



## *The Midweek*

***Wednesday, April 24, 2019***

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

I need your help and I thank you in advance. I am collecting recipes for foods that can be prepared ahead of time, then frozen, and reheated quickly for family meals. There are only two caveats to my request. The first is that they have to be gluten free or, if there is flour in the recipe, that it can be replaced with gluten free flour. The second is that it only be for sized for two-six servings since it will likely only be Michael and me enjoying it. While we both love leftovers, we won't be able to make it through a dish that serves 20.

So why am I asking? Because beginning on June 2 and continuing through August 16, I will be completing my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training. This means that in addition to my church duties, I will also have to spend 40 hours per week for 10 weeks doing class-type study and clinical visitations in medical settings under the direction of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. To break it down, I will spend every Tuesday and every other Thursday, from 9:00 – 5:00, on my computer doing a skype class. In addition, I need 30 hours every week, split between the hospital and hospice, working directly with patients.

My loving and supportive husband has already figured out that for those 10 weeks I'm going to be 1) gone a lot, including evenings and 2) exhausted when I am home. I probably won't be seeing much, if any, of Chris over the summer. Both those realizations make me sad as I don't want my family to suffer. So, I'm trying to plan ahead, get prepared for the craziness of two full time jobs, and still find ways to be as normal as possible with things like family

meals. Thus my request!

For those of you wondering why I am doing this – it's a requirement for ordination. (Need I say more?) I do want to say a very special thank you to the SPRC for their support in allowing me to do this online. Otherwise I'd be making trips to Christiana for classroom training and I'd be working at Christiana Hospital. By doing it online I can do my clinical hours at Bayhealth here in Milford or at the Delaware Hospice near the Boys & Girls Club. It will also make getting home at night a lot easier and much safer since there will not be as many miles to drive. Thank you to the entire committee for your support in this matter.

I know this will be a nutty summer, but I also know it is what I need to do to live into my call from God. Proverbs 16:3 reminds us to "Commit to the Lord whatever you will do, and He will establish your plans." I am committed to serving Him and now my plans include 400 hours of additional summer work. With His help, and your support, I hope to bring Him honor and glory forever.

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



*From the desk of the Bishop ....*

## The Cross of Chris

**By Bishop Peggy Johnson**

In a recent posting from Scripture Union “Daily Encounter” the death of Christ on the cross was described this way: “The cross will not be the brutal victory of Jesus’ enemies in a fatal power game but rather an offering for others. God’s power exceeds death.” (April 10, 2019). It seems to me that people who look upon the cross have these two choices always before them. The world, with its obsession with power, sees Jesus’ death as a tragic loss for a martyr who was on the wrong side of a religious argument. However, the eyes of faith see it as God’s offering of love for the whole suffering world so that all may be forgiven, all might experience the “come along side” grace of God. I trust that we in the household of faith view the cross with those eyes. This is the thing that United Methodists can agree on! Jesus died for all and the offering of forgiveness goes on and on. Sharing that passion and resurrection Good News is the point of church in the first place.

However, the pull of the “world” on us is strong. Our human desire to “win,” to beat our enemies, to be “right” sometimes screams louder than the call of Christ to “take up our cross” in humble submission and service. Christianity is a call to “downward mobility,” humility, love of enemies, and sacrifice. The world can look at that as pure insanity and being a “loser.” The true church has always been counter cultural that way.

On this Holy Week, to truly observe a blessed Good Friday is to commit ourselves once again to the mystery of God dying for his creation, for the irony of death being the way to true life, poverty being the way to riches, and to follow in the footsteps of one who gave his all out of love.

This is expressed so well in this simple hymn: “My Master was So Very Poor” by Harry Lee (Hymntime.com). It is a call to us to do the same.

My Master was so very poor, a manger was His cradling place  
So very rich my Master was, Kings came from far to gain His grace  
My Master was so very poor and with the poor He broke the bread  
So very rich my Master was that multitudes by him were fed  
My Master was so very poor, they nailed Him naked to a cross  
So very rich my Master was He gave His all and knew no loss.

## **Investment Committee Report to the Church**

Earlier in 2018, the Treasurer of Avenue Methodist Church, Ed Steiner, informed the Board of Trustees that according to the Book of Discipline paragraph 2355.5, “the Board of Trustees shall receive and administer all bequests made to the local church: shall receive and administer all trusts: shall invest all trust funds of the local church.”

When the Trustees realized that investments were their responsibility, an Investment Committee was formed as a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees.

The members of the committee are Greg Abbott, Jim Clendaniel, Jack Dickerson, Carolyn Humes, Gene Sharp, Glenn Stevenson and Lloyd Webb. At the first meeting in December, Carolyn Humes was voted Chairman of the committee.

