



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, June 13, 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

A few weeks ago, it seemed as if the rain was not going to stop. It was right around the time I was commissioned which led someone to suggest that perhaps I was being prepped to start pulling the animals together, two-by-two.

Hopefully it won't come to that and our rainfall for the summer will be appropriate, but even if we get floods, I am no Noah. There has never been anyone except Noah who has had the God-granted gift of managing an ark full of animals. Genesis 7: 7-9 says, "Noah and his sons and his wife and his son's wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and all creations that move along the ground, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah."

Not only did Noah follow God's commands, which had to have been an odd directive, but Noah was also reported to have been 600 years old when the floodwaters began to fall. Talk about amazing.

The Bible is full of ordinary people who are called upon to do extraordinary things. Jesus' mother Mary is said to have been a young woman, possibly as young as 15, which was the normal age for girls to be married in that era. Moses was chosen to lead the Israelites to the promised land even though he was an outsider. David was tending sheep when God told Samuel to anoint him as king. The list could go on and on.

God didn't pick these people because they were famous or important. They were not perfect. The Lord picked them because they were faithful. God involves in His plans the people who believe and trust in the Lord.

That can be scary to think about – God just up and calling on us some day out of the

blue. To be asked to join the likes of the disciples or Elizabeth or Paul is to have an immense burden placed upon you, and yet, when God calls, the Lord expects His people to say yes. And when the Lord calls, He equips those who step up and say yes.

I remember clearly when I got my call to ministry, but it took me years to say yes. I had a million good reasons why the timing was not right, but we serve a patient God and I am sure that the Lord knew when I would say yes. Jesus just had to start far in advance to get me to where I felt I could no longer say no.

Now that I have been commissioned, I can look back and see the million nudges and reminders throughout my life of when God helped me, step-by-step, say yes to ministry. I always knew the call was there. I just didn't know what the timing would look like.

What is God calling on you to do for His glory and honor? Not everyone is called to Pastoral ministry, but God calls each of us in some way. The argument that we are not good enough or religious enough or selfless enough won't fly with the Lord. God knows exactly who we are, both the good and the bad, but Jesus is still looking for us to serve in this world. We may consider ourselves to be ordinary people, but we can do extraordinary things for Christ.

So, as you go about your week, ask yourself, what is God calling you to do?

I pray that whatever it is, that it will bring honor and glory 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 AND EVENTS

- **VBS Meetings**—June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **Safety Meeting**—June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Room
- **Trustees Meeting**—June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Grier Room



*From the desk of our Director of Connectional Ministries .....*

## Running Together

*By Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith*

I love to run. I learned that love from my father and I have many happy memories of running with him, sometimes just the two of us and sometimes with my sister. My sister and I still love to run together whenever we see each other. We have run a marathon and a half-marathon together, but most of our miles have been together when we visit.

Although I love to run, I do not often run races. Typically, I get nervous before races, just as I did before all of my high school cross-country and track meets. However, my daughter, Joy, asked me to run a 5-K benefiting the Rotary Club as part of a team from her church, Wesley UMC in Dover. As any good mother, I agreed.

Waiting for the race to start, our team stretched and chatted and laughed, which helped ease the pre-race jitters. The starting line for our 5-K also served as the finish line for those running the mile. As the runners finished, we cheered them on, encouraging them to run through to the end and congratulating them on a race well run. Since I am typically the one being cheered for, I enjoyed returning the favor. Cheering together created a sort of community, one called a “public belonging” by Joseph Myers in his book, *The Search to Belong*. Participating in a common purpose in a public space created a connection. Corporate Sunday worship also provides this type of public belonging.



Because many runners chose to run both the mile and the 5-K, the organizers delayed the beginning of the 5-K to give people time to recover. Those of us running the later race, then, had more time to chit-chat and compare notes and hopes for the race. As we began the race, we settled into our pace with a couple of people around us. Because of our proximity and common goal, we also struck up light conversations, joking about running in the rain and trying to be fast enough to dodge the rain drops. Some people laughed along with me, while others gave me a head nod or ignored me. From these responses, I gained a glimpse of what that person is like, friendly or reserved, intense or relaxed, competitive between other runners or just with themselves. Myers would call this “social belonging,” as we get bits of information about another person which we can use to decide if we want to pursue a deeper relationship. Sunday school or fellowship events can serve this purpose of social belonging, allowing people to mingle to get to know one another. Remember the old Starkist Tuna commercial? It said: “Sorry, Charlie. Starkist doesn’t want tuna with good taste; they want tuna that taste good.” We can make a similar statement about new people coming to churches. They do not want churches that are friendly; they want churches

where they can make friends. Social gatherings can provide these types of opportunities.

As members of our team crossed the finish line, we celebrated each other and relaxed into easy conversation. After pushing myself to run, it felt good to be in a group of people I felt comfortable with, and not just strangers. I know most of the team members pretty well and would call them friends. We know about each other's lives beyond just the "Sunday morning" snap-shot. We know about our families and our jobs and even hopes and dreams. Myers would call this type of belonging "personal," because we know more personal details about people's lives. Our small groups in church typically offer this type of more personal belonging. It cannot be forced and we cannot have too many personal connections, since we cannot maintain that level of connection with so many. Also, not everyone will want to find their personal belonging in church. Some will find that sense in other places, such as athletic groups or music groups. But, churches can offer opportunities for these personal connections.

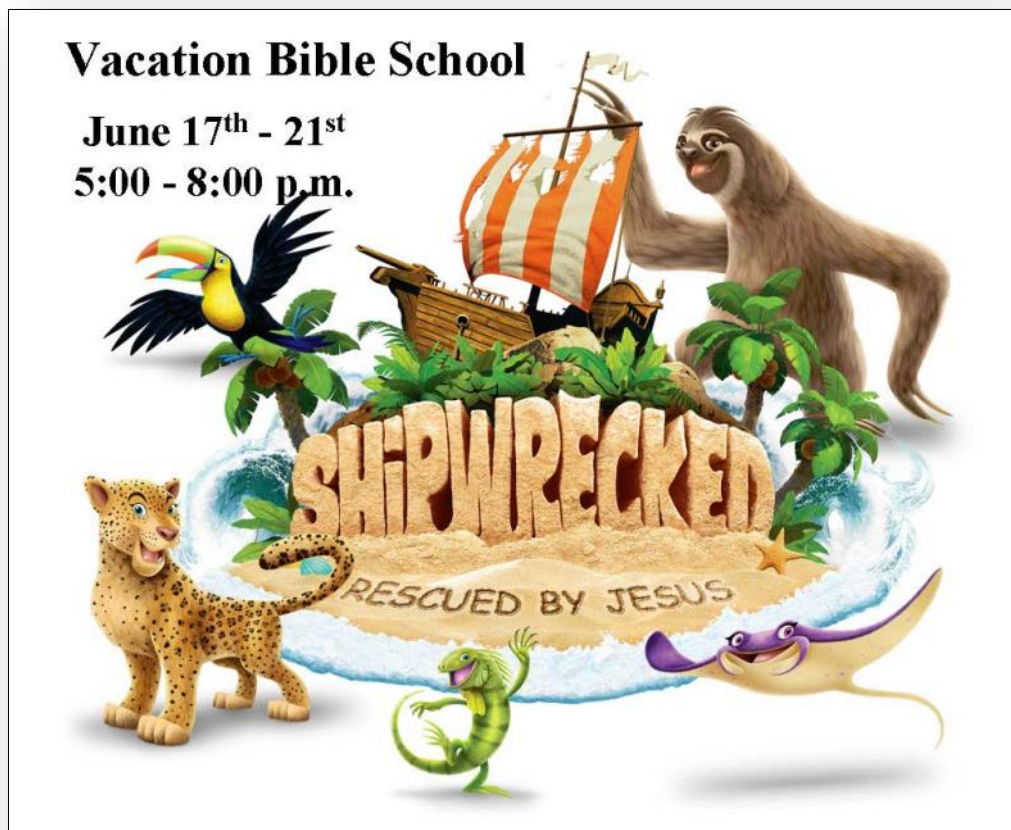
After our last team member completed the course, we congratulated each one for a while. Then, we walked back to our cars to return to our homes. I could not wait to tell Bo that I had finished fourth in my age group. For many of you that would not be a big deal. But, I am usually a middle of the pack runner, so placing that high represented an accomplishment for me. We ordinarily reserve sharing these special details with intimate friends or family members, people who will know you are not boasting and who will be willing to celebrate with you. Myers referred to this type of belonging as...wait for it...intimate belonging, which we share with only a very few people in our lives. Although we feel tempted at church to try to force this type of intimate belonging, most people need more personal or social belonging. We can reserve our intimate belonging for our relationship with God and a small number of very close friends.

Looking back, I enjoyed all four of those spaces to belong. As churches, we have the opportunity to offer openings in at least three of the four spaces with people—public, social, and personal, and opening space for an intimate relationship with Jesus. We need to recognize that people need connections in all four spaces in their lives and to honor the significance of belonging in each of those spaces. We also need to allow people to belong in a way that feels comfortable to them. Pushing a person to belong in a different way than they choose violates their boundaries and does not allow God's grace to break through into their lives.



