

MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE DOVE

JULY 2017

Message From Pastor Brad

"Without question, the mystery of godliness is great: he was revealed as a human, declared righteous by the Spirit, seen by angels, preached throughout the nations, believed in around the world, and taken up in glory." - 1 Timothy 3:16 (CEB)

Hello Friends,

It may seem like we started our 40 Day Prayer Challenge not too long ago, but this letter will bring it to an official end. I've heard from several of you how much you enjoyed the book, so I encourage you to read it again later on or right now. There are a few pastor friends of mine who have re-read it one and even two more times back to back. It is my hope that you don't stop whatever you've been doing since Easter now that you've experienced what doing and looking at prayer differently can add to your personal faith life. It may seem a bit counter-intuitive, but after reading a book on prayer and giving you several instructions on prayer the last thing I wanted to remind you of was mystery.

The idea of mystery and how vital it is to our faith has been sticking with me since we had Holy Communion for the second time in June. Did you notice that I wasn't saying the things I usually do before Communion? We used a special Communion liturgy written by Bishop Johnson's husband for Pentecost. Near the end of the liturgy he includes the words "this holy mystery", which is a frequently used phrase in United Methodism to describe this sacrament. Some denominations and churches hold to beliefs that clearly define what happens when and how during Communion. We United Methodists believe with assurance that the bread becomes the Body of Christ for us and the juice becomes the Blood of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit in and around us. We don't need

to know the exact details, we simply have to trust in the Spirit to do the work we know the Spirit can do.

That same notion holds true for how we think about prayer, approach it, and actually do it. There are countless ways to pray. I've only covered a couple of the forms that have been established over time. Prayer is as diverse as the Kingdom of God itself because each of us brings our unique thoughts and feelings to it when we pray. So there's plenty of room for each of us to explore and grow into it for ourselves. We are only humans, a creation of God, who have been given the incredible gift to be able to talk to and share with the Lord of the Universe. That only happens through the mystery and wonder of the Holy Spirit working in and around us.

In all the days you have left to talk to God and be in relationship with him, as you read the latest devotional book or text on prayer, I encourage you to always remember who allows us to be able to do this. Remember to leave plenty of room for the mystery and wonder of the Holy Spirit to work through it all.

Prayerful Blessings,
Pastor Brad

Hello Friends!

Our Lay Representative to Annual Conference for this year, Sandi Powell, captured much of what happened this year at our meeting in Wilmington, DE at the end of last month. All I wanted to share with the church was some of the more business-related issues discussed and the resolutions put to the annual conference by churches and members of churches. There were 15 resolutions submitted that covered social issues, varying aspects of conference finances, church functioning, and recognition of local and global church history.

Our Conference Council on Finance and Administration projected that the 2018 financial needs of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference are going to be \$4,702,114. After some discussion, it was approved that the churches of the conference would be apportioned a total of \$5,412,542. You may be wondering why the apportionment total is more than the anticipated financial need of the conference. Recognizing that churches are in varying financial situations, the council assumes that they will receive most, but not all designated apportionments. We also set minimum salaries for all levels of full time pastors, dental and insurance rates, and what level of support our retired clergy and spouses are going to receive.

We also took time to recognize that this year is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Looking more locally, we approved the designation of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as a Conference Historic Site due to it being initially established as the Delaware Conference Academy. In 1864 the Delaware Conference was established as the first conference for preachers of African descent by the Methodist Episcopal Church, the denomination which combined with the Evangelical United Brethren to become the United Methodist Church. The Delaware Conference established the Delaware Conference Academy in 1886 to provide opportunities for higher education.

Moving into the present, we had diverse and interesting discussions on resolutions relating to the Johnson Amendment, the usage of religious liberty in society today, the harmful situations youth and young people who identify as LGBT find themselves in and what the church should be doing about it, and our conference's stance on how to support Native American peoples whose land and homes are being affected by situations like the Dakota Access Pipeline. One of the highlights of Annual Conference every year is the Ordination Service.