The Committee was tasked with following the Book of Discipline guidelines, which requires the review of the Investment Policy (ours is dated 1998), coordination of Avenue’s investment accounts (not involving the operating accounts) and consider the best decisions for our church’s future.

In addition to being sensitive to the socially responsible guidelines endorsed by the Peninsula Conference, we felt that it was incumbent upon the committee to develop recommendations that are based upon prudent and sound business principles. To that end we asked all of the entities interviewed to develop investment strategies that would:

- Maximize our investments

- Maximize principal safety

- Be sensitive to the conference guidelines

- Access to funds in an emergency

In addition, we asked them to identify benchmark indexes to which the committee could fairly compare their results. With that in mind, eight different entities were interviewed, as listed below. Four had to be eliminated, as explained individually. We ultimately decided that it would be prudent to divide the portfolio between two firms.

The second meeting was held on Jan 3, 2019. By now, we knew that Avenue’s Endowment fund and the Bach fund was invested with Mid-Atlantic Methodist Foundation, with the money being held and managed by Fulton Bank in Lancaster, PA. This was the majority of Avenue’s funds. Morgan Stanley was holding the recent gift from Jo Wood, following the authorization given in the May 16, 2018 Church Council minutes.

In order to familiarize the committee members with the working of the Foundation, our Associate Pastor Wendy Butterworth and retired Rev. John Van Tine, both of whom had been involved with the Foundation at their previous churches, were invited to explain their knowledge and experiences.

They were followed by the 2 representatives from Morgan Stanley, to present their recommendations for Avenue's account. A 60/40 division of large cap growth/large cap value and laddered Treasury securities was recommended, with the Methodist social values in place.

In addition to Morgan Stanley, we were considering mutual funds that can be purchased without the benefit of a brokerage firm or bank. Most of them, for example the American Funds, which is a very reputable Family of Fund, have a 2.5% upfront fee, plus .8% internal management annual fee. Many of the mutual funds are not socially responsible, in order to increase the yield, they have the "Philip Morris" type of investments as part of their portfolio. Mutual funds are "set in stone", meaning that the investments in the funds cannot be adjusted to suit the individual. The committee rejected mutual funds.

Another possibility mentioned to us by a financial advisor was Strategic Income Bonds. They have these components - bank loans mortgages, floating rate debt, High-Yield Debt, Term & Revolving Loans, Sovereign Bonds, Foreign Developed-Markets Debt, Emerging-Markets Debt, Top-Level ETFs, Futures, Options & Swaps. These are not investment grade instruments, but was in fact an example of giving up quality for yield. The committee did not support that type of investment.

The next meeting was held 2 weeks later on Jan.16<sup>th</sup>. The Mid-Atlantic Foundation representatives, (Jack Brooke and Rob Morgan), Edward Jones and Merrill Lynch were invited to make presentations.

In the meantime, committee members explored two Financial Planners (Insurance agents), and a firm that the State of Delaware uses – SEI Investments -- one of the 3 companies who manages Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund (\$50M). (The other 2 are Morgan Stanley and JP Morgan). The church did not meet their minimum threshold of \$25M.

In all, 8 different companies were screened. 4 did not have the suitable parameters for our needs, the other 4 were then further analyzed. Two were eliminated because of high fees. Edward Jones, expected our committee to choose and manage the investments instead of them. That was not acceptable. Another firm was unable to set the account holdings with social responsibility as recommended by the Methodist Church.

With all of this analysis and background, the committee used the following criteria to arrive at a recommendation: fees, returns and smaller details. After the analysis was complete, the two firms that rose to the top were Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch. Their fees were the same and lowest of all, their return on investment was the highest and their actual investments in the account were known to us. Banks, such as Fulton, create their own propriety funds, only identified as Large Cap Growth, Large Cap

Value, International and such. The investor does not know the identity of the companies making up the fund.

The committee hereby recommends that Jo Wood's gift stay in Morgan Stanley and be managed by a professional money manager, using the Methodist social values, with 60% in high quality equities and 40% in laddered US Treasuries. The committee also recommends that the Endowment and Bach funds be invested with Merrill Lynch, with similar parameters. This will require the transfer of those accounts from the Mid-Atlantic Foundation.

