



AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Sometimes it's much better to let someone other than your pastor have a word along your spiritual journey. So I would like to share something that a friend of mine from California wrote that touched me and I believe will touch you. This is written by my friend Heidi Hill, whom I worked with more than 10 years ago. As you can tell, Heidi has a heart for Christ. Her father was a pastor and she is a professor of English so the combination is powerful. This comes to you from Heidi...

Over fifteen years ago, I had the privilege to teach Freshmen English to a group of international college students. As an avid English scholar, I was very interested to learn how each of the students would approach our language. One night, one of the nursing students from Japan called me to ask for help with the difference among the words: "wish," "want," and "hope." In her native language, there is only one word for the three English words. As I explained the differences among the words, I began to understand what an important word "hope" is. As opposed to the other words: wish, want, yearn for, crave, desire, and other words like them, hope is different because this short word holds within its definition the possibility that whatever we hope

for may become real.

As Christians, as we pray, we actively express our trust and hope. We know that we can trust God to nurture us, and to care for our every need when it is needed. We are like the psalmist who wrote, "In the day of trouble [the Lord] will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock (Psalm 27:5 NIV).

As Christians, our sure hope is based on our faith in a faithful God. Author Kevin Gerald wrote, "Hope is a stubborn determination to not allow the hardships of life to downsize the bigness of God." We understand that in a Good Friday world of temporary pain and profound suffering, we are Easter people who own an irrepressible future hope in the resurrection of Jesus and new life.

We uplift all on the prayer list and on our hearts for God's grace, good friends, courage, hope, comfort, strength, joy, and peace. As Paul wrote, "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

To God be the glory forever and ever.



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



From the desk of our Conference Director Vicki . . .

At dinner recently, Bo and I began reminiscing for Joy about our time at Annapolis and in the Navy. She kept asking questions and so we kept telling stories. Bo asked me if I still remembered the “Lifeboat Crew” song. As plebes, we had to memorize the steps for “Man Overboard.” The book contained a song which most people did not include. But, since I love music, I learned the song and can still sing both verses after 30 years. My squad leader made me stage the drill as if it were a musical. I added a shark and the Jaws theme music for fun, as my lifeboat crew raced to reach the person overboard before the shark attacked.

Reflecting on the steps of the procedure, I thought about how they would apply to the church. As you can imagine, losing someone overboard led to an “all-hands” evolution. We all knew that if we had been the ones to fall overboard, we would want everyone on the ship showing up to help rescue us. The first person to see the person overboard would point to the person in the water continuously and yell, “Man overboard! (Port or Starboard) side!” Immediately, the Officer of the Deck would announce it to the crew and everyone would report to their stations. Someone would toss a life buoy and a smoke float over the side as soon as possible to help keep track of the person. The ship would let other ships in the area know what was happening by raising the Oscar flag (during the day) and sounding six short blasts on the ship’s whistle. People on deck all pointed as soon as they spotted the person in the water.



The conning officer would order the rudder over full in the direction to which the person fell, and then as soon as they ensured the propeller would clear the person, they would direct that all engines be brought to full speed ahead. We learned two basic maneuvers to rescue a person, an Anderson turn for the daytime and a Williamson turn for night. The Anderson turn took the ship in a complete circle and was the fastest way to retrieve someone. The Williamson turn involved a loop which brought the ship back to the

same course, but heading 180 degrees in the other direction. In other words, in the Williamson turn, the ship basically retraced its course as closely as possible to find and rescue the person.

We practiced these drills on the ship repeatedly, using three life jackets tied together to make “Oscar.” Most of the time, we did not have to deploy the lifeboats, but we readied them just in case. Everyone needed to know their station and their role during the procedure so that answering the call would become second nature. Rehearsing it over and over planted the steps firmly in our minds, so that in the event of a real emergency, we did not have to think, but rather we acted on instinct from memory. These drills reduced the impact of stress on the crew in the event of a real emergency.

