



The Midweek

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

As Michael and I are on vacation in (hopefully) warm and sunny Florida for a few days, I am turning to my dear friend Pastor Heidi for her words this week. As always, she brings a wonderful lesson.

Early in elementary school we learn about colors: what they are and how to make them. Red plus blue equals purple. Blue plus yellow equals green. One day the teacher asked, "Where do the colors come from?.. From white or black?" I was among the students who answered, "Black," having ruined a number of paintings by mixing all the colors together. Surprisingly, she said that the colors come from white. Hmmm...then, she held up a prism, and suddenly, from the sunlight coming through the window, the colors of the rainbow danced around the room. What excitement there was as we twisted and turned to see the bright spots flit around the classroom! I remain thankful for that lesson.

Another early lesson is the story of the great flood and the subsequent rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with Noah and his descendants and every living creature. "God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant ..." (Genesis 9:12-14 NRSV). Do you remember the first time that you saw a rainbow? Or the last time that you witnessed a rainbow? How did you feel? Perhaps you felt happy and relieved to see the bright colors after the storm; perhaps you wondered where the ends of the rainbow might be or look for a double or triple rainbow; perhaps you felt comforted and safe; perhaps you were thankful for the gift of sight to witness such beauty and to remember God's first covenant.

Rainbows for most of us are rare and wonderful; and it appears that we spend most of our lives in the time between rainbows – in the times of challenges and storms. So how can we cope with the difficult times? David found gratefulness in the hard times and joy in trusting the Lord: “You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety” (Psalm 4:7-8).

As Christians, we are thankful for the assurance that Paul expressed to the Romans, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). Finding ways to thank God continually for the blessings in our lives dims our worries and concerns and opens our hearts to accept the hope and joy that abounds in the world. A thankful heart is like the prism releasing all the joyful colors to those around us.

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.

Avenue UMC Council Minutes from

January 23, 2019

PRESENT: Judy Struck, Vaughn Webb, Joyce Voshell, Ed Steiner, Peggy and Larry Hughes, Wendy Butterworth, Tita Lewis, Diane Dolan, Tom Pasmore, Carolyn Humes, Joanne Burbage, Mike Swain, Jim Clendaniel, Bob Berglund, Barbara Rutt, and Bev Bullock.

On Wednesday, January 23, 2019 Judy Struck, chairman of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Tom offered the opening prayer.

Minutes from the last Church Council meeting on October 1, 2018 were reviewed. A motion to approve the amended minutes (name corrections) was made by Larry. The motion was seconded and all approved.

Pastor Tom-- gave a brief overview. He said the SPRC will be meeting on January 31st to discuss the process of the pastoral transition. He is excited about the Discipleship Pathway. With Tom leaving in July, he feels sure that the new pastor will continue with no major changes to the Discipleship Pathway work.

He also said that we have been supporting Kirby Schuler with her missionary work in the past. She is now a missionary coordinator in Ecuador and he would like us to continue supporting her. Peggy motioned for us to continue our current support of \$50/Month (\$600/year) for the next two years. Joanne seconded the motion and all approved.

Pastor Wendy—The Discipleship Pathway Team meets monthly and they have read two books with discussion as to how we want to move forward. We do not know the new pastor yet, but the programs currently in place will continue. We have Sunday school. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 24th – 28th and she addressed the need for help and leadership. Sarah Pasmore had been instrumental in that position. Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday services are each scheduled for 7 p.m. Easter services will be Sunrise at 6:30 a.m. followed by the usual 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. services. Kevin has been involved in the planning.

SPRC: In the absence of Greg Abbott, Pastor Tom reported that the next SPRC meeting will be January 31, 2019 to discuss the transitional process, since Pastor Tom will be leaving in July. They have also been updating the job description and expectations for the evaluations of pastors and church staff for the upcoming year.

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY TEAM: The Discipleship Pathway team was held last week and they've decided to discontinue publishing attendance in the MIDWEEK. Increasing numbers does not build disciples. Rather, the team is focusing on what we as a church are and can be doing to move forward in the transformation of the world. Excel Spreadsheets are being developed and the committee wants to determine how this collected data affects decisions within the church and out of the church.