## 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 Harold Short, the family and friends of Nancy Petrilla, all those who have lost loved ones recently, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Sharon Jarrell, Sharon Morgan, Kay McFadden, Keith, Carmela Bergez, Brenda Mariner, Bill Gaskill, John Shoemaker, Brenda Beissel, Janet Dill, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, all those dealing with cancer, Sherry, Alan Jester, Chase Albright, Joan Eisenbrey, Jen Nelson, Dot Sophos, Carlton Goodhand, Christopher, Craig, John Hunt, Janice, Kirsten Pearce, Samantha Caiola, Elwood Leary, Alma Brittingham, Cayden Holt, the Hughes family, all those traveling this Easter season, Charlie Fleetwood, and Joan Wadman.

**Rejoice with:** The Bergez family, the Hughes family, Ruth Peters, and Vaughn and Tracy Webb.

**Praise for:** The amazing music program at 8 and 11 and the kids who sang in Swahili from the Mispillion Children's Choir.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of John Shoemaker, The family and friends of Gary Brauning, The family and friends of Doris Warren, The family and friends of Doris Ford, Marguerite's family, Carol Roberts Morris, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Lydia, Mikolai, Kristina Perfetti, Cadie Natron, Syd, George, Matt, Martin Jarrell, David Passwaters, Sharon Morgan, Kay McFadden, Keith, Rob, Carmella Bergez, Brenda Mariner, Bill Gaskill, Brenda Beissel, Janet Dill, The Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, All those dealing with cancer, Sherry, Alan Jester, Chase Albright, Joan Eisenbrey, Jen Nelson, Dot Sophos, Carlton Goodhand, Christopher, Craig, John Hunt, Janice, Kirsten Pearce, Samantha Caiola, Elwood Leary, Alma Brittingham, Cayden Holt, The Hughes family, All those traveling this Easter season and Charlie Fleetwood.

**Rejoice with:** All those celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Praise for:** Sharon Jarrell.

## WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:

♫Handbells

Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Music Room



### ♪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.

### ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:

**Parker and Maxine Turner** will celebrate their **56<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **April 28<sup>th</sup>**.

### SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of **Doris W. Warren** who passed away on April 18, 2019. Doris joined Avenue Church on January 1, 1950.

### UPCOMING

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Avenue offers a number of scholarships each spring. Graduating Seniors can get applications from the church office by emailing Kelly Hudson at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com) or they can be downloaded from the webpage. Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. **Please keep these two dates in mind:**

- ♦ **April 26<sup>th</sup>**, 3:00 p.m. deadline to return all Avenue Scholarship applications to the office.
- ♦ **May 12<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded, along with gifts and recognition for all the Class of 2019. **Please plan to join us.**

### SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

**CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS:** Our next class is on **April 29<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** On **April 30<sup>th</sup>** we will continue our study: "Because of This I Rejoice" by Max O' Vincent. This is a Lenten study of Philippians. We will complete this study on **May 7<sup>th</sup>**. On **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin a new study of Peter by Adam Hamilton. We will meet 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:** Christ Episcopal Church in Milford has asked us to join with them in making Seaman's Scarves for "Christmas at Sea" <https://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>. Please join with us, in this endeavor. Stop in the Grier Room any Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., to knit or crochet with us and/or pick up yarn for both this project and our Prayer Shawls. Call Carolyn Humes 422 8620 or e-mail [carhum@verizon.net](mailto:carhum@verizon.net).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:** The Sunshine Bible Class for adults meets at 9:30AM on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our study for April is "Call to Ministry." The lesson for April 28<sup>th</sup>, "Call and Commissioning" based on Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:6-8. Please plan to attend these exciting lessons.

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** will meet on **April 24<sup>th</sup> 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, May 19<sup>th</sup>** in the Grier Room at 12:15 p.m. What we will study for just that day is to be determined. We will start a new book "When Did God become Christian?" by David Kalas in the Fall.

## **COMMUNITY**

**MATTHEW PROJECT:** In lieu of the Matthew Project during the remainder of April and May, please consider donations of furniture, household items, clothing, etc. for the Mission Fund Raising Church Yard Sale. Call Larry and Peggy Hughes at (302) 424-3970 or (410) 212-7391. The Church Yard Sale helps many families and missions in multiple ways. A list of "Missions who pick up household or accept donations" is also available from the church office.

**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'S FINAL  
2018-2019**

*huddle*



**SUNDAY**

**APRIL 28TH, 2019**

**FELLOWSHIP OF  
CHRISTIAN  
ATHLETES**

[www.fca.org](http://www.fca.org)

**STARTS AT**

**6PM**

**LOCATION: 20 N. Church St., Milford, DE 19963**



March 11, 2019

Dear High School Senior,

Congratulations on making it to the end of your senior year! As you come to the home stretch of your high school education, the Avenue Church family celebrates all your accomplishments as you approach this important milestone.