Summer offers a wonderful chance for churches to practice cultivating these spaces for belonging. How does your church offer people public space to belong, especially besides Sunday morning worship? How do your events offer people a chance to experience social belonging? Do your small groups provide an opportunity (but not a forced one) for personal belonging? How might God be calling you to nurture people's sense of belonging in these spaces? As we nurture people's sense of belonging, we create that connectedness that makes us: "Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ in today's world."

Speaking of summer, we will be publishing The Connection only monthly. This will be our final one for June, and we will send one in July and one in August. If we have other announcements arise that need immediate distribution, we will send them as an email. May this summer provide you with time to enjoy God's beautiful creation, so that you can be refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit.





*Be part of a*  
***GREETER TEAM!!***

Sign up sheet on the table  
in the Foyer

**Help us welcome visitors and guests**



A person is seen from behind, with their arms raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. They are standing in front of a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon and clouds illuminated in shades of orange, yellow, and green. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt.

*Barratt's Chapel*

THURSDAY'S 7-8 PM

# Summer Series

JUNE 7 — BISHOP PEGGY A. JOHNSON  
JUNE 14 — REV. JAMES WHITTAKER, WAUGH CHAPEL  
JUNE 21 — REV. EARLE BAKER, BETHEL UMC  
JUNE 28 — REV. ED KUHLING, GRACE UMC  
JULY 12 — SINGING AND PRAYING BAND OF MARYLAND & DELAWARE  
JULY 19 — PASTOR JANICE HERMAN, FRIENDSHIP UMC  
JULY 26 — REV. KARIN TUNNEL, ST. PAUL'S UMC

REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE



## **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 Bob Mercer, the family and friends of Bonnie Walls, the victims of the volcano in Guatemala, those affected by the volcano in Hawaii, Tom Smith, Larry Fortner, Jennifer Miller, Dot Sophos, the Fisher family, Brian Reph, Craig, Lanny Price, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Elaine Willey, Christopher, Nick, Kirsten Pearce, the Hughes family, Sandy Wooliford, Jean Layton, Bill and Jill Gustin, Grace Irish, Mary Kate, Anne, Emily, Katie H., Linda Breedlove, Leslee, Alan Jester, Louisa Combs, Ruth Callaway, Georgia Owen, John Siegrist and family, peace in Israel, safety for all traveling in Israel, Peter Muise and family.

**Rejoice with:** : Pastor Wendy, all those who were commissioned and ordained at annual conference, Jay Roosa, Walt Peters, the O'Neill/Lear family on the birth of Quinn, Cole Bubba Neibert.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Everyone impacted by the volcano activity in Hawaii, The victims of the volcano in Guatemala, The family and friends of Tom Smith, The family and friends of Ruth Webb, The family and friends of George Day, The family and friends of Elijah Gordy-Stith, Colby John and Anne Spicer, Dave Reynolds, Dave Rumery, Carlton Goodhand, The family and friends of Cyrus Cox, Yury Nadolny, Maxim Novoselyev, Teresa Jerrell and Ed Berwick, Bette Schember, Bob Holston, Dean Johnson, Dot Sophos, Don, Pat and the entire Fisher family, Brian Reph, Craig, Lanny Price, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Colleen Dunham, Christopher, Nick, Kirsten Pearce, The Hughes family and children, Sandy Wooliford, Jean Layton, Bill and Jill Gustin, Linda Breedlove, Leslee, Alan Jester, Ruth Callaway, Peter Muise, Carolyn Evans, Dan H., Judy Colonna, Mary Kate, Emily, Katie H., Ben, and Poncho Johnson.

**Rejoice with:** Larry Hughes and Sonny Meck, those experiencing God's blessings, Chrysalis and Emmaus teams, and Sharon Rothermel Dawson and Alvin Jarrell.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

**Dee Konesey** who will celebrate her **104<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **June 13<sup>th</sup>**.

## **WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:**

### **♫Handbells**

Resume on Monday, Sept. 10<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 4<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 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

### **♫AveNotes**

Resume on Wednesday, September 5<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**

**2018 VBS:** Shipwrecked VBS (Vacation Bible School), kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. We would love children preschool age to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to come see how Jesus can change lives. Youth Week will be held at the same time for any 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school students (6<sup>th</sup> graders get to choose which they want to be a part of).

