



From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

Let Us Not Grow Weary In Doing Good (Galatians 6:9)



I recall a story I heard of a little boy who was disabled and could not walk very well, but he was willing to assist others for Christ. According to the account I heard, a boy about 9 years old became disabled and could no longer walk or play without a great deal of assistance, so he spent most of his time in the house with his mother who was his primary caretaker. Because his illness left him weak and tired, he mostly sat by the window and observed the many people walking up and down the streets or standing at the bus stop in front of their apartment building.

One day his mother shared with him the story of Jesus, and how Christ' great love for humanity allowed him to selflessly die on the cross to redeem humanity and wipe away our sins. Moved by gratitude and the compassion of his savior, the little boy decided he needed to do something selfless to help others as well. Because of his physical limitations and his family being poor, he decided to do what was possible for him, so he began to write out scriptures on small squares of paper and toss them gently out the window each day from his 5th floor apartment in the downtown of a large city where he resided.

Each day he would write out three or four scriptures and let them slowly float to the ground with the hope that someone would read them. After several months something marvelous happened. A wealthy man happened to be standing outside when one of these scriptures floated into his hand, and the man read it. His heart was touched by these "scriptures from the sky." Being blessed in this way caused the man to want to find the person who had written them, so he stood outside a few days to watch and see where these scriptures originated. Not long after he had positioned himself for a lengthy wait one day did he see a little hand from the 5th floor drop several small pieces of paper. Quickly the man determined the floor and apartment where these blessed words from the Bible were sent.

Filled with gratitude, the man went to the apartment, knocked on the door, introduced himself, and shared how the scripture had been dropped into his presence at the precise time he needed to read it. A relationship was formed between the two, and the man began to learn more about this little boy's faith and his love of Christ over the next several months. Eventually the man invited the boy and his family to his home for a visit, and this man was wealthy and owned a large home on the outskirts of the city. Understanding that the boy and his family were suffering financial difficulty, he pondered the possibility of asking the family to move onto his estate so he could use his wealth to assist them.

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Sidelights

Nurturing From the Inside Out and the Outside In

The Nurture Committee is responsible for promoting Christian Education inside the church and to the community outside the church. Planning for 2019 is well underway.

Special thanks to Pastor Wallace for leading an insightful and provocative Bible study on the parables during January and February.

Pastor Wallace and Rev. Carrigan are gearing up for a 5-week Lenten study based on the book *Sharing Your Faith Without Freaking Out* by Alvin Reed. This study will be held on Thursdays at both noon and 7 p.m. beginning March 14. Please plan to attend.

Adult and Children Sunday School classes are in session every Sunday at 9 am. If you have never attended, why not begin NOW? There are several adult classes available. Youth Sunday School is available every Sunday at 10:20. Extended youth activities occur twice per month including trips to Gretna Glen Campgrounds.

A new initiative has been planned to reach our neighbors: FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHTS. Our first event is March 1 at 5:30. A light meal will be provided with fellowship and age appropriate craft stations. Future Fridays will include movies and game nights as well. We are hoping that our Covenant Family will join us in welcoming families and children.

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Sidelights

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ANNOUNCEMENT: VBS WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR. We are going to take the year and try some new things as well as bolster some of our more recent events. We welcome ideas for programming that would bless our congregants as well as the community. Thanks to our Covenant Family for continuing to support the mission of Christian Education.

NOTES OF THANKS

Tiffani Nestor sends thanks for the gift bag she received, and she notes her plans to attend Covenant more regularly and perhaps get more involved in the future.

Ann Evans wishes to thank the church for the beautiful white poinsettia delivered by Pat and Wanda Snyder at Christmas time.

Nancy Hess thanks the congregation for the many visits to the hospital and to their apartment after they were discharged. Thanks also for the caroling and the poinsettia at Christmas.

EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to order Easter flowers. Place your order for daffodils, tulips, or lilies with the volunteer secretary beginning Sunday, March 17. All flowers are \$6.00. You may also call the church office (717-393-1561) to place your order.

The flowers will be on display Easter Sunday, April 21, and you may pick them up following the 10:20 service that day. Thank you for beautifying the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

We Worship Together

Sunday Services **9:00 am - Contemporary Worship**
10:20 am - Traditional Worship

March 3, 2019—Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor Quentin will bring the message at the 9:00 am and 10:20 am services. Holy Communion will be observed. The Chancel Choir will provide the music for worship at 10:20.

March 6, 2019—Ash Wednesday

Service at 7:00 pm. Pastor Wallace will offer the message at this service designating the beginning of Lent. The chancel choir will participate in the service.

March 10, 2019—1st Sunday in Lent

Pastor Wallace will preach the message at 9:00 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. Both the Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir will participate in the 10:20 a.m. service. There will also be a Mission Minute. Daylight saving time begins, so remember to spring forward and turn your clocks ahead one hour.

