



MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE DOVE

AUGUST 2017

Message From Pastor Brad

You Can't Rush the Crops

“But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them. Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvest time I’ll say to the harvesters, “First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.”” - Matthew 13:29-30 (CEB)

At any point in your professional life, were you ever faced with any abstract questions about your life? A common one is something to the effect of, “Where do you see yourself in 5 (or 10) years from now?” This kind of thinking has been on my mind because every summer I get to answer some questions like that in the form I get to fill out for my annual supervisory interview with the District Superintendent. I must admit, these usually aren't my favorite things to dwell upon, but God has done a wondrous thing by combining this kind of broad thinking with Jesus' parable about the wheat and the weeds. This parable has stuck with me since preparing for that sermon because I keep coming back to what it means to be part of the wheat.

As I said in my message that Sunday, in the past whenever I had come across this parable I couldn't help but focus in on the ending. That is a profound message and, depending on where you stand with the Lord, either a powerful affirmation or a serious warning. I've learned to value the image of planting and crops even more because they are things that cannot be rushed. You can't rush to the end, as I often have, because there is a lot of work, care, and waiting that comes before the harvest. In Jesus' explanation of this parable we as followers of Christ are identified as the wheat, and the “followers of the evil one” are the weeds (13:38). Be that as it may, the one who planted the good seeds, which Christ

identifies as the Son of Man in verse 37, declares that the wheat and the weeds are going to grow up together.

In the parable, the Master tells his servants, after they ask if the weeds should be pulled up, to leave them be because it would put the wheat at risk. What does that say to you about how much God loves and values us? Mercy is chosen over judgment in that moment so that the harvest can be as full as possible without any casualties. At the end of the parable Jesus says that there are going to still be some weeds that will be tossed into the fire, but the rest of the harvest will be brought into the storehouse. To see the hope in this we must temporarily abandon the plant imagery, because we all know a weed can't be turned into something beautiful or beneficial no matter how much love and care is put into it. But isn't that exactly what Christ offers and does for every one of us?

Some of us may have lived like a weed, not doing much good for ourselves or others. Or maybe we were part of the crop, we knew Christ and believed, but maybe we weren't bearing all the fruit we could. Regardless, we can all claim our place in the wondrous harvest to come and grow into something beyond our wildest hopes and dreams thanks to the redemption and salvation that can only come from Christ. The harvest is coming, we don't know when and we certainly can't rush it along, but we can all take the time we have left to be deepen our roots in the Lord, grow into the Spirit, and hopefully lead some weeds into being transformed by Christ along the way.

Blessed Growing,
Pastor Brad

Home Communion & Visitations

Pastor Brad is putting out an open invitation to submit names for anyone who would like to receive communion at home, but is unable to attend our church or any church. They do not have to be a member of our church or any other congregation to receive communion where they are. This can include friends, family members, or neighbors who are homebound or at a local rehabilitation or nursing home center. If there is a person in your life who has indicated they would appreciate this kind of visit, please submit their full name, address, phone number, and any other contact information to the church through e-mail or a written note. Also, please indicate whether they would like a layperson to visit them, only the pastor, or if either one would be okay.

It is Pastor Brad's hope and vision to expand the caring and visitation ministries of our church beyond him to include as many laypeople from our church as are willing. Some members of our church expressed their interest in doing this some time ago, but we are going to make a more concerted effort to train and send out the laypeople of our church to provide home visits for communion, prayer, and fellowship. If you feel led to participate in this ministry, please let Pastor Brad know by e-mail or written note also. There will be a training and orientation time for this later in August, so stay tuned!

How Are We Feeling Now— (Financially) A Mid-Year Checkup

Well, here we are seven months into our financial year. It has been a bit of a roller coaster ride, starting out high, then a big swoop down, and at the end of May, climbing back up again. All I can say now is GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!!

In my last Dove article on finance, I chastised myself for not having faith that if we prayed about our concerns, God would make His will known to us. I believe with all my heart that He has touched our church family, and brought new brothers and sisters in Christ through our doors, to strengthen our ministry at Millville.

The result, after the third week in July, is this: our worship giving now **exceeds** our budget estimate by almost \$6,000!! Furthermore, our actual expenses are under our budget estimate by about \$2,000.

So does that mean we can stop praying? Absolutely not. And does that mean we can put a little less in the offering plate? I was warned that if I made our church family aware of our situation, that might happen. Knowing the generosity you have shown over the years, I have faith that will never happen.

