



The Midweek

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

Just like the rest of the nation, I followed the news about Hurricane Irma very closely. In the days leading up to the landfall I prayed that somehow it would miss populated spots altogether. As we now know, there was a great deal of damage and loss of life.

The images of traffic backed up attempting to flee the path of the storm got me to thinking about what was in each of those vehicles. Certainly, there were family, friends and pets whose very lives were being saved by the evacuation. What else was in those cars and trucks? What would I take if I only had a short window to decide and get on the road? What treasures would I grab on my way out of town?

Matthew 6:21 says, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” As I contemplated what I would take, I realized that what was truly important to me were not the things that the secular world assign much value to.

My first priority would be pictures and photos especially of Chris as a baby and of family members who have gone on to God’s eternal kingdom. Artwork that my son did in elementary school, gifts that had been given to me by those who love me, and other sentimental items that could never be replaced would come next. Only then would I add my phone and computer but not because those

items are financially worth much but because they represent the ways I would be able to stay in contact with my family and friends.

My jewelry, furniture, televisions and other “higher ticket” items didn’t even warrant consideration. They simply were not important in the hierarchy of what I considered true treasure. What would you take if you were on route 1 heading north out of the way of a hurricane? Where is your treasure that follows your heart?

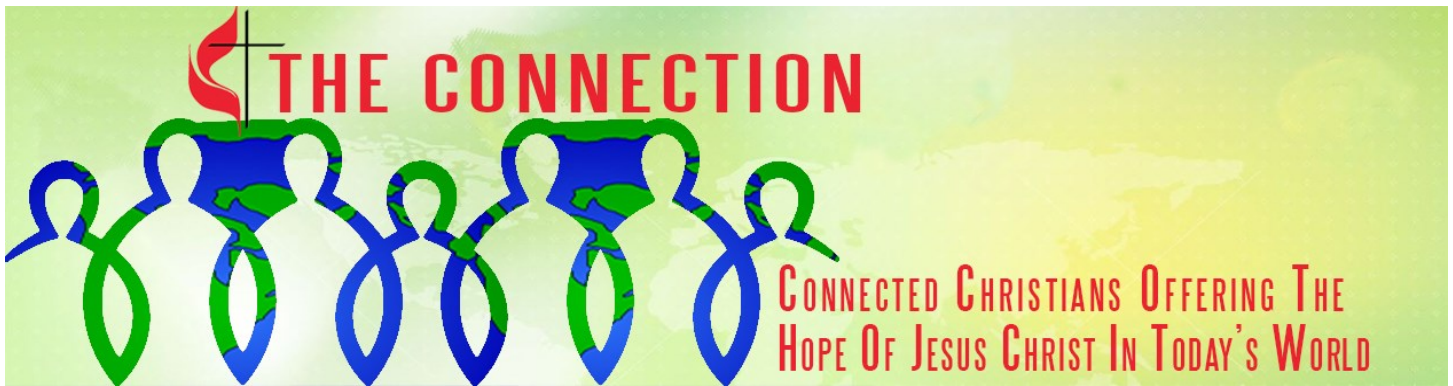
One other note is that in every car, truck, boat, and in the homes and shelters of those who rode out the storm, God was there. Nobody had to think about packing the Lord or placing the Creator in some little corner where there was a small amount of space. God was already there and always would be. As Jesus is the true treasure for all of humanity, we can give thanks that every person carries with him and her the fullness of God’s grace no matter where they go or what is happening in their lives.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- * Trustees Meeting—**Sept. 18th** at 7:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- * SPRC Meeting—**Sept. 21st** at 7:00 p.m. in Holzmueller Room
- * Church/Charge Conference—**Sept. 22nd** at 6:30 p.m. in Sanctuary



From the desk of the Dover District Superintendent

Holy Change through Gracious Dialogue on Race

It was at Drew Theological School that I experienced such a diverse community. I lived in a family dormitory on campus with my children with international students from all over the world. I saw my children playing at the playground with children from China, Canada, India, Japan, Iceland, Austria and West Samoa. Their parents were our neighbors for 3 years until I graduated. My family had nobody in America, but these people who served as my extended family members. We borrowed things from each other when we didn't own something. Some of my neighbors attended my children's teachers' conferences for me when I had to take classes and babysat when I was away. The differences and accents of my neighbors were a natural part of my everyday life. Having come from a racially homogeneous country, South Korea, I had learned to embrace and enjoy all the differences—food, culture and expressions of their values—with ever-increasing curiosity. There was so much in them that brought such richness of life to us—life abundant for differences.

However, in churches that I have served, somehow diversity seems to be an issue. Many questions tend to arise with challenges of learning how to become an inter-culturally sensitive and competent leader at the crossroads of “fear zone” or “safe zone”. What are these challenges? How can I overcome these? I ponder and wrestle as an Asian-American pastor.