March 17, 2019—2nd Sunday in Lent

Pastor Wallace will preach at both worship services at 9:00 am and 10:20 am. The Chancel Choir will participate in the 10:20 am service.

March 24, 2019—3rd Sunday in Lent

Pastor Wallace will preach the message at both the 9:00 am & 10:20 am services. There will be special music at the 10:20 service.

March 31, 2019—4th Sunday in Lent

On this fifth Sunday of the month, Pastor Sally Ott will offer the message. The Chancel Choir will sing at 10:20.

March Volunteers

March 3

Lobby Greeters:
8:40 - Ruth Neuman & Brenda Roth
10:00 - Lori Brown & Tina Butler
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Ruth Neuman
Anchorite: Janice McElroy

March 10

Lobby Greeters:
8:40 - Cindy & Bob Hean
10:00 - Youth
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Joan Miller
Anchorite: Minister Brenda Wallace

March 17

Lobby Greeters:
8:40 - Mary Lou Hill
10:00 - Sandy & Rev. Carrigan
Hallway Greeters: 10:20 - Bill & Nancy Grau

Anchorite: Carol Brower

March 24

Lobby Greeters:
8:40 - Mee Schuler
10:00 - Harold & Janice Ulmer
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Grace Fisher
Anchorite: Greg Barton

March 31

Lobby Greeters:
8:40 - TBD
10:00 - Cathy Boyd & Bobbie Schwan
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Vickie Leman
Anchorite: Denise Troop

March Ushers

Head Usher: Glenn Miller
Abe Keener, Marilyn Keener,

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While the little boy loved visiting the great estate of his well-to-do friend, when asked by the wealthy friend if he and his family would consider relocating to his estate to be cared for, the little boy declined the invitation, with the following explanation, “then who would write out and send down the scriptures if I am no longer living there?” The man understood that this was the little boy’s precious ministry that he could never abandon. The little boy wanted to do good for the Lord and help spread the word of God the only way he could.

Although we may not have a unique ministry similar to the one illustrated in the story above, we are able to help assist in Christ’s ministries in both large and small ways. For example, in 2018, the Pastor’s Discretionary fund (PDF) has been used to assist ministry in the Covenant church and the community at large. Primarily the PDF supports underfunded ministries and persons in crisis; however, it has been used for much more. For your convenience, I have provided a list below to specify how the PDF funds were used to display love and care of church and the community.

For Community Fellowship:

We hosted Salt and Light, a local gospel jazz group and provided refreshments. Also we hosted the Brightside Youth choir, and provided pizzas for 5th Sunday fellowship celebration.

For Spiritual Renewal:

We funded the Leadership team retreat in January 2018. Rev. Dr. Louis Butcher was our guest revivalist for our spring revival in June. We supported musicians for Praise and Worship.

- Persons in crisis from the community and in Covenant
- CTC student tuition and book assistance
- Fulton school students
- Provided gifts for Children’s Day
- Purchased and gave away turkeys for Thanksgiving
- Provided Rental Assistance
- Provided parking assistance
- Contributed to the Puerto Rico relief fund
- Support ministries for children, youth and young adults
- Assisted youth events
- Partnered with other ministries and community organizations
- Ashley Tabernacle church with gifts for the homeless for Christmas
- ICPPA Heroes of Lancaster event
- Crispus Attucks
- Promoted Cultural Appreciation Events
- Latino heritage sampler
- Soul food sampler
- Guest musicians February 2018

Each of the above ministries and events was funded by your monetary gifts. Without your generosity those lives that were touched would not have been. Unfortunately the PDF balance is rapidly shrinking, so I need your financial support. Thank you for contributing to the Pastors Discretionary Fund which gives me an opportunity to highlight Covenant’s love of church and community with a personal touch.

Sidelights

BISHOP TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Bishop Peggy Johnson will hold special “town hall” meetings in each of the four districts of our Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to address outcomes of the 2019 Special Called General Conference from February 23-26. Our West District town hall meeting will be on Thursday, March 28, 6:30 PM, at a location to be announced.

BIBLE STUDIES OFFERED

The small group Bible Study, *Women Seeking Discipleship*, facilitated by Sue Kresge, will be held Sundays, March 3 and 17, at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Library. The topic of this study is *The Epistle to the Hebrews*; author Lisa Harper.

A new 5-week Bible Study will be offered on Thursdays, March 14 through April 11, at both 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. The leaders will be Pastor Guy Carrigan and Pastor Wallace. Details about the study will be in upcoming bulletins.

CHANCEL CHOIR INVITATION

The Chancel Choir invites interested singers to join us for Easter Sunday. The Chancel Choir will sing two anthems on Easter and would love to have additional voices to celebrate the Risen Savior! For those interested in singing on Easter, rehearsals will be held on April 3, 10, and 17 at 7pm downstairs in the choir room. Please e-mail Kyle (kyle@covenant-umc.com) with any questions you may have. All are welcome!

