



# *The Midweek*

***Wednesday, May 1, 2019***

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

From my dear friend Pastor Heidi comes this week's Midweek article. And to God be the glory forever and ever.

Many years ago, when this would have been a fairly common occurrence, I was walking down Main Street and saw a young boy coming toward me on the opposite sidewalk. He was walking his bike and had a bouncy basset hound puppy in tow, its long ears grazing the cement. The boy put down the bike's kickstand, tied the puppy to the handlebar, and went into the drug store. The puppy eagerly followed him to the end of the leash, then, reaching the end, sat down, raised its snout to the sky, and heart-wrenchingly, non-stop, howled its misery.

Finally, the boy reappeared and ran to the puppy with open arms. In true puppy fashion, the puppy furiously wagged its tail, leaped into the boy's arms, long ears dancing in joy, while it licked the boy's face. This poignant memory reminded me of the prophet Isaiah describing how our loving and loyal God freed His people from captivity and returned them from exile. The people "shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away (Isaiah 35:10).

As Christians, we know God continues to be faithful and able to accomplish His divine will. Ours is a world transformed and redeemed by the love of God

through Christ. Through Christ, we commit in faith to the new path opened before us. Life still is difficult and challenging and we may still howl in misery, but deep down we know that we are safe in God's arms and are grateful.

Many people talk about gratitude, but what does it take for us to develop a grateful heart? How can we wake in the morning and rejoice at the first breath of this new day? How can we train ourselves to notice God's small wonders that surround us? A flower, a gentle breeze, an intricate snowflake, a smile, a friend's hello, a gentle hug...

How do we learn to remember that God is ever-faithful and loving especially when bad things happen, during illness and loss, or when we or our loved ones are in pain? When we, in faith, open our hearts, eyes, and ears, we sense God's blessings all around us. Through gratitude for God's great mercies, love and care; through our living faith in God's unceasing goodness, we can find true joy and gladness. We can sing God's praise and share our joy with others!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Henry". 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 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.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Doris Warren, the family and friends of John Shoemaker, the family and friends of Carol Morris, the victims of the synagogue shooting in California, the victims of the bombings in Sri Lanka, Charlie Fleetwood, Joan Eisenbrey, Jim Clendaniel, Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Holly Maloney, Craig, Dee Ann Mason, Brandon, a business deal to work out, Mason, Pat Dunn, Beth Judy, Janice Rudy, Lisa Shaw, Glenn, Merry, Muriel Miller, Doris Rickert, all affected by natural disasters, Katie and Ainsley, Ellan Orkin, Lida Wells, Linda Breedlove, Ferd Nelson, Jean Hutchman, Kay McFadden, Brenda Beissel, Janet Dill, the Fisher family, Elle Sheaffer, Jen Nelson, Carlton Goodhand, Dot Sophos, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, Alma Brittingham and The family and friends of Peggy Hughes.

Praise God for: Answered prayers.

## **WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:**

### ♫**Handbells**

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

### ♫**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.

#### **ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

**Richard & PJ Greene** will celebrate their **58<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 5<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **SYMPATHY TO:**

The family and friends of **Peggy Hughes** who passed away on April 29, 2019. Peggy joined Avenue Church on March 20, 2005.

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

**CHRISTIAN BELIEVER CLASS:** Our next class is on **May 5<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. in the Holzmuehler Room. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Willey at (302) 422-8952.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** On **May 7<sup>th</sup>** we will finish our study: "Because of This I Rejoice" by Max O' Vincent. This is a Lenten study of Philippians. 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 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. Our study for May is "The Spread of the Gospel." The lesson for May 5<sup>th</sup> is "Called to Righteousness" based on Romans 3:21-31; May 12<sup>th</sup> lesson is "Called to Life in the Spirit" based on Romans 8:1-14; May 19<sup>th</sup> lesson is "The Call of the Gentiles" based on Romans 11:11-24; and May 26<sup>th</sup> lesson is "Called to New Life in Christ" based on Romans 12:1-8. Please plan to attend these exciting lessons.

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** will meet on **May 1<sup>st</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 Beth Parker at (302) 698-6475 or (302) 382-5581. 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.

Dover  
Symphony  
Orchestra



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# 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***







# 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)

# 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







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Wild Quail Country Club  
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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 5/5 ~ Communion**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Baptism
- 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. Pack Comm. Meeting, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &  
Fellowship Hall

## **MONDAY 5/6**

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 3:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bear Den Meeting, Heritage 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 5/7**

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Lions Den 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. Leadership Team Meeting,  
Grier Room

## **WEDNESDAY 5/8**

- 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. VBS Meeting, Holzmueller Room
- 6:45 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Investment Committee Meeting,  
Heritage Room

## **THURSDAY 5/9**

- 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, Holzmueller Room

## **FRIDAY 5/10**

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

## **SATURDAY 5/11**

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

## **SUNDAY 5/12 ~Scholarships**

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Wesley Room &  
Fellowship Hall