



Millville United Methodist Church

The Dove June 2016

Hello Church,

As I write this to you all my mind and spirit have not fully left behind our special Methodist day of remembrance, Aldersgate Day. On May 24, 1738 the founder of the Methodist movement in England, which eventually led to the United Methodist Church of today, had a profound spiritual experience at a gathering on Aldersgate Street. The event is powerful enough, but it's what happened in John Wesley's life leading up to this event that adds so much more. John was just coming back from a prolonged stay in Georgia that ended in mixed results professionally and personally at best. He had experienced the hurt of misplaced love and was in a tragic place spiritually because of his years of trying to live perfectly and do everything right in the name of following Christ and being worthy of His grace. John had seen a glimpse of a deeper faith in a group of Moravians who were on the same ship as him and responded to a life threatening storm with praying and singing instead of the fear and panic of many of their companions.

John Wesley arrived at this meeting in Aldersgate Street profoundly lost, but during a reading of Martin Luther's preface to the letter to the Romans John experienced, as he put it, his "heart strangely warmed" (Wesley's Journal). John starts off his journal entry for that night by saying that he,

"went very unwillingly" to the meeting (Wesley's Journal). I always connect Wesley's experience with the conversion of Saul in Acts 9. Being surrounded by a light from heaven Saul asks, "Who are you, Lord?" and hears these words, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting, now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:5-6). Saul was struck blind, fully dependent on his companions and the direction of Jesus, a stranger to Saul who was actively hunting Jesus' followers. There wasn't much room for discussion or debate in Saul conversion either. We owe the state of our souls and the church universal to two individuals with faithful, albeit checkered pasts who were pushed and led by Christ into situations that not only changed their lives and the world itself.

What lesson can we take away from both of these stories for ourselves today? For me, it comes in the form of a challenging question that I will pose to you as I have myself so many times. How often do you let God surprise you? How often do you let Christ interrupt your schedules and plans and push you into a new situation? How often does your busy-ness get in the way of you even being able to hear where Christ is calling you or to who the Spirit is leading you in that moment? It's such an easy trap for all of us to fall in to so many times in so many ways. In whatever system you use to

organize and guide your life, I encourage you to leave room for the spontaneous and ever-present Holy Spirit to move you and change your course at any time. Wonderful, incredible, and at times even uncomfortable and scary things may follow, but know that they are from the ever-loving God who leads us to growth in so many ways and walks with us in the midst of them. If you have never had an Aldersgate experience of your own, I pray that you have open eyes, ears, and most of all hearts to be led into it wherever it may be.

With Hope and Blessings,
Pastor Brad

Hello Friends,

Our Lay Leadership and Nominations Committee has begun the work of prayerfully looking at our church membership and our upcoming leadership needs to discern where folks can best serve the ministry and work of Millville UMC. What I have heard from many folks already is that a vast majority of people don't know what many of our church committees do if they haven't served on them before. To remedy that situation, you'll find in the Dove for the next several months the descriptions of each committee straight from the Discipleship Ministries resources of our denomination. This month we will be covering the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, also known as the SPPRC or PPRC. It is the Nominations Committee's hope that if you are asked to serve our church on one of its committees or teams, you will be able to make an informed and prayerful response. If you have any

questions, concerns, or want to know more about any of these groups Pastor Brad will be more than happy to answer any questions and talk to you more about them!

Result Expected:

This committee works with the lead pastor and other staff so that the staff can work effectively in managing the ministry of the congregation for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. An effective committee will fulfill legal and ethical responsibilities related to staff.

Qualifications for Job:

Spiritual gifts: Exhortation (encouragement), wisdom, discernment, apostleship, administration, shepherding, teaching, leadership.

Experience, Skills: Committee members should be diverse in age, experience, and interests in order to bring all ministry opportunities of the congregation to the attention of the staff. Some experience in human relations, personnel management, and communications is helpful. These individuals must listen well to both staff and people of all ages in the congregation while keeping a focus on the mission of the church. These leaders must be able to maintain confidentiality.

Responsibilities:

Through the year, this leader maintains a healthy and growing personal spiritual life and leads the PPRC committee members to do the same. The committee shall engage in biblical and theological reflection about the mission of the church. The chairperson, along with the pastor and others, has primary responsibility for the appointed and paid

staff who lead the vision and mission of the church. This leader is the congregation's primary connection with the district superintendent and bishop related to the appointed leadership of the congregation. This individual leads the PPRC committee by preparing and communicating the agenda for meetings, leading the meetings, following up actions by assigning responsibility for implementation. This person should become familiar with United Methodist resources and organization.

Responsibilities of the Committee

- The committee leads the congregation to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor(s) and staff and their families. It helps the staff set priorities that strengthen the congregation's total ministry.
- The committee consults with the lead pastor to recommend staff positions to support the strategy of the church leadership team (church council).
- The committee recommends staff compensation, travel, housing, and other financial matters to the church council through consultation with the finance committee. The finance committee includes the salary total in the budget, and the PPRC works with staff on allocation.
- The committee provides for annual evaluation of the pastor(s) and other staff for ongoing effective ministry.
- The committee creates and updates written policy for hiring, evaluating,

promoting, retiring, and dismissing staff members who are not subject to episcopal appointment. (Procedures must comply with local and state laws). This is recommended to the church council for adoption.

- The committee conducts proper screening (including background checks) for lay employees and volunteer staff.
- The chairperson is the congregation's primary connection with the district superintendent and bishop related to appointed leadership of the congregation.
- The committee meets with the district superintendent and/or the bishop in an advisory capacity related to clergy leadership. Considerations include the age and stage of the congregation, an understanding of feelings and desires within the congregation about the pastor's leadership and appointment, and the culture and needs of the community around the church.
- The committee enlists, evaluates, and annually recommends to the charge conference candidates for professional ministry.

Resources:

Getting started

Soon after new members are elected at charge conference, convene a meeting of the pastor/staff-parish relations committee to get

acquainted, share hopes and concerns, and begin to plan your work for the year. There are responsibilities for each quarter outlined in *Guidelines for Leading your Congregation: Pastor Parish Relations Committee: 2013-2016*. You might watch together the one-hour webinar that outlines your role and responsibilities.

Good News!

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson (reflections on General Conference)

At the final worship service of General Conference 2016 Bishop Elaine Stanovski (from the Mountain Sky Area) preached a powerful Word. She said “tell the story of life that is good and true, where life is triumphing over death. We have heard so much good news here.” That would be my overall impression of this quadrennial event that was held in Portland, Oregon, the “City of Roses” from May 10-20, 2016. Good news!! The Philadelphia Area (Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware) sent 6 lay and 6 clergy delegates, 4 alternates and a number of folks came as support persons for General Agencies and Commissions and as pages, monitors, marshals and volunteers. I saw much life-giving service and hard work from not only our constituencies but from all at this global gathering of United Methodists. I appreciate so much their ministry of service and sacrifice.

Here is some of the good news that I would celebrate:

1. **We remained united as a denomination.** There was no schism. Instead of debating the paragraphs in the Discipline around human sexuality the body voted by a narrow margin to allow the Council of Bishops to establish a commission to bring a recommendation to either a special session of General Conference (2018 or 2019) or as an additional few days at the next regularly scheduled General Conference in 2020. The bishops stayed an extra day in Portland to begin to craft a plan for that commission and regular reports will be issued to the denomination as the work unfolds. We will continue to live in our present Discipline around paragraphs that deal with sexuality and marriage until this work is brought to the body for a vote. The bishops have a deep commitment to the unity of the church and will continue to dialog, pray and seek God’s Spirit for a way forward.
2. **We will continue to have nine episcopal areas in the Northeastern Jurisdiction for another four years** so we do not need to downsize to eight by September of 2016 as we believed was likely going to happen. We had lost the necessary number of members to qualify for nine bishops. However, the Interjurisdictional Committee supported the NEJ appeal for an extension and it was affirmed by the body and nine bishops for the NEJ will continue to be funded in our

denominational budget until 2020. At our July Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference (July 12-15, 2016 in Lancaster, PA) we will elect 2 bishops and the assignments of bishops for the jurisdiction will be made on July 15th. No decisions have been made about who will be the bishop of the Philadelphia Area.

3. **The structure of the denomination stayed the same.** We will maintain our commissions as we have always had, which include our commissions on Race and Religion, the Status and Role of Women, and Archives and History. These commissions keep before us our deep concern for racial inclusivity, gender equality and the story of our vital past. None of the structure proposals for reconfiguring the denomination passed.
4. **We approved a \$604 million dollar budget** that included an additional \$5 million dollars to support global theological education. This will greatly benefit our growing churches in the international countries where we need more trained pastors. This budget is slightly more than the budget of the last quadrennium (\$603.1 million).
5. **We voted to no longer be a member of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.** This was because their stance on abortion was not in keeping with our denominational Social Principles. For

many in the Philadelphia Area this had long been a source of concern.

6. **We commissioned 29 new Global Ministry missionaries** from 11 countries who will be serving in 16 mission outposts around the world.
7. **We commissioned a number of new Deaconesses and Home Missioners** who will be serving in peace and justice ministries across the United States.
8. **We established new provisional conferences in Southeast Asia and Mongolia.**
9. **We celebrated the collection of \$68.5 million dollars for the “Imagine No Malaria” campaign that has greatly reduced the number of deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa in recent years since the campaign started.**
10. **We voted to create a new United Methodist hymnal which will include songs of praises and unity for our many diverse voices and hands.**
11. **We voted to recognize the ministries of the United Church of Sweden and the Moravian Church (North and South) which is the culmination of many years of ecumenical dialogue.**
12. **We will fund five new bishops in Africa beginning in 2020.**

13. **There was translation in ten languages and American Sign Language. For the first time we had a bishop preside at General Conference who spoke in a language other than English. All the delegates had head-sets so they could hear all the languages simultaneously.**
14. **We celebrated many anniversaries: the 60th anniversary of the ordination of women in ministry, the 200th anniversary of the death of Francis Asbury (our first American bishop), the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the 150th anniversary of the United Methodist Women, the 40th anniversary of voting rights for the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, the 30th anniversary of Disciple Bible Study and the 25th anniversary of Africa University. The 20th anniversary of the Order of Deacons was also mentioned.**
15. **We continued our “Act of Repentance” for sins committed against Native and Indigenous peoples. Included in that time was a presentation about the 1864 “Sand Creek Massacre” and the unveiling of a newly published book. Sports teams that use Native American mascots were denounced.**
16. **Excellence in worship arts, music, preaching, speaking and presiding was demonstrated by our leadership.**
17. **Local hospitality and prayer was life-giving and gracious**
18. **Youth and Young Adults were heard! The Young peoples’ address was co-led by a daughter of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference: Chelsea Spyres, who is currently serving as a missionary in Detroit. Ann Jacob, a young adult daughter of the Eastern PA Conference, presented a statement about unity on behalf of the Young Adults Convocation which met in the Philippines last year.**
19. **We will present a new Global Book of Discipline and Global Social Principles at the 2020 General Conference.**
20. **We celebrated the class of retiring bishops who included Bishop Marcus Matthews from the NE Jurisdiction.**
21. **We memorialized with deep gratitude those bishops and faithful servants of the church who have entered the church triumphant since our last General Conference. Among them was Bishop Martin McLee (NY Annual Conference).**

22. **We kept “guaranteed appointment” for Elders**
23. **We did not set term limits for bishops in the United States.**
24. **We voted for a new class of members for the Judicial Council and for the first time the chair is a person from one of our Central Conferences. We elected many others to service on numerous others boards, commissions and committees.**
25. **We raised many social concerns such as climate change, clean water issues, and the plight of the Lumas peoples in the Philippines.**
26. **We created 2 new special Sundays: “Women’s Ministry Sunday” and “Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday.” The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will now be called “UMCOR Sunday.”**

All of this is good, good news! We are still a United Methodist Church. We continue to do great work in the midst of complex societal issues and our concern about decline and dollars. God is not finished with us and we have prospects for much good ministry in the future.

As your bishop I am appreciative of our United Methodist quadrennial goals:

1. to engage 3 million principled leaders to make a difference in the world,

2. to transform 400 communities for vital living,
3. to engage in intentional ministry with the poor,
4. to find new ways to help one million children receive life-saving health care interventions and
5. to double our number of vital congregations.

I also celebrate our plans to strengthen theological education globally as well as continue to fund the young clergy initiative. Let’s work together as laity and clergy to engage in these good works in our conferences and around the world in the next four years!

I know for some there is a concern that we left Portland without having made any definitive decisions about our official positions on human sexuality and marriage practices. I believe that it is well worth the time to allow the bishops to work on this for the next few years and for all of us to pray for the unity of the church. We can keep doing the work of Christ outlined here in this summary in the meantime and Jesus will still be the Lord of all. There is much good news. Therefore go and tell the story and surely the Lord is with us until the end of the age.

AGING FAITHFULLY Announces:

They're coming back again! On Tuesday June 14th at 11:00 in Wesley Hall the AARP Chorus will again entertain us with their wonderful tunes. Come and join us, then stay for PIZZA for lunch. See you there.

“To the people of The United Methodist Church:

The Council of Bishops brings you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has called us to be servant leaders of the church. In 1812, Bishop Francis Asbury, Bishop William McKendree and General Conference Secretary Daniel Hitt sent the first letter to churches following General Conference. This letter seeks to revive that tradition. Many bishops will also be communicating individually with their own areas.

Hundreds of lay and clergy delegates from around the world gathered in Portland, Oregon, along with bishops and pastors, church members and staff, volunteers and visitors, to engage in Christian conferencing, to make decisions for our church’s future, to affirm our global connection, to worship and to celebrate God’s faithfulness.

We celebrated the success of our Imagine No Malaria initiative, which seeks to raise \$75 million in the fight against malaria, a disease that takes the life of a child in Africa every two minutes. We celebrated our ecumenical partnerships as we move in to full Communion with the Uniting Church in Sweden and toward full Communion with the Moravian church. We celebrated our heritage: the 250th anniversary of our oldest church, John Street United Methodist Church, the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women,

the 25th anniversary of Africa University and others.

We continued in our acts of repentance with a presentation from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes about the Methodist involvement in the 1864 Sand Creek massacre. We shared in the consecration of deaconesses and home missionaries and the commissioning of missionaries. We moved toward a global Book of Discipline and global Social Principles. We voted to add five new bishops in Africa after 2020, and approved a church wide study on our ecclesiology.

The Episcopal address set the tone for the event, focusing on humility and lifting up our accomplishments. We heard from our laity an invitation to members to be more involved in making disciples and getting involved in ministries to bring the love of Christ to others. We heard our young people say they “are engaged in Christ’s journey with energy and love.” We also heard them say clearly that they do not want a divided church and urged us to “be in unity even if we do not have unanimity.” They give us hope for our future.

The body had difficult and challenging work before it as we acknowledged our differences over human sexuality. Amidst those differences, the delegates affirmed they want their bishops to lead and we found ourselves with an opportunity for a holy moment. We spoke candidly about what divides us and what our church might look like in the future if we dared to consider new possibilities. We offered a way forward, postponing decisions

about sexuality matters and committing to having a different kind of global conversation that allows all voices to be heard.

Our differences do not keep us from being the body of Christ. They do not keep us from doing good in the world. They do not keep us from making a difference – and so we set forth bold new goals: to make a million new disciples of Jesus Christ; to engage 3 million new people to make a difference in the world; to transform 400 communities for vital abundant living; to reach a million children with lifesaving health interventions; and to double the number of vital congregations.

Most importantly, we affirmed our commitment to stay united. We proved that we are more than debates and divisions, more than rules and resolutions. We stood together as the body of Christ. As we reflect on our time in Portland, our prayer is for unity in the church for the advancement of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As John Wesley reminded us, “Best of all, God is with us.”

Signed on behalf of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the Council”

*About the Council of Bishops
The Council of Bishops provides leadership and helps set the direction of the 12.3 million-member church and its mission throughout the world. The bishops are the*

top clergy leaders of The United Methodist Church, the second largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. The Council of Bishops is made up of all active and retired bishops of The United Methodist Church, and comprises 45 active bishops in the United States; 20 active bishops in Europe, Asia and Africa; plus 87 retired bishops worldwide.

PATRIOTIC COMMUNITY SINGALONG....

JULY 2 at 6:00 in Wesley Hall....

It is about time again to join together to sing so I'm inviting you to come join me on Sat July 2. There will be a time of fellowship followed by a community singalong and what better way to celebrate the 4th then with all of you. As always there will be refreshments and prizes and maybe a few other things planned cause I always have surprises. If you would like to help in any way, please see me cause I can use some extra help in the kitchen and some greeters and a few refreshments and whatever talent you would like to share. This is a fun evening and may you come so we all can "God Bless America"....

Barb Clair

GIRLS' DAY OUT: Friday, June 17th, 12N at Harpoon Hannahs. Order from the menu. Meet at the church at 11:30. If you need a ride let me know. Elizabeth 302-732-9684

Are the guys interested in meeting at Bethany Diner for breakfast? How about Thursday, June 16th at 9am. Watch for the ever popular clipboard! Sign up for a good breakfast.

Redemption Part 1

By Ed Thornton

Remember from last month's Bible Study that:

Christ's blood is precious because WHO he was – the SON of God.

Christ's blood is precious because WHY he came – to DIE for our sins.

Christ's blood is precious provides Redemption, Forgiveness, Justification, Reconciliation, and Sanctification

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners proving God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ we are REDEEMED!

What does the OT say about redemption?

Read Isaiah 44:21-28.

God is a God who forgives and redeems His wayward people. God calls His people to take His promises to heart. He calls them to remember who He is and what He has done for them, and then to repent and return to Him. God proclaimed He would deliver His People from their captivity. For He is a God that can proclaim the future before it occurs.

This passage from Isaiah has two parts:

The Promise

The Prophecy

The Promise

God's messengers, the prophets, are those who are carrying out His commission. They are speaking for the One who wishes to reveal Himself by revealing the future. God communicates this revelation to His prophets as found in His Word. God said "Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant, O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me."

Jerusalem and her temple were going to be completely destroyed. Israel was going into an extended period of captivity. But that did not mean God was finished with them or that He had forgotten them. Israel would go into a harsh and cruel exile but they were still His special people and would not be forgotten.

Now listen to the wondrous evidence of His grace toward His people. "I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud, And your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have

redeemed you.” God announced that He had forgotten their sins. He removed them as the wind sweeps a cloud from the sky. His people are then called to return to Him.

Note the comparison made here: our sins are like a clouds. As clouds are of many shapes so are our transgressions. Clouds obscure the light of the sun and darken the landscape below. Similarly, our sins hide us from the light of God And cause us to sit in the gloom of their consequences.

But God Himself acts and instead of manifesting His anger, He reveals His grace. Because of this great news of redemption Israel is called to rejoice. “Shout for joy, O heavens, for the Lord has done it! Shout joyfully, you lower parts of the earth. Break forth into a shout of joy, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it; For the Lord has redeemed Jacob and in Israel He will show forth His glory.” God’s redemption of His people is so wondrous that nature itself is called to join the celebration. Glorious changes are coming. Israel and nature should rejoice because of what God has planned. This is the Promise of God’s Gracious Redemption.

Now The Prophecy

Having asserted His promise to redeem His people God now reveals the agent or means of His redemption. “Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the One who formed you from the womb, I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself, And spreading out the earth all alone.”

Note God’s creative power. God not only formed Israel, He has made “all things”. As the sole Creator of the World, Israel has no one else to look to for redemption. That whatever powers the other gods may boast of they can’t alter the course of events. Only God, the Creator of all, can.

There will be great difficulties in delivering Israel but God promises that by His Divine power these difficulties will be removed. “It is I who says to the depth of the sea, ‘Be dried up!’ And I will make your rivers dry.” Remember God dried up the Red Sea and the Jordan River. To fulfill His promise of deliverance God makes this prophecy.

“It is I who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.’ And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid.’” God is calling the Persian emperor Cyrus to set His captive people free To God’s people, the term shepherd is often applied to a ruler. Calling a foreign king God’s shepherd must have been alien to most Jews. Yet God often uses a non-believer to do His work. Finally, what is equally remarkable about this prophecy is that it predicts the laying of the foundation of the temple rather than the total rebuilding of it. The Book of Ezra, Chapter 1 tells

us that Cyrus supported just such an effort. Then after many years the temple was completed under the ministry of Haggai and Zechariah.

In conclusion remember:

God's has a plan for your redemption.

God intervenes in history to carry out this plan.

Not only did Isaiah's predictions of Cyrus prove true, he also predicted the coming of the Messiah

I 
MY
CHURCH