Sidelights

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Please be patient with the temporary inconvenience for a permanent improvement. The walls in the sanctuary are being repaired and repainted. Covenant Church belongs to all of us, and it is our responsibility to care for our property, furniture, and fixtures. The board now has a box, located on the Welcome Desk, in which you may deposit your ideas, concerns, or suggestions.

JOIN A PRAYER GROUP

You are invited to join the Wednesday Prayer Group, which meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., (please note the change in time) or the conference call prayer group that meets every Friday morning at 6:00 a.m. via the phone. Just dial 515-739-1034, and enter the code 202700.

GROCERY CARDS

Support our Outreach Team and Outreach Ministries by purchasing a grocery card at the table in the lobby. Cards can be purchased on the first and third Sunday of each month. By using the card, a percentage of your purchase price returns to the church.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month. Each week during March a different woman will be highlighted. The month begins with Susanna Wesley who was born on January 20, 1669. She never preached a sermon, published a book, or founded a church, yet Susanna Wesley is known as the Mother of Methodism. The example of faith and religious reverence she set for her children John and Charles inspired them to become powerful

Special UMW Event

On Sunday, March 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, UMW will host a special meeting with guest speaker, Kyra Leonard, discussing the topic of human trafficking.

Kyra is a recent participant in a Youth With A Mission discipleship program called "Priceless," which is dedicated to gaining understanding and knowledge about the issues surrounding human trafficking.

Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about this issue as well as the love and forgiveness of God.



COVENANT CHURCH is Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond AND Preparing for Increase in 2019. Please be in prayer for Covenant.

Covenant Members in Business

Aunt Sandy's Attic

Sandy Leonard
Antiques, Collectibles, Books, Art, etc.
545 W. Market Street, Marietta, PA 17547
717-426-5091

Conestoga Innovations Promotional Products

(for all your advertising needs)
Wanda Snyder, 1.800.759.8885 or
sales@conestoga-innovations.com

CTC Lollipop Company

414 N. Pine Street, 717.509.5916
Tues.-Fri. 11am-7pm; Sat. 9am-2pm

Dale Building Designs

Donald A. Dale, 872.4263
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc., 17603
www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groffs Family Funeral

& Cremation Services, Inc.
Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300
528 W. Orange St.

Interiors by Kristen

Kristen Stemmer, 875.4014
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc. 17603

JM Services

Jeff and Brad McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
Handyman, and Junk Removal
717.330.9616 or jcmcgary@comcast.net

Kresge Computer Consultation

Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or
rkresge123@comcast.net

Miller Optical

Glenn & Maryanne Miller, 393.2020
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams
Lancaster & Willow Street
Richard B. MacDonald
Attorney at Law
312 W. Orange St., Lancaster
717.394.1508

Steve's Automotive Technology

Steve Sultan
PA Safety and Emission Inspections
1027 Dillersville Rd #16
666.3646

Willard Hypnosis Center

Roger J. Willard
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA 17516
717.872.7561 or willardhypnosis.com

UMC Regional History Buffs to Meet

The Northeast Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH) will hold its annual meeting, May 7-9, in Johnstown, PA. Based at the Johnstown Holiday Inn (downtown), the 3-day event features worship sessions, informative lectures, and a full-day tour of historic sites including: The Johnstown Flood Museum, The National Flood Memorial, Camp Allegheny, Grandview Cemetery, the Flight 93 National Memorial, and the Johnstown Inclined Plane.

One of the conference's sessions will be held at First UMC, Johnstown (a UMC heritage landmark) where in 1946 the Evangelical Association and the United Brethren In Christ denominations merged to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. While there visitors will be treated to a recital on one of the region's largest pipe organs.

The annual meeting generally hosts 100 or more participants from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, and West Virginia. There are 20 UMC Heritage Landmarks within the NEJCAH's geographic boundaries including three locally - Albright Chapel, Boehm's Chapel, and Isaac Long's Barn

Interested persons should contact Janice Ulmer, a past president of the NEJCAH and currently editor of the groups newsletter, *The Bulletin*. For more information contact Janice at 717.522.1018 or jeu342@gmail.com. Registration before April 10 will insure a discounted hotel rate.

Here's To Good Health

Do you every think about how to keep your brain healthy? This month I want to share tips to understand a little about memory loss.

With each passing year, your brain normally shrinks slightly due to the breakdown and loss of nerve cells. Your thinking and memory may not be as sharp as they once were. These changes vary from person to person and are usually subtle.

Mild cognitive (thinking, reasoning, or remembering) impairment is often the first step in the decline from normal cognitive function to dementia. At this stage you and others around you notice a memory loss. For example, you have difficulty remembering appointments or recent conversations, but not enough to prevent you from being independent.

Memory loss is abnormal when you have severe