This year one person was ordained as an Elder in our denomination, four were commissioned as provisional elders eligible to be ordained in a minimum of two years, and one clergywoman was received as an associate member of our annual conference. As you can imagine it was a busy and exciting couple of days of business, fellowship,

worship, and celebration. Thank you for enabling me to participate in the business of the conference and represent our church as its pastor. If you would like to know more about any of these feel free to ask me anytime.

Blessings,
Pastor Brad

“Down To The River To Pray”

Editor's note: The following article was authored by Sandi Powell, who was our representative to Annual Conference, May 22-24 2017. We are indebted to Sandi for taking on this critical position.



This was the theme of the 233rd Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference which was held at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE. I was spiritually filled with love for the Lord, love for others and to be reminded how much each one of us is loved unconditionally.

A high note for me was to see and hear our incredible Bishop Peggy A. Johnson. Staying with the theme of prayer, Bishop Johnson prayed for God to inhabit our prayers, for Jesus to bring healing and grace, and for the Holy Spirit to surround us as we gathered together with wisdom and guidance.

There were discussions on different issues as we prepared to vote. Different feelings are very real in the United Methodist Church. I suppose the biggest concern is the LGBT and in 2019 teams from all over the world will meet at General Conference trying to work on bringing the UMC together. Our prayer is we need to stay faithful to Jesus.

I witnessed a beautiful Liturgical Dance performed by Christine Blake. Her interpretation of the words and music with every movement of her body were almost heavenly and I was blessed to witness such love for the Lord through a dance.

Our theme was prayer and I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit where it was said we need to ask God what He wants our church to be, not what people want. A speaker said that the church is a landing runway for the Holy Spirit to win people to Christ. How awesome it would be to keep the runway busy!

I prayed as to whether I should attend the conference and I am and was very blessed that God revealed to me and guided me to Wilmington, Delaware on the river to pray for the UMC.

Finally, I was so proud of our own Pastor Brad, who did a beautiful job in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. Pastor Brad conducted this part of the program as conference Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

The conference concluded with Bishop Johnson recognizing all who participated in making the conference a success.

If ever your turn comes to attend conference and be part of the Laity first pray, be faithful, and follow God's plan for you.

Blessings—Sandi Powell

P.S. Did I forget to mention the delicious lunches and dinners and the beautiful fellowship at meal times. As we gathered, I met new sisters and brothers in Christ, and I will keep them all in my heart and prayers. I pray you can tell how blessed I was. God is good.

Proverbs 3: 5-6 (KJV)

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all ways, acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

SPECIAL EVENTS

UMW SUMMER BAKE SALE SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:00 AM
July 1, July 29, August 26

It's that time again! Summer is here 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.

Please keep this schedule for future reference. Thank you for helping!

SINGALONG WITH BARB **Saturday, July 8, 6:00 PM in Wesley Hall**

You don't want to miss this annual event with Barb! We will be celebrating the 4th of July with patriotic music. Along with the singing, we'll have prizes, snacks and an evening of lots of laughter. Come join in the fun and fellowship and bring a friend! Please bring snacks/dessert to share!

AGING FAITHFULLY **COOKIE BINGO** **Tuesday, July 11, 10:00 AM**

Coffee, Donuts and Cookie Bingo
It's a great time to relax and have fun with your Brothers and Sisters. Everyone is welcome!

SUICIDE BRIDGE LUNCH & CRUISE **August 13, 2017 1-4pm**

Before we know it we will be heading to the other side of the Peninsula for a wonderful day of fun and food. What good Methodist wouldn't look forward to that!?! Here is some information you may want: 6304 Suicide Bridge Rd., Hurlock, Md. 21643
Lunch and Cruise \$42.00 per person
Menu Crab cake and Fried Chicken, potato, vegetable, dessert, roll and butter

I will need your name, if you need a ride. I will also need names of those willing to drive. This detail will be more solid a week or two before the date.

Please be prepared to pay me by July 22nd in the form of cash, exact amount, or personal check made out to "Elizabeth Skinner."