I came to have more hope through my personal reflection and deeper dialogue with participants in the latest 2.5 days' **intercultural competence training** hosted by the Dover District's Revelation 5 Task Force, the district's racial reconciliation team to take **GRACIOUS LEADERSHIP** in the face of stereotypes, prejudices, discriminations and destructive racism. Participants were a diverse group of African-Americans, Hispanic-Latinos, Euro-Americans,

Native Americans and me as an Asian American. Through training we came to believe and hope that **we can build bridges by having gracious dialogue on race and other hot issues of our time** without pointing fingers or punishing individuals or groups but by empowering individuals and groups with skills and knowledge to function effectively and faithfully in a multicultural diverse community.



As the Rev. Bill Cruse, the regional director of Kaleidoscope Institute (KI) founded by Eric Law, emphasized, we learned: ***"It is NOT anti-racism in the form of demonizing any individual or groups. It is about naming the principalities and powers (including racism) that separate us from each other and from God in the past and the present, and learning how to resist them as a community. It is NOT avoiding our history and present differences and pretending that everything is okay. It is about fully acknowledging our history and our present differences while being able to reconnect with the reconciling power of the Spirit to restore the community of Christ. It does NOT take a one-time, top-down, fix-it, one-way learning event. It is a life-long mutual learning process through which we continue to strive to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God, as individuals, in our communities and in our ministries."***

On the last day of our training, we were discussing our takeaways and how to apply our training to our ministry. One African American pastor shared how her congregation mingled with Native Americans at the POW WOW while worshipping together at the venue and how she wants to continue to embrace

racial diversity in her congregation with intentional leadership. One Native American participant stood up in tears to initiate his hug toward her, thanking her for such an intentional outreach. Another participant shared how he was surprised by diverse experiences and struck by the pain and singular strength people had. All this happened when we got together for intentional vital conversations with GRACE. It takes **holy boldness** not to pretend everything is okay. We were no longer strangers to one another at the end of it.

The training ended with worship where we all declared the hope of Jesus Christ in the spirit of holy boldness to practice their gracious leadership through gracious dialogue against hatred and destructive ‘isms’. They were empowered with a determination to make holy change in a diverse, changing world. The Dover District’s Revelation 5 Task Force and 15 trained intercultural coaches came up with specific follow-up practice to reach out to young people, especially high school students, to coach them to be more inter-culturally sensitive and competent leaders in the future as the district works in partnership with a non-profit community partner, Pathway to Success.

Where is your church in this gracious leadership through gracious dialogue on racial reconciliation? There is always a call for the hope of Jesus Christ we can offer. Let’s search for the opportunity of offering the hope and fulfill it in the spirit of holy boldness to make holy change in response to God’s reconciling action through Christ. “...God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (*2 Corinthians 5:19-20, NIV*)

The Rev. Dr. Kyung Hee Sa
Dover District Superintendent

Notes from the Leadership Team – September 5, 2017

The leadership team met last Tuesday to discuss preparations for Charge Conference and review items from the Trustees. The meeting opened with prayer and then proceeded to review the work of the various administrative committee.

SPRC is working on Charge Conference reports and other personnel related items.

Finance has prepared a draft budget that we hope will be presented at Charge Conference for approval. Giving has been good this year exceeding the numbers in 2016, and the renovations that were completed through the Journey of Faith campaign have been paid off.

The Pastors reported that the new year will bring a focus on discipleship. Both Pastor Wendy and Pastor Tom are hoping that everyone this year will grow closer in their relationship with God. Mission Groups is one way of pursuing this goal. Mission groups marry a ministry that the group feels called to and a time of spiritual formation. Avenue has already started our first Mission Group with the leaders of our Code Purple shelter. The group prays and studies Scripture for half an hour and then focuses on the upcoming season of Code Purple. The group can be organized around any mission, planning a mission trip, knitting blankets for newborns, developing a new worship service are all good examples. Hopefully the Holy Spirit will call individuals to form groups as the church moves forward.

The Trustees reiterated a number of issues that they have been having with the facility:

- ◆ Fire doors should be kept closed when not in use.
- ◆ The preschool is a partner in everything that we do.
- ◆ The staff needs to be aligned with the safety committee in order to execute the plan as needed.
- ◆ The Trustees have a plan and need everyone's help to make it work.
- ◆ If you would like more information about the Trustees master plan for the building and grounds, please talk with Jim Clendaniel or Jack Dickerson. They would be happy to walk you through the details.

The bulk of the rest of the meeting focused on projects that the Trustees were considering. These are presented in no particular order and all are on the table for consideration.

- Redo the landscaping in the front of the church to eliminate weeds and enhance the beauty of the facility. Reduce maintenance costs of the landscaping to help save the church resources. Cost: \$5-10,000
- Digital message board for the outdoor sign on the corner. Cost: \$20-30,000
- Storage building somewhere on the property. Would probably be a 50' x 100' pole barn with utilities. This would eliminate the need for the outdoor sheds that are out back of the parking lot. Cost: \$50-100,000

- Put in centralized climate control for the building to be able start up or shut down areas that are in use or not. Limit the autonomous control of the thermostat in each room. Provide utilities cost savings. Cost: \$40-50,000
- Build a storage area under the existing portico between the sanctuary and the music room. It would replace the sheds out back and the need for a pole barn. It would also be integrated into the existing building. Cost: about \$100,000
- Repave and line the parking lot as needed. Cost: \$75-100,000
- Redesign and renovate the nursery to make it more adult and child friendly. Cost: \$10-20,000

Other suggestions are welcomed. No action was taken on any of these projects, except for the landscaping—that project is out for bids and will be reviewed and possibly approved when the competitive bidding process is completed. If you have feedback please share it with the Trustees.

THIS SEPTEMBER AT AVENUE **The Mispillion Children's Chorus**

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

SEPTEMBER 5th
Tuesday evenings 6:15-7:15 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 PREVIOUS 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

The Reminders

Friday, October 20, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church Street | Milford, DE



A freewill offering will be taken to help support this concert and the new concert series at Avenue Church.

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: All those affected by Hurricane Harvey, All those who are in the path of Hurricane Irma, Missy B., Family members test results, All travelers during this busy time of year, Manny and his family, Bill and Jull Gustin, Michael, Patsy Sullivan, Veterans who think that suicide is the only way out, For our nation, elected leaders and all citizens to find ways to move forward as one nation under God, Howard Haverkamp, Sandy Elliott, Jay Lock, Bill Medhurst, The family of Susan Willis Havell, Cheryl, Marilyn Bowe, David Johnson, Judy B., Christopher, Lorraine Donovan, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Kirsten Pearce, Jane Dove, April McIntyre, Colleen Dunham, Charlie Harding, Bill Gaskill and family, Bill Salvin and family, For the 26 pastors and laity preparing to travel with the Dover District on the spiritual pilgrimage to Korea in September, For the additional service men and women being sent to Afghanistan, Elizabeth, All of our students, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, and parents, All on our roads to slow down as school begins, All of our Scouts as they begin a new Scout year and The family of Dennis Hazzard.

Rejoice with: Praise God for Brayden Hearn, the proud son of Lindsay Hearn and Clay Rosenbrook, Praise God for all of God's gifts, Rejoice with Avenue Preschool staff and students as they officially begin the school's 50th year on September 11th and Thank God for Donna Hill and her husband.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: Family and friends of Dennis Hazzard, family and friends of Kathryn Barnes, family and friends of Tom Draper, family and friends of Doris Semans, all the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and all the natural disasters taking place in the world, all the first responders and volunteers working to protect and care for victims and evacuees, Dave and Sharon Dawson, Laura, Howard Haverkamp, Justin Shaulis, Bill Salvin, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, April McIntyre, Charlie Harding, Colleen Dunham, Bill Gaskill and family, all preparing to attend the Korean pilgrimage, Naomi Drumheller, Karen, everyone taking the next step on their faith journey, those dealing with issues at work, and Cheryl and Marilyn Bowe.

Rejoice with: All celebrating the new church year.

SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Tom Draper** who passed away on **September 8, 2017.**

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

FLU VACCINES AT AUMC: On Sunday, **October 22nd** from **9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m** in Fellowship Hall. All you need to do is bring your pharmacy benefit insurance card, Medicare, Medicaid or VA card. **No co-pay**. If you have any questions, please call Walgreens at (302) 424-6300, option 2 and the option 3.

AUTUMN HARVEST SALE: The United Methodist Women Autumn Harvest Sale is coming soon. You can expect to see handmade and home-made items from craft items to wreaths to knitted and hand sew items and cheese. Baked goods are welcome too. It is not too late to start making crafts or handmade garments to donate. Small plants, paintings, boutique type things and jewelry all are welcome. Please contact the church office, Peggy Hughes or Linda Keller to donate. Mark your calendar to come pick up some wonderful Christmas gifts at this year's Autumn Harvest Sale in Fellowship Hall on **Friday, November 3rd (10:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.) and Sunday, November 5th.(after all 3 services)**

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: We will begin the study of MOSES—In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet on **September 19th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Grier Room. 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.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY: This 9 week LIFE CHANGING CLASS will continue on **Tuesday, September 19th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Grier Room**. Dave Ramsey will be giving us a total money makeover via DVD. He will teach and train us to manage our resources in a godly manner. Following the video, a volunteer will host a small group discussion. This is where true accountability and behavior changes occur. The group takes the “baby steps” needed to walk them to financial peace. If you have any questions, please contact Ken or Melissa Wilcox

at (302) 424-4209 or kmbsw@netzero.net.