Commission On a Way Forward General Conference is scheduled for February 23rd through February 28th in St. Louis to address three options, and possibly 48 additional options as to how we will move forward with the issues we face with human sexuality.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Bob Berglund provided print outs of the Avenue UMC Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018, the Budget vs. Actuals for 2018, and the Budget Overview for Jan. – Dec. 2019 (Attached.) Vaughn motioned to accept the reports. Barbara seconded, and with the vote, all approved.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The trustees continue to address building concerns:

- Automating the heating/cooling system control is half done, with thermostats in the pre-school complete.
- The furnishings in the Jo Wood Memorial Lounge are almost complete.
- They are still dealing with the Sanctuary lighting. (Too dim)
- Ten to fifteen years ago, an evaluation of the Bell Tower revealed some concerns with the structural integrity of the tower itself. The same engineering firm may need to reevaluate it at this time, and if repairs are needed, could possibly be in the \$40,000 range.
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ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: An Endowment Committee of seven, chaired by Carolyn Humes has been formed to determine the most effective use for endowments, most recently, that of Jo Wood. They have had their first of three

meetings which was organizational in nature, with much healthy discussion. They hope to have some decisions by mid- February.

DISCUSSION: With the recent Government Shutdown a number of people have been coming to the church for help and support for those affected. Diane Dolan warned that the Food Pantry may feel an influx. So as a church, we need to learn what population is being affected and determine what we can do as a church to support or help those who have been impacted.

The use of the church parking lot by the Food Bank seems to be interfering with the ministries of the church. Tita Lewis agreed to contact them. It was agreed to give them two months to find another location from which they can provide their services.

Another concern-- Jim asked if the “lunch bunch” afternoon pre-school groups that meet on the first floor can be moved to rooms upstairs. Pastor Wendy agreed to address that issue.

Larry announced that a possible mission trip to Florida is currently planned for June 8th through June 16, 2019. Joe Lear and Cliff could contact college students and H.S. seniors who may be interested in assisting with disaster relief projects. The invitation to come back has been extended to us. More info is to follow.

Joanne reported she is still working on the Matthew Project Summary for 2018. She did share that 68 families were served by the Chrismon Tree, 168 families were touched by the Matthew Project throughout the year, and roughly \$11,000 was given to assist with rent, oil, cars, etc. She will have a complete report at the next meeting.

Pastor Wendy is very grateful for how the people of Avenue UMC are truly the hands and feet of **Christ**. She offered the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2019. Additional meetings are on the calendar for Sept. 24th, Dec. 18th, if needed, and Jan. 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Bullock, Recording Secretary

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 Russ French, The family and friends of Ray Lafontaine, Ray Shearer, Joan Eisenbrey, Ferd Nelson, Harriet Anne, Kristi Doughty, Marianne Butterworth, Lida Wells, Marie Minelli, David Knowles, Craig, Loretta Wooten, Everett Bennett, Charlene Sandifer, Phyllis Masten, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Jay Adams, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, The Pasmore family, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, Charlie Fleetwood, Everyone with job and financial issues, Everyone with relationship, marital or family concerns, Lynn Powers, Leone Lenart, Bill and Jill Gustin, Everyone adversely impacted by the government shutdown, Donna Tyne, Carrie McCartney and son, Bill McCartney, Bill Gaskill's dad, Millie Remick, Mark and Joyce Cain, Rob and Lisa, Laura, Casey, and Cameron, Hughes family, Gary Swain and Ray Lane.

Recently hospitalized: Charlie Fleetwood.

Praise for: A new career change and prayers for guidance in this new career.

Rejoice with: Pearl Betts, Carole Brennan, The team and caterpillars of the upcoming Chrysalis Weekends and All of the musically talented people here at Avenue.

PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK: The family and friends of Pauline Emory, The family and friends of Mickey Clark Lasher, The family and friends of Mildred Tribbett, Muriel Gillespie, Arvin & Linda Noel, Kathy Kimmel Russ, Gerald Burbage, Fran Patterson, Bonnie Hudson, Orville Mills, Joan Eisenbrey, Ferd Nelson, Harriet Ann, Marianne Butterworth, Lida Wells, Craig, Loretta Wooten, Everett Bennett, Bev French, Charlene Sandifer, Phyllis Masten, Linda Breedlove, Teresa Jarrell, Carole Brennan, Ann Andrews, Jay Adams, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham, The Pasmore family, Brenda Beissel, Jean Hutchman, Kathleen Friedline, Charlie Harding, Charlie Fleetwood, Everyone with job and financial issues, Everyone with relationship, marital or family concerns, Lynn Powers, Leone Lenart, Bill and Jill Gustin, Everyone adversely impacted by the government shutdown, Donna Tyne, Carrie McCartney and son, Bill McCartney, Bill Gaskill's dad, Millie Remick, Mark and Joyce Cain, Rob and Lisa, Laura, Casey, and Cameron, Hughes family, for children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and Gary Swain.

Recently hospitalized: Tyler Stokes.

Rejoice with: A new career change and prayers for guidance in this new career and generous and kind people.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Josh and Elaine Willey who will celebrate their **61st** anniversary on **February 15th**.

WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♫**Handbells**

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

♫**MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

♫**Misphillion 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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GENERAL MEETING and program on **Sunday, February 10, 2019** will welcome **Joyce & Mark Cain, a missionaries** from South America as our speakers. Joyce and her husband Mark have been in mission in South America since 1973 having only recently moved back to this area. They have been working to translate the Bible for the Guahibo tribe. Please come for lunch following the 11:00 Worship Service usually beginning around 12:30 p.m. Bring a lunch snack to share and join in the fellowship and learning. All are welcome - men and women.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS. New members are welcome to join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 for Esther Circle. Locations will be announced in midweek the week before for Esther and Sarah Circles. Sarah Circle meets the third Tuesday each month at 9:45 am and Mary Martha Circle also meets on the third Tuesday at 1:30 pm at Avenue. A book report will be given each meeting by our own Helen Holleger. YOU won't want to miss these informative and fun reports.

UMW Reading program books and Response magazines are available to borrow on UMW shelf in Foyer library. If you prefer an electronic circle so you can stay aware of the UMW events happening, contact Beth Parker at bparke42@comcast.net. What about a Reading Program Circle? Everyone reads the same book each month and comes together to discuss and share?

Avenue will be hosting the DOVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING classes on **February 23rd from 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** If you would like to learn more about the following committees or ministries please contact the church office.

- ♦ Staff /Parish Relations
- ♦ Lay Leaders
- ♦ Trustees
- ♦ Finance
- ♦ Nominations and Leadership Development
- ♦ Evangelism
- ♦ MissionInsite
- ♦ Worship
- ♦ Prison Outreach
- ♦ Race Reconciliation
- ♦ Connectional Giving for Mission
- ♦ Children's Ministry
- ♦ Prayer and Healing Ministries

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are proud to serve their third Pancake Breakfast of the year on **February 24, 2019**. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and tea will be **served immediately after all three services**. **A free-will offering will be accepted.** Funds from this meal will help provide a Boy Scout college scholarship to a high school graduate from Troop #186. Other mission projects will also be funded. Join us for a most excellent breakfast and fellowship.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Everyone interested in becoming a member of Avenue Church is encouraged to attend the next New Member Orientation on **Sunday, February 24th from 12:15-1:00 p.m.** We will meet in the Carpenter Room where you 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 or call the church office at churchoffice@avenueumc.com or (302) 422-8111.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

SCRIPTURE AND THE WESLEYAN WAY: The class Scripture and the Wesleyan Way, taught by Rev. John Van Tine, meets on Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Grier Room. This eight week course deals with topics like "What Is the Bible's Message?"; "Am I a Real Christian?"; "How Can I Connect with God?" plus others. This exciting class looks at what scripture says, John Wesley's comments on it, and how we can be better followers of Jesus Christ. All are welcome. Our next class is on **February 12th**.

CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS: Our next class is on **February 10th** at 2:00 p.m. in the Holzmueeller Room. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY: On **February 12th** we will continue our study: A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place by Beth Moore in the Grier 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: A large amount of yarns were donated to the church today (Wednesday, Nov 14th) to be used for Prayer Shawls, as well as cold weather articles for homeless, Code Purple, school children and any other community needs. Knitters and crocheters, please come to the Grier Room any Wednesday afternoon (1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.) to pick up yarn and patterns for any of these articles.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS: The Sunshine Bible Class for adults meets at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our study for February is “Love Songs that Glorify God.” The February 10th lesson is “Pondering God’s Everlasting Love” based on Psalm 48:1-3, 9-14; February 17th lesson is “Praising God’s Mighty Works” based on Psalm 66; and February 24th lesson is “Living With God’s Loving Assurance” based on Psalm 91:1-16. Please join us for these exciting lessons from the Psalms.

A new class **started on Sunday, January 20th at 8:00 a.m.** for people who want to attend Sunday School and 9:30 a.m. worship service. The class is being led by Dan Nelson and Tom Chilton. They started a study of the book of Ephesians. If you have questions contact Dan Nelson at (302) 349-4842 or Tom Chilton at (302) 725-1333.

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS will meet on **February 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.** The class will be exploring the Bible. To register, please call Dave Reynolds at (302) 503-3933.

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH BOOK CLUB will meet on **Sunday February 24th at 12:15 p.m.** in the Grier Room. We shall continue our study of Adam Hamilton’s Book Unafraid, studying section four, Chapters 13-16. We are also looking for new books to study. If you have any recommendations, bring them with you at our next meeting. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: The Diaper Pantry is opened WEEKLY on Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. We need 8 people to commit to one day a month and we will have it covered. Would you like to see young mothers smile?? See how happy they are that people care?? Contact Tita or Diane so we can establish a calendar. We need 2 people each week.

Milford Community Pantry always needs cereal and bar soap. Thank You for all your support!

CODE PURPLE: Thank you for all the monetary and physical donations. Right now we are very well stocked up. Since we don't know how much room we will have in the Wesley Room, we are going to put the physical donations on hold for now. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tom or Dan Nelson. **Thank You!**



presents its annual

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

A Choral Patchwork

Dr. Colin Armstrong, Artistic Director & Conductor



With Guests:
Cantabile Women's Chorus
Sussex Tech High School Bella Voce
VOCE men's quartet

Sunday, February 24, 3:00pm
Epworth United Methodist Church



This event is supported, in part, by the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The division promotes Delaware Arts at: www.DelawareScene.com

For tickets: southerndelawarechorale.org

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 2/10 ~ Scout Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 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. Christian Believer's Class,
Holzmueller Room
- 2:00 p.m. FL Seabase Mtg (parents/students)
Wesley Room
- 2:00 p.m. Study 7 Meeting, Carpenter Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &
Fellowship Hall

MONDAY 2/11

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Theater, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Wolf Den Meeting, Nursery
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. 1st State Harmonizers,
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

TUESDAY 2/12

- 10:00 a.m. Sisters' Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
- 5:00 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus,
Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. Improv Group, Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den Meeting,
Room 207
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club,
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Scripture and the Wesleyan Way,
Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Study 7 Meeting, Carpenter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Esther Circle Meeting,
Jo Wood Lounge

WEDNESDAY 2/13

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group,
Grier Room
- 2:00 p.m. Study 7 Meeting, Carpenter Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 5:00 p.m. Odyssey of the Mind,
Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Pathway,
Carpenter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Theological Reflections,
Heritage Room
- 7:00 p.m. Explore the Bible Study,
Holzmueller Room
- 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal—Cantabile Women's
Chorus, Music Room

THURSDAY 2/14

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion Group
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Group
- 6:30 p.m. Experiencing God, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Heritage Room

FRIDAY 2/15

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 2/16

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 2/17

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class,
Grier Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believer's Class,
Holzmueller Room
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting,
Heritage Room
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &