



## THE DOVE

**MAY 2017**

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD

#### It's What You Don't Do

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." – Galatians 5:22-23, NIV

As we near the end of this journey through the Fruit of the Spirit I must admit that I was not overly excited to write about gentleness. It's a concept that I have mixed feelings about, especially as it is often related to Christianity. I've come across many folks, too many I would say, who believe that following Christ means that you can never take a stand or take actions which may lead to some people being inconvenience or challenged.

I struggle against this personally because I feel like it can easily lead to people and groups being walked all over by the more outspoken and strong-willed. This can take all kinds of forms and be seen in all kinds of situations. In all my study of Scripture and Jesus' teachings I have never read anything that says that in order to follow Christ you have to turn yourself into a doormat. There is Luke 9:23 though, which has Jesus saying, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me" (CEB). So how do we get from gentleness to sacrifice?

In reading for this letter, I was given the gift of the true meaning of biblical gentleness which has enabled me to reclaim the Word as something I can be comfortable with and stand behind. Gentleness as part of the Fruit of the Spirit isn't about any kind of weakness or rolling over, it's about restraint and sacrificial living. It reminds me of one of my favorite chapters in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 8. The chapter is focused on meat sacrificed to false gods, but what it's really saying about our priorities and

how we are meant to live together is pretty remarkable to me.

Early in the chapter are the first two verses I ever memorized after I found Christ in college because of how much they comforted me and spoke to my needs. In 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 Paul says, "We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God" (NIV). There's another translation of verse 3 that I feel is equally profound which says, "But whoever loves truly knows" (NIV). So what do all of these verses say about the gentleness Paul is talking about in his letter to the Galatians?

Gentleness in this context is about being so devoted to God and so committed to your brothers and sisters in Christ that you are willing to dictate your own life around their needs more than your own. Being obedient and serving God is a pretty familiar concept, even to the point of not doing things you used to do. What about your family in Christ though? Have you ever thought about changing what you do, even limiting some things so that you can better love and serve those around you? That's what I believe biblical gentleness is, taking up your cross for Christ AND those around you. I encourage you to turn to the Lord in deeper commitment so that He can make room in you for the gentleness and grace of God to be shared with others in clear and loving ways.

Gentle Blessings,

Pastor Brad



## **OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH IS .....RECOVERING (PRAISE GOD!!)**

Well, one month ago, I reported to you that I was somewhat concerned about our financial health. You recall our worship giving was under budget by about \$5,000, and our expenses were \$5,200 more than our worship giving. Oh ME of little faith.

I know I prayed for God's direction, and I am sure many of our church family did the same. Do you know what happened? Our very generous church family responded to God's call by making worship giving for the month of April the BEST IN CHURCH HISTORY!!! With giving for that month at \$18,799.05, we are now about even with our budgeted estimate for the end of April.

However, one month does not define a trend, and we recognize that giving for the month could have been influenced by a number of factors, such as "catch-up" donations by those who were out of town earlier in the year. For that reason, we will continue to make prudent decisions on various non-recurring spending initiatives, delaying some actions until we are assured that our budget is viable. We are cautiously optimistic that the trend will continue.

God has sent some new faces to our worship services, and we are prayerful that they will make the "Welcome Church" their church home. We will continue outreach initiatives described in earlier editions of the Dove, including making surrounding communities aware of opportunities for worship and fellowship offered by our church. Also, we will make every effort to invite neighbors, friends, and recent acquaintances to worship, and fellowship events such as our pot-luck dinners, sing-alongs, picnics, special events, etc.

The strength of our church resides in the love we have for our Lord and for each other, and not in our balance sheet. Please continue to pray for His direction in all things as we strive to make our church a spiritual lighthouse in our effort to bring disciples to Christ.

Blessings, Rich Spina—Finance Chairman

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Fit for Life – Every Tuesday, 9:00 AM in Wesley Hall with Carol Gorden. This weekly exercise class will focus on balance, strength training and improving range of motion. Participants should wear comfortable clothes, sneakers and bring water.

Crop Walk – TODAY, Sunday, May 7, at the Bethany Beach Bandstand. Registration starts at 2:00 PM. There will be food, entertainment and ecumenical prayer. You may still donate on-line.

Sunday Pot Luck Supper – TODAY, May 7, 4:30 PM at Wesley Hall. Bring a covered dish & a friend and enjoy the fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Aging Faithfully – Cookie Bingo - Tuesday, May 9, 10:00 AM, Wesley Hall. Lots of fun and laughs for all!

UMW Bake Sale – Saturday, May 27, 8:00 AM.

**Bake Sale Schedule**  
**Saturday, 8:00 AM**  
**May 27, July 1, July 29, August 26**

It's that time again! Summer is fast approaching and that means monthly bake sales. 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.

## A Prayer for Our Mothers

For our mothers, who have given us life and love,  
that we may show them reverence and love,  
we pray to the Lord.....

For mothers who have lost a child through death,  
that their faith may give them hope, and their family  
and friends support and console them,  
we pray to the Lord...

For women, though without children of their own,  
who like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,  
we pray to the Lord.....

For mothers, who have been unable to be a source  
of strength, who have not responded to their  
children and have not sustained their families,  
we pray to the Lord.....

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment  
to her children, so you watch over your Church.  
Bless these women, that they may be strengthened  
as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith  
and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and  
daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of  
profound respect. Grant this through Christ our  
Lord. Amen.

(United Methodist Book of Blessings, U.S.A.)



## A Memorial Day Prayer

And

## Tribute to Those who have Served

Dear Lord, lift the hearts of those for whom  
this holiday is not just diversion, but painful  
memory and continued deprivation. Bless  
those whose dear ones have died. We  
remember with compassion and heartfelt  
thanks, those who have died serving their  
country. Amen

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all  
of you who have served our country and  
preserved our freedom. We honor you!

## HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY



*In Memory of Thomas Neary*

*October 24, 1928 – April 20, 2017*

*With deepest sympathy to Betty and  
the family of Thomas Neary. Our  
dear brother in Christ will remain  
in our hearts forever. Love & Prayers  
from your Millville church family*

## 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](mailto:umcpastorbrad@outlook.com).

## SMALL GROUPS – WEEKLY

**Coffee with Pastor Brad** - Sunday at 10:30 AM in Wesley Hall. We are currently reading and discussing the Book of Daniel.

**Studying Scripture** – Monday, 10:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Larry Kaplan. The study will start in the Gospel of Matthew.

**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! This week we will be studying John Wesley's Sermon # 24, "Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount (Discourse IV)".

**Mid-Week Prayer Group** - Will resume after Easter. Stay tuned and keep on praying!

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

~ TO ACTIVATE THE PRAYER CHAIN ~

Call Nancy Bowers at  
**1-410-598-5600**  
email [nanbowers4@comcast.net](mailto:nanbowers4@comcast.net)

~ LOVING CARE ~

If you need a helping hand, please  
contact Nancy Bowers – 1-410-598-5600