Can you see how this metaphor might work for the church? We, who know Jesus Christ, have become the crew of the ship. But other people remain in the sea, overboard and drifting. Finding them and bringing them on board depends on ALL of us, not just a designated few. We must all be searching for those overboard, willing to give up anything to bring them to Jesus. These drills took place at night, when some were sleeping, during mealtimes, when some were eating, and during other times, when people were working. No matter what, everyone responded, willing to sacrifice to save one soul. What might God be calling you to sacrifice in order to bring someone aboard? Your music? Your Bible study? Your worship times? Your comfort level with everyone looking like you? Your click or group of friends? Your security? Your time? Your gifts? When someone fell overboard, the ship’s crew held nothing back in trying to rescue the person. Why do we in the church not do the same?

Each person on the ship had an assignment. Some steered the ship. Some worked in the engine rooms. Some kept track of radar. Some readied the lifeboat. Some just pointed. But everyone had a role. Typically, too, those roles coincided with our gifts. We did not send a mess cook to fix the lifeboat engine; we sent a small engine repair person. We did not send the engineer to steer the ship; we kept the engineer in the engine room and used our best conning officers to direct the ship’s path. In the church, God also gifts each of us for different roles and invites us to be ready to offer that gift when needed. But, all the parts worked together in order to save the person overboard. How do all the parts work together in your church? Are you playing the role God gifted you to play? Are you showing up for God, or waiting for others to do the work for you?

What about rehearsals? Are you strengthening your God-given gift to use for Jesus to rescue another? Are you rehearsing with others in the church, memorizing your part so that when you get the opportunity, your role comes second nature to you? Some people view worship as a rehearsal, where we learn to tell our stories and practice our parts so that when someone asks, we are ready to give a reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. (See 1 Peter 3:15.) In what ways can you and your church rehearse your roles?

Finally, when someone fell overboard, the ship went to retrieve them. We did not wait for them to swim to us. At nighttime, the ship would retrace its path, in order to try to find the person even when they could not see. Do we, as a church, simply wait for people to swim to us? Are we willing to retrace our steps, relearn what is important to our faith, in order to find the lost? What is God calling YOU to do, in order to go overboard to help rescue those adrift in the seas of trouble? Will we make the sacrifice for others? Jesus sacrificed for us AND for those not yet aboard. He calls us to help in his search and rescue efforts. Are you ready, willing, and able to play your role?

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



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

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

Learn more about GriefShare at www.griefshare.org

GriefShare

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

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

Meets in the Grier Room

Avenue United Methodist Church

20 N. Church Street
Milford, DE 19963
(302) 422-8111
www.avenueumc.com



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: : 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 Zaines, 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

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Barbara Vederose, Katie Meadows, Jeanie Zaines, Jerry Jackson, Jean Murphy, Jim Greenly, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Cindy Reph, Dorlene Fox, Pearl Bock, Donald, Anne, Chuck Culotta Jr., Lorraine Reph, Leslee and Tony, Eleanor Towers, Brad Dennehy's parents, Patty Shockley's daughter, Debbie Topolski's cousin, Henry and Ben Pontius, Donny, Colby, Pastor Tom, Charles Harding, a local pastor and family, Kenzie Betts, Tim Shockley, Bill Gustin, the United States and the world, all those who do not know Jesus Christ, Todd French, Stacey Wilkins' son, the new and returning visitors to church, Ronnie Wharton, Bundy Simms, all people who are hurting, Fran Johnson's son, Bill and Shannon, Mike Volstorf, Brandon's son, Becky and family, Jeff, Ruth Peters, Billy Combs, Charlie Clendaniel Sr. and all those dealing with violence.

Rejoice with: Cliff and Erin McCall and their unborn baby, all medical professionals, Lee & Everett Tyrrell and Stacey Wilkins' son.

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.]

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

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY

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.

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, Del-

aware 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.

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2015	2016
8:00	59	63
9:30	149	162
Sunday School	33	23
11:00	73	57
Total	313	305

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 8/7

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

MONDAY 8/8

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group,
Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

TUESDAY 8/9

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,
Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting,
Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship Group,
Wendy's Office
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting,
Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 8/10

- 10:30 a.m. Writing Group, Grier Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 4:00 p.m. Widow/Widowers, Grier Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Pack 186 Leaders Meeting,
Grier Room
- 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,
Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY 8/11

- 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 8/12

- 6:00 p.m. Smith/Campos Wedding
Rehearsal
- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 8/13

- 4:30 p.m. Smith/Campos Wedding
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 8/14

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