**Mark your calendars as Shipwrecked VBS starts on Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>- Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Dinner is at 5pm for your family (adult required to stay with child until 5:45), VBS starts at 5:50pm and ends promptly at 8pm each evening.**

New this year, you can register on-line. Use the link below or pick up a form at church to fill out. If you have any questions, contact the church office (302) 422-8111 or Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

[Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus](#)

**VBS Meeting:** On **Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. Any questions, please call Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

**HELP WANTED! AVENUE GREETER TEAM:** You've probably noticed over the past few months, there's a friendly greeter to welcome you to church. The Avenue Greeter team needs your help. We're inviting you to join and help serve in this ministry. No experience needed, just a friendly smile and some of your time (a few Sunday mornings throughout the year). If you're interested, we invite you to speak with any of our greeters to better understand our mission. Register today, there's a signup sheet on the lobby table.

**2018 YARD SALE:** The Yard Sale is coming soon! Be sure to save your treasures! We will be serving neighbors and folks recommended to us. **New hours for workers July 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. weekdays. No weekends except for Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> after 11:00 a.m. church service to setup. \*Only” Clean—Like New Shoes will be accepted this year. ☺**

**THE YARD SALE IS COMING, THE YARD SALE IS COMING.** Remember to be **cleaning out** your closets, basements, cupboards, dresser drawers, attics and all those places you put things that you don't use anymore. We want all those outgrown clothes, linens that don't match your décor, children's clothes, toys, children's books, jewelry, glassware, furniture, housewares, appliances, electronics **(except TVs or Computers- we can't take those)** Christmas and other holiday decorations, pictures, and all those items that may be a treasure for someone else. Please gather and set aside until July 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> when you can bring them to Avenue. After the items arrive we will begin sorting, pricing, organizing and displaying all for the big sale on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks, and spread the word to your friends and neighbors.

#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP AND SAFETY**

Our greeter teams wanted to remind everyone that on Sunday mornings during worship all the doors, except for the main entrance facing the Milford Women's Club, will be locked from 10 minutes after the service starts until 10 minutes before the service ends. This is being done for all of our safety, and to limit ingress from anyone wishing to cause our parishioners harm. If you have any questions about this policy or want more information, please contact the trustees, the safety team, or the church office. We will try to get you an answer as quickly as we can.

### **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**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 **July 9<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will be meeting on **June 19<sup>th</sup>** in the **Heritage Room at 10:00 a.m.** Any questions 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.

**KNIT/CROCHET GROUP:** All the scarf kits have been picked up. As the scarves are finished, please turn them into the office for placement where needed. The current project is making 6"x 9" rectangles, either crocheted or knitted, using worsted yarn, to be used in lap robes for the Veterans Home. Any questions, please call Mary Lou Sheaffer or Carolyn Humes.

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS** will meet each Sunday during the summer at 9:30 a.m. in the Grier Room. The summer lessons will focus on justice as presented in the New Testament. June's lessons will be "God is Just and Merciful." On June 17<sup>th</sup>, "Jesus Teaches About Justice" based on Matthew 15:1-9; and June 24<sup>th</sup>, "Reaping God's Justice" based on Luke 16:19-31. Plan to attend as many of these lessons as you can.

### **OUTREACH**

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR.** Registration is ongoing for a limited number of spots for the 2018-19 school year, which is the preschool's **51<sup>st</sup>** year providing early education services in the community. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-



months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> . 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](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org). Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org). **SPACE IS LIMITED.**

## **COMMUNITY**

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** Let's make the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of this month boxed macaroni and cheese for Food Pantry Sunday.

### **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	63	56
9:30	188	133
Sunday School	41	42
11:00	64	58
FUSION	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>289</b>

**Join us at THE PALACE!**



for A Fund-Raising Event  
**for Auxiliary of Milford Memorial**

Have **LUNCH** or **DINNER**  
**On the 2nd Monday of each month**

When this voucher is presented at time of order, an amount  
equal to 15% of your total bill will be donated to:

**MMH Auxiliary**

**Thank you for supporting the  
Auxiliary of Milford Memorial**

**The Palace**  
556 S. Dupont Blvd.  
Milford, DE 19963  
302-441-2070  
[www.MilfordPalace.com](http://www.MilfordPalace.com)



## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY 6/17**

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,  
Grier Room  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
5:00 p.m. VBS

### **MONDAY 6/18**

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
5:00 p.m. VBS  
7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> State Harmonizers,  
Wesley Room  
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

### **TUESDAY 6/19**

10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study,  
Heritage Room  
5:00 p.m. VBS  
6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room  
7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206  
7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,  
Wesley Room

### **WEDNESDAY 6/20**

1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room  
5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202  
5:00 p.m. VBS  
7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class,  
Holzmuehler Room

### **THURSDAY 6/21**

8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,  
Conference Room  
11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202  
5:00 p.m. VBS

### **FRIDAY 6/22**

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SATURDAY 6/23**

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SUNDAY 6/24**

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,  
Grier Room  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship