



# MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE DOVE

**JUNE 2017**

### **Message From Pastor Brad**

#### **Roots**

“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

Hello friends! I'm writing this letter to you all in a hotel room up in Wilmington as Annual Conference is nearing its end. Our time with the Fruit of the Spirit is also ending this month, and I hope these reflections on each one has brought you deeper in faith and practice along the way. We end this series with self-control, which is a word I've heard variations of several times in the last couple days. We United Methodists are so based on the concept that we named our constitution the Book of Discipline. In our business meetings I've heard the word discipline so much that I can't help but reflect on what it means. We are called to make disciples, as Jesus had his own, and to practice discipleship in our church and community. Like I said, this self-control thing is kind of a big deal and everywhere in our faith. So why does it seem so unappealing to so many?

I know plenty of folks who see self-control and living a disciplined life as no fun and needlessly restricting ourselves from the pleasures of life. They want to go out and indulge in the joy of existence, or at least don't want to deal with daily rules. Where does Eat, Drink, and Be Merry ultimately lead us? Now that I've reached 30, which I apologize if that caused you to scoff or roll your eyes, I've been wondering about this. The answers I've come up with aren't good. For those of you who have seen me it's obvious that I have unfortunately had my my struggles with self-control and food that I've been trying to correct for awhile now.

For me, it doesn't feel like I'm tightening my belt around a repository of fun and good times when I have to wear a suit or dress up.

I've spent time with folks who have struggled with other serious self-control issues and they've talked about the numerous regrets that were caused by their struggles and the burdens they were trying to rise above. Looking at Scripture, I'm reminded about how the Prodigal Son felt in the parable from Luke 15. In verses 16 and 17 we read that he, "longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death'" (CEB). In all of this we see that the end result of no self-control is ultimately some form of burden and regret. That may seem like common sense in some way, because we all know that too much of anything has its risks. Taking all of this into consideration, I'm still confused as to the bad rap self-control gets, even in my mind. I believe the problem is that we focus on what is being taken away from us, when we should consider what we gain from it. This takes me back to dealing with reaching my 30's.

Looking at this next stage in life has had me often reflecting on what I allow to dictate my life and what my legacy is going to be. As our children grow up and turn more into their own people, I realize that I want to see as much of that as possible and keep up with them for as long as I can. Practicing better self-control and living a more disciplined life is the way for that to happen. No drive-thru meal is worth more than any moment with my family. I know that any believer's greatest testimony is how they live their life and how they

are. I can't help but wonder how much of what God could be doing through me is being dampened by the results of my lack of self-control. It seems to be that the end result of living with self-control is to be free of worldly burdens and receive so much more of what God has in store for you. You're able to live more in the present and truly embody the transforming love of the Lord.

If self-control isn't a problem for you, I give thanks and God bless you for your example and the witness you live out. I love the language in Luke 15:17 in the Common English Bible, and commend its words to you as I come back to them often. There are things in my life that I have come to my senses over and am seeking the Lord's leading in how to get through them. If there's something in your life that you could better come to your senses over, I challenge you to admit them to yourself, give them up to God in prayer, and look for your own way through that wilderness. True freedom, joy, and peace in the Lord is in store for all of us. May we allow the Spirit to guide us to them.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brad

## Aldersgate Sunday

Hello Friends,

Since this newsletter is coming out on Aldersgate Sunday, I wanted to include the entry for May 24, 1738 from the journal of John Wesley, who co-founded the Methodist movement with his brother Charles. It would be my hope that through the reading of this you discover or re-discover the heart of who we are as Methodists. I pray that the Spirit would move through you as you read this account of the wondrous spiritual experience that changed the hearts of the Wesley's, each of us, and the whole world!

Blessings,  
Pastor Brad

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He

had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

I began to pray with all my might for those who had in a more especial manner despitely used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart. But it was not long before the enemy suggested, ‘This cannot be faith; for where is thy joy?’ Then was I taught that peace and victory over sin are essential to faith in the Captain of our salvation; but that, as to the transports of joy that usually attend the beginning of it, especially in those who have mourned deeply, God sometimes giveth, sometimes withholdeth, them according to the counsels of His own will.

After my return home, I was much buffeted with temptations, but cried out and they fled away. They returned again and again. I as often lifted up my eyes, and He ‘sent me help from his holy place.’ And herein I found the difference between this and my former state chiefly consisted. I was striving, yea fighting with all my might under the law, as well as under grace. But then I was sometimes, if not often conquered; now, I was always conqueror.”

## Trustees At Work!!

The most visible signs that the trustees are at work are:

- That the appearance of the sanctuary and other buildings is pleasing, clean, safe, and welcoming,
- that the lawn, shrubs, sidewalks and parking lot are well maintained, and
- the heat and air conditioning are on and set to the correct temperature when needed.

The work noted above is certainly important, and takes a fair amount of the trustees' time. However, the trustees are tasked with a much greater responsibility, one that impacts not only our financial health, but also our legal liability. The handbook “Guidelines-Trustees” has on its cover the statement **Manage the Resources of the Congregation**. That statement covers a lot of territory, and it is essential that all who serve as trustees understand the broad responsibilities contained therein.

So who are your trustees?

- Sonny Seal, Rich Spina—2017
- Charles Guzman, Joe Skinner—2018
- Frank Lathbury, Phyllis Rudd, Sheila Herrmann—2019

Those members of our church family have agreed to take on this very important job. Over the past several months, they have been engaged in one of the critical aspects of the position; that is, to **PLAN AHEAD**. As with all things we undertake, starting out by prayerfully asking that God's will be made known to us, and that He guides our hearts and hands.

Back in February, I reported that the trustees were considering a number of projects for 2017. At that time, our financial health seemed sound, and the outlook ahead positive. For several months after that, it was less so, and the trustees prioritized those projects with an eye towards conserving funds if necessary. Since then, our financial situation appears to be improving, so here is where we stand on various projects:

- Sanctuary Handicapped Ramp—rather than new construction in an alternate location, estimate at \$15,000 to \$25,000, we are obtaining estimates to rehabilitate the existing ramp. That would include replacing the (splintered!!) wooden railings with white vinyl handicapped-approved, railings and vinyl post covers, and covering the decking with a non-skid compound. Our estimated cost for this is less than \$3,000.
- Sanctuary Audio/Visual System and Special event Lighting—we have recommended that upgrades to the audio/visual system be put on hold. We will proceed with special event lighting at a cost of about \$2,000, with the funds coming the Special Event Account, not the General Fund.
- Wesley House Front Doors—we have recommended that this project, estimated cost \$2,700, be delayed until later in the year, pending a continued improvement in our financial situation. The problem with the currently installed double doors is a failure to lock properly if an involved process isn't followed.
- Wesley House Side Doors—replacement of three deteriorating doors under warranty is

in process. We will install ourselves, with the cost only for new hardware, estimated at about \$400.

I would like to thank all of the Trustees who have so faithfully and generously given of their time to manage the resources and property of our beloved old church. God has truly blessed us with a talented and dedicated church family, who selflessly work to keep our "lighthouse on the corner" shining so brightly.

Rich Spina, Trustees Chairman

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Sunday Pot Luck Supper—June 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 PM at Wesley Hall. Bring a covered dish & a friend and enjoy the fellowship. Everyone is welcome!!

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. PLEASE NOTE – This class will not meet on Tuesday, May 30 or June 13. Class will be held on Tuesday, June 6.

Aging Faithfully - On Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM Wesley Hall. The AARP Chorus will be presenting their Spring Concert, which consists of secular and sacred music. Following the program, we will enjoy a pizza lunch together. Please bring a friend and share in this special time. Everyone is welcome!

## **SUPPLIES NEEDED** **Can You Help?**

We could use the following supplies in the sanctuary and Wesley Hall

- Paper towels for the rest rooms
- Trash bags for small trash cans
- Liquid cleaners, such as Simple Green, Clorox Clean-up

Donations can be left in the kitchen either at the sanctuary, or at Wesley Hall.

## UMW FUNERAL SUPPORT

After much prayer and discussion, the ladies of the UMW would like to announce that we no longer will be able to offer large luncheons or meals after funeral or memorial services. We are a small church and our helpers are becoming fewer and just a little bit older.

In order to be fair to everyone, the UMW will be very happy to offer "Lite Refreshments". The menu will be a standard "Lite Fare" menu consisting of :

*Petite Sandwich Tray  
Cheese & Cracker Tray  
Fruit Bowl or Soup (seasonal)  
Assorted Cookies  
Beverages*

We will be requesting a \$50 donation from the family for this service. Set-up and clean-up will require much less effort and time.

If the congregation would wish to help, monetary donations would be greatly appreciated and applied to the Memorial/Funeral Fund of the UMW. Thank you for understanding.

Sharon Graham, President

## 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

## Happy Memorial Day



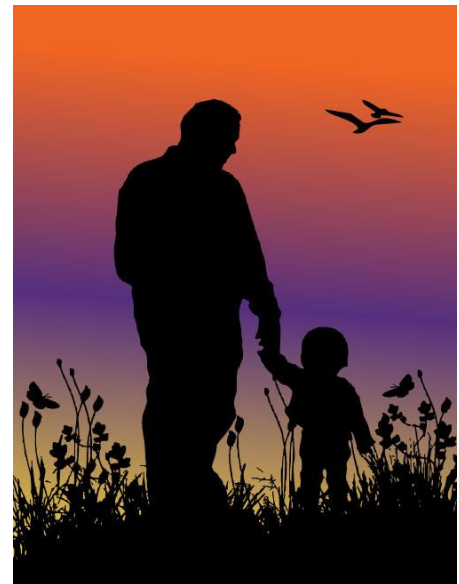
## My Father Is A Christian

My father is a Christian;  
He leads our household well;  
With instruction from the Bible,  
Right behavior he'll compel.

Yet he steers us with compassion,  
His gentle love is true;  
He conforms to our Lord Jesus,  
So we know just what to do.  
He teaches us with purpose  
Guides us in all Godly ways,  
So we will take the right path,  
And serve our Lord with praise.

I'm glad you're a Christian, Dad;  
You help me see things clearly.  
I'll always look up to you,  
And love you very dearly.  
....written by Joanna Fuchs

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



## Senior Moments

**God Bless My Senior Moments:** I was so sure the TV was broken, Lord, until you reminded me to change the input back to "TV" after watching a DVD. It's a good thing you know how to operate everything.