When the finance committee meets again in September, my recommendation will be that we revisit a budget that we discarded early in the year due to our concerns. We will consider acting on some unfunded plans, but most importantly, consider moving funds into two areas: (1) paying down the mortgage, and (2) our capital reserve account.

A few months ago, the finance committee recommended that we move the remainder in our building fund to a capital reserve fund, as a source of funds for emergent major repairs. Given the age of our physical plant, this is an absolute necessity, and building it up is a priority we can't ignore.

Again, I thank you for your prayers, and your generosity. You are an amazing church family, and I know I am thankful to be a part of it.

Rich Spina, Finance Chairman

Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status Let's Pay it Down!!

Balance on 5/31/2017.....	\$139,222.35
Special Donation by Members.....	\$340.00
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....	<u>\$915.13</u>
Balance on 6/30/2017.....	\$136,945.75

We made a pretty good dent in our mortgage balance so far during July by applying the proceeds from the yard sale. Due to the outstanding efforts of Kathy and Brice Cropper and their dedicated team of yard sale workers, we were able to reduce the mortgage by at least \$4,000, so I expect our balance at the end of July to be close to \$131,000.

Our current loan will come due in about four years. At that time we will be faced with renegotiating for a new loan, probably at an interest

rate greater than the 5.47% rate we currently hold. We are now paying about \$641/month in interest.

You can help reduce the mortgage balance and avoid interest in several ways: by special donation using a pew envelope, or by placing your donation in a basket at the rear of the sanctuary marked "Mortgage Reduction." Thank you in advance for your support.

Rich Spina, Finance Chairman

Special Giving Opportunity-- August

August has been designated Pecometh Month by the Peninsula Delaware Conference. This is our church's chance to take a special offering in support of Camp Pecometh and the ministry it provides to our youth. If you would like to contribute, place a check or cash in a pew envelope, and note "Camp Pecometh." More information can be found on bulletins at the back of the sanctuary.

Cookie Bingo

Don't forget – the second Tuesday of the month (August 8th) is time for Cookie BINGO in Wesley Hall at 10:00 a.m. Come have some donuts and coffee and win some good treats. Bring a friend, too! See you there!

Suicide Bridge Cruise August 13 2017

I need to know those who need a ride and those who have room to take other passengers. Call Elizabeth 301-732-9684 or see me at church. I will have maps available for the trip at church. It should take about 1 ½ hours to get there. We should be there by 12:30pm so we are ready for the cruise at 1pm. Have a safe trip and a good time!

Elizabeth



Fit for Life

Every Tuesday at 9:00 a group of energetic ladies attend the Fit for Life class with instructor Carol Gorden. This class improves balance, strength and flexibility. Laughter is also an added element in the class when games are played.

On Aug. 29th the class will use a DVD for exercise instruction while Carol is visiting her family in Georgia.

UMW Summer Bake Sale Saturday, 8:00 AM August 26

This is the final bake sale of the summer. We are looking forward to your many "specialties" - pies, cakes, muffins, brownies, cookies and other treats that can be enjoyed by our church family, local friends as well as vacationers. Please bring your baked goods to Wesley Hall on the Friday before the sale between 1:00 – 3:00 PM so that they may be priced. Call Sharon Graham at 537-0772 with any questions.

The UMW is selling **Rada Cutlery** during the bake sale, and at other events around the holidays. You may buy it then, or contact Donna Binaut at 302 829-1680

The UMW would like to thank all who participate during our sales.

Life Force End-of-Summer Party

Hello to all the wonderful people in my church! Life Force is going to be holding an End of Summer Party on Saturday, September 2, from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM in Wesley Hall.

I really need Volunteers to help out from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM with crafts and the grill. I also was hoping that the wonderful cooks and bakers would kindly help me out with the great food you all make.

The Special Adults are amazing and a lot of fun. Hope you can join us. Any questions, contact Jamie Eglit at 302-670-8184 (cell phone). Again, Thank You!!

Weekly Happenings at Millville UMC

Pastor Brad's Office Hours

Tuesday – 11: 00 AM to 3:30 PM

Wednesday – 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Thursday Appointments 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Worship on the Beach	8:30 AM
	Wesley Bible Study	11:00 AM
	Choir Rehearsal (on break Aug.)	6:30 PM
Thursday	Bible Study	9:00 AM
Saturday	Praise Service	6:00 PM
Sunday	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee/Bible Study	
	With Pastor Brad	10:30 AM

Monthly Meetings

**UMW, Trustee/Finance Comm.,
Administrative Council will not meet in
August. Meetings will resume in September.**

~Special Note ~

Missing You Cards! There are note cards in each pew. If you notice someone absent who usually sits near you, take the time to send them a note. Please put your cards in the basket on the table at the rear of the church if you would like me to mail them. Thanks!