SUNSHINE ADULT BIBLE STUDY: The Sunshine Bible Class, our only Adult Sunday School class, will begin meeting **September 17th** in the Grier Room at 9:30 AM. Our studies for September are Signs of God's Covenants. These signs are September 17th, "Sabbath Observance;" and September 24th, "Spirit-Filled Heart." Come and join the Class in these exciting studies.

EXPLORING FAITH BOOK CLUB meets on the third Sunday of the Month at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. Our next study is **September 17th**. We will be beginning a study of the Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis. Screwtape is a member of the Devil's organization and he is writing to his nephew Wormwood, who is a newbie in the Devil's service. Screwtape and Wormwood have been assigned a man who is a new Christian. Their job is to keep him from taking his faith seriously. We shall be studying the first four letters in the book. Come and see what the Devil through his servants thinks about God and the Christian faith.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP our next meeting on **October 4th** at 11:00 a.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 **October 9th** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

OUTREACH

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: On the first Tuesday of each month at 1p.m. you will see a Food Bank truck in our parking lot. This is a Food Bank initiative; our only involvement is to give them permission to use our parking lot. This is the monthly Senior Feeding Program. If you are interested or know of someone who could benefit from this program contact the Food Bank or call 211.

As far as the inventory of the Milford Community Pantry; we are low on **cereal** again...all donations are appreciated.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR. Registration is ongoing for a limited number of spots for the 2017-18 school year, which is the preschool's **50th** year providing early education services in the community. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31st, unless entering our new "Young Beginners" program--see next section for those details. Registration must be done in person. Contact the Preschool Director, Paula Yeich, and 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.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL NEW-OFFER: Children who will turn 3 after August 31st but before December 31, 2017 are now able to register for our beginners program. They will be in our 2 day program that is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Children must be potty-trained before the first day of school. Children in our preschool program are actively involved in a curriculum that stresses the social, emotional, physical and academic aspects of

their development. For further information please see the contact details in the Avenue Preschool section above.

CODE PURPLE: With the Fall chill in the air, we can't help but be reminded that Code Purple will be back in full swing before we know it. We need to begin filling the calendar with meal sign ups now, so that there will be less to worry about when the season begins. Joyce Bonnoni is seeking assistance from the community by reaching out to other churches, business, organizations, and local families. Please consider joining with coworkers, other families, or having an organization that your family is involved in sign up to prepare a meal once, or once each month during our open season, November through March. Meals can be prepared and brought hot to serve, prepared and frozen, or purchased, but should feed 20-25 people.

We are also needing a meal coordinator, and a donation coordinator at this time. If you are interested in sponsoring a meal or filling one of the coordinator positions, please contact Joyce Bonnoni at jbonnonicp@gmail.com or 302-242-8968.

MATTHEW PROJECT is in need of clothing for two children: Boy 7, size 7 or 8 - tops and bottoms and underpants. Girl age 5, size 5 or 6 tops and bottoms and underpants. (They do not need school uniform clothing). **These children just moved to Milford from North Carolina to live with their aunt.** Contact Joanne 422-6152 or 393-9342. (A Church member has given them shoes, socks, and coats).

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	60	51
9:30	217	143
Sunday School	63	77
11:00	76	74
FUSION	0	0
Total	416	345

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 9/17

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
 2:00 p.m. 2nd Street Players Rehearsal,
 Grier Room
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room and
 Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 9/18

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Holz. Room
 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
 Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Trustee's Meeting, Grier Room

TUESDAY 9/19

9:45 a.m. Sarah Circle Meeting, Mary Jo
 Lear's residence
 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study,
 Grier Room
 1:30 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle Meeting,
 UMW Room 207
 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
 6:15 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,
 Music Room
 6:30 p.m. Webelos Den, Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,
 Room 206
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,
 Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Financial Peace University,
 Grier Room

WEDNESDAY 9/20

10:30 a.m. Diabetes Prevention Program,
 Heritage Room
 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den Meeting,
 Wesley Room

THURSDAY 9/21

8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
 Conference Room
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
 2:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,
 Room 202
 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Wesley Room
 7:00 p.m. SPRC, Holzmuller Room

FRIDAY 9/22

6:30 p.m. Church/Charge Conference,
 Sanctuary
 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 9/23

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 9/24

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 12:00 p.m. UMW General Meeting/Covered
 Dish, Fellowship Hall
 2:00 p.m. 2nd Street Players—Rehearsal,
 Grier Room
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room and
 Fellowship Hall