If you have any questions or if you want to go and haven't signed up, please call me at 302-732-9684. In Christ's Love, Elizabeth

POTLUCK DINNERS

Well, we have been blessed with getting together as God's family on the first Sunday of every month since January. We have shared a meal and spent time with one another getting to know our family more personally. I know I have enjoyed every minute!

What about you? When God started his creation He created one human, a man. He realized almost immediately the man was lonely and needed a companion who was also human, so He then created a woman. This was the beginning of God's family. We are doing with our potlucks exactly what God intended us to do. God wants us to spend time together, get to know one another, and thereby, love one another.

After taking the summer off for travel or entertaining company, we will come back together to share in October. Have a blessed and safe time! In Christ's Love, Elizabeth

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE

Can you make a single trip to Walmart for school supplies at the end of August on a date of your choosing?

Can you make a single trip to a Dollar Tree for personal items like combs, brushes, hair bows, ponytail holders, etc. anytime during September?

Can you browse through the Oriental Trading Company catalog looking for a fun toy and then place an order?

Can you be at church to help set up the assembly line with other volunteers on a date of your own choosing?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you are able to co-chair Operation Christmas Child with Carol Gorden. Please say yes to this simple, easy, and rewarding request. Give Carol a call at 410-530-3002.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry run by Samaritan's Purse sending shoeboxes full of functional and fun items to children in over 100 countries. These boxes represent a tangible expression of God's love, as well as an invitation to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our church has been participating in this ministry for approximately 10 years sending 75-100 boxes each Christmas season. Over the years the format for filling our boxes has changed. This year we will begin by collecting your donations on any Sunday during our regular time of giving. Please be sure to designate your gift for Operation Christmas Child before placing it in the collection plate. Late in August a small shopping committee will choose and shop for the items that will fill each box. This allows our church to buy in bulk or take advantage of sales. Our boxes are uniform and fully packed. It is the best bang for your buck. Each box costs \$15-\$20. There is an additional postage fee of \$7.00. So, it is approximately \$25 for each box. Finally, the entire congregation packs our boxes in assembly line fashion on a Sunday morning in the fall.

This year all donations must be received by Sunday, September 3rd. The total monies collected will determine the number of boxes filled. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generosity.

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

Balance on 4/30/2017.....	\$140,477.48
Special Donation by Members.....	\$340.00
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....	<u>\$915.13</u>
Balance on 5/31/2017.....	\$139,222.35

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.

Thank You Note From Betty Neary

Ladies of Millville United Methodist Church. Thank you for the wonderful meal at Wesley Hall after the service for Thomas on April 30, 2017. We appreciate all of your help & kindness during our time of need.

Thank You
The Neary Family

Thank you Note From Lord Baltimore Elementary School

Dear Millville United Methodist Church: The faculty, staff, and students truly appreciate all the snacks your congregation collected to donate to our weekend backpack program. We were able to send home extra food for Easter Vacation to 26 of our Lord Baltimore Families! The students were excited over the new treats that they were able to take home and enjoy over the long break. Thank you again for your willingness to share with others, Lord Baltimore is very fortunate to have individuals such as you that are willing to help our students in need.
Sincerely, Theresa S. O'Shields, School Counselor

WORSHIP AT THE BEACH Wednesday morning at 8:30 AM

Join us 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 turn 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
302-249-2337 or
umcpastorbrad@outlook.com

SATURDAY PRAISE & 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

*Lori is an author and teacher with a beautiful testimony of Christian faith.

Following the service, we visit and enjoy coffee and dessert together. It's a relaxing way to finish the end of the week with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Join us and invite a friend or neighbor to come along. You'll be blessed!

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

**Life Force
~End of the Summer Bash~
Friday, September 9
Jamie Eglit will have details for
this event later!!**

**CELEBRATION
Millville United Methodist Church
110TH ANNIVERSARY
ON SEPTEMBER 10TH
(Details at later date)**

**REVIVAL
MEETINGS
COMING
IN THE FALL!**



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

**O beautiful for spacious
skies, for amber waves
of grain; for purple
mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America! God
shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with
brotherhood from sea to
shining sea.**