As you probably know Avenue awards several scholarships each year. **If you are receiving this letter you are eligible to apply.** The enclosed letter describes the scholarships we award, as well as the specific qualifications for each one. **You may apply for as many scholarships as you qualify for.**

This year, we are **not** mailing the scholarship applications. Please e-mail Mrs. Kelly Hudson, Church Secretary, at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com) and let her know which applications you want. They can also be downloaded from the webpage. Then complete the applications on your computer and return them to Mrs. Hudson. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

**Please keep these two important dates in mind:**

- ♦ **April 26<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 p.m. is the deadline to return your applications to the Church Office.
- ♦ **May 12<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. is when scholarships will be awarded, along with gifts and recognitions for all the Class of 2019. **Please plan to join us.**

Again, congratulations on all your achievements! We are very proud of you! If there is anything else we can do for you, or if you need letters of reference, please let any of the Pastors know. Please take a moment to let us know your plans for next year. We would like to stay in touch.

Wishing you God's peace,

Tom Pasmore  
Pastor





# For the Beauty of the Earth

Dr. Colin Armstrong, Artistic Director & Conductor



Sunday, May 5, 3pm  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
Tickets \$25/adult, \$10/student



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](http://www.DelawareScene.com)

For tickets: [southerndelawarechorale.org](http://southerndelawarechorale.org)



Dover  
Symphony  
Orchestra



UNDER THE DIRECTION OF **DONALD BUXTON**, we proudly present our...

# SPRING POPS CONCERT

Featuring Popular Show Tunes & American Music  
Finale of our ever-popular "Armed Forces Salute"

**Saturday, May 4, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Calvary Church**

**1141 East Lebanon Road, Dover**

Delaware  
Division of the  
**Arts**

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the  
Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency,  
in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Division promotes Delaware arts events on  
[www.DelawareScene.com](http://www.DelawareScene.com).

**Prices are:**

**Adults - \$20**

**Seniors/Students/Military/**

**First Responders - \$15**

**Young people under 18 free with a paying adult**

***Tickets can now be purchased online at***

**[www.doversymphony.org](http://www.doversymphony.org),**

***At the door,***

***Or Call 302-270-1903***





# THE MISPELLION CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Sharon Starling, *director*

Kevin B. Chamberlain, *assistant director/accompanist*

*presents* 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Concert

## We Are One

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

at 7:00 p.m.

Milford Senior High School  
1019 N. Walnut Street | Milford, Delaware

For more information (302) 422-2785  
[themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com](mailto:themispillionchildrenschorus@gmail.com)

Free admission | Handicap accessible  
Donations benefit Mispillion Children's Chorus





**Join Us For A  
Run, Walk & Rollin'  
Good Time**



**May 4, 2019  
Wild Quail Country Club  
1 Clubhouse Drive  
Camden Wyoming, DE 19934**

*Sponsored by*  
**The Arc of Delaware  
Mid-Del Committee  
P.O. Box 562, Dover, DE 19903  
(302) 736-6140  
[www.thearcofdelaware.org](http://www.thearcofdelaware.org)**

**Registration Forms are on the Foyer table.**



# MISSION u 2019

July 18-20, 2019

Pecometh, The  
Riverview Retreat  
Center

401 Jack Elliot Way, Centreville, MD. 21617

The Mission Studies for 2019

**Spiritual Growth Study:** *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*

Study leader: Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

**Special Study and publication:** *United Methodist Women In Mission: 150 Years and Beyond*

Study Leader: Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Registration Forms available on Foyer table

Deadline is June 30, 2019

Price ranges from one day commuter \$75.00 to Single room for three days at \$425.00. See Registration form.

# CALENDAR

## **SUNDAY 4/28 ~ Communion**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &  
Fellowship Hall

## **MONDAY 4/29**

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Believers Class,  
Holzmueller Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> State Harmonizers,  
Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Wesley Room

## **TUESDAY 4/30**

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier 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. Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Central DE Chess Club,  
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Preschool Board Meeting,  
Grier Room

## **WEDNESDAY 5/1**

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting/Crocheting Group,  
Grier Room
- 3:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion
- 6:00 p.m. AveNotes, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Second Street Players,  
Heritage Room
- 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den Meeting, Wesley Room
- 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room

## **THURSDAY 5/2**

- 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. Webelo's Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 2, Holzmueller Room
- 7:00 p.m. Nominations Comm. Meeting,  
Grier Room

## **FRIDAY 5/3**

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

## **SATURDAY 5/4**

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

## **SUNDAY 5/5 ~ Communion**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 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 Believers Class,  
Holzmueller Room
- 2:30 p.m. Second Street Players,  
Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting,  
Heritage Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &  
Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Pack Comm. Meeting, Grier Room