If you have questions regarding:

**Scheduling Requests for use of Wesley Hall
Flowers on the Altar
Prayer List Additions or Correction**

**Please contact Marilyn Ferry (539-9598) or
email wingferry@aol.com**

Worship at the Beach!

Join us Every Wednesday morning at 8:30AM

On Bethany Beach at Campbell Place

For an informal time of fellowship and worship

We are looking for speakers all summer long! You can be a pastor, church member, or a believer with a testimony to share.



To get to Campbell Place, drive down Garfield Parkway toward the beach, take the last left possible, and park in the first parking lot on the right.

If you would like to sign up to speak or have any questions please contact Pastor Bradley Schutt at 302-249-2337 or umcpastorbrad@outlook.com

Saturday Praise And Worship Service 6:00 PM At Wesley Hall

Every Saturday evening there is an informal fellowship here at Millville UMC. We open our service with singing - both hymns and praise music. Our service continues with a special time of sharing our joys and concerns, followed by prayer.

Each week we are blessed with a message from the scriptures and from the heart by one of our speakers:

Week 1 – Janet Smith
Week 2 – Pastor Brad
Week 3 – Lori Ciccanti*
Week 4 – Pastor Brad
Week 5 – As needed:
Janet Smith
Donald Maeby
Lou Ciccanti

Small Groups -Weekly

Coffee with Pastor Brad - Sunday at 10:30 AM in Wesley Hall. We read scripture and discuss topics of faith.

Studying Scripture – Monday, 10:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Larry Kaplan.

Wesley Wednesday Group – Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. Each week we will look at a sermon of John Wesley, so you can join any time and not be behind!

Thursday Bible Study – Meets at 9:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Donald Maebly.

Missions

Instructions to Donate to UMCOR:

Make check payable to: Millville United Methodist Church and note UMCOR on memo line.

NOTE: US Disaster Response
Advance # 901670

NOTE: Relief for Refugees in
Europe Disaster
Response, International
Advance # 982450

Remember To Bring Donations For:

Salem UMC Food Pantry

Lord Baltimore Elementary
Weekend Lunch Program will
resume in September.

Ministries

To activate the Prayer Chain
Call Nancy Bowers at 1-410-598-5600
Or email nanbowers4@comcast.net

Worship on the Beach
Wednesday, 8:30 AM, Bethany Beach at
Campbell Place

“Loving Care”
If you need a helping hand, please contact
Nancy Bowers 1-410-598-5600 or email
nanbowers4@comcast.net

Feed My Sheep - Soup Kitchen
Thursday, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Mariner’s
Bethel UMC

Volunteers for ACTS are needed!
Fill out an Application at 34634 Atlantic Ave.,
Ocean View (Phone 539-3513).

Special Events

Aging Faithfully – Cookie Bingo – Tuesday,
August 8, 10:00 AM

Lunch and River Cruise at Suicide Bridge
Sunday, August 13, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
See Dove article for details!

UMW Bake Sale – Saturday, August 26,
8:00 AM – Last one of the summer!!

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Life Force - End of Summer Bash -
Saturday, September 2, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
See Dove article for details!

MUMC 110th Anniversary – Sunday, Sept. 10

IN OUR PRAYERS

CANCER

**Earl Alford
Pat Beverson
Joe Boggs
Ron Carnahan
Barbara Holden
Paula Howard
Crystal Lingenfelter
Jeaninnie Todd
Shirley West**

SPECIAL NEEDS

**Pete Alt
Bob Chin & Family
Oscar Clair
Cal & Janet Cole
Anita Dayton
Charles Ecker
Jamie & Jeremy Eglit
Jerry Guagent
Elisa Hebel
Ralph Hitchens
Richard Hudson
Chris Lambertson
Peggy McCartney
Wade Mosier
Margaret Murray
Betty Neary
Dot Pritchett
Ellen Shannon
Claire Supernaw
Geri Townsend
George & Mary Towson
Welsh Family
Shirley Wing**

CHRISTIAN LEADERS

**Bishop Peggy A. Johnson
Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa
Pastor Brad Schutt
UMC Council of Bishops**

ALL SERVICE MEN & WOMEN & THEIR FAMILIES

WORLD PEACE & ORDER

**President Donald Trump and his Staff
Congress**

LOCAL & CONFERENCE MISSIONS

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

LORD BALTIMORE STAFF

HEALING

**All those in our church family grieving
the loss of a loved one**

