 p.m. Wedding, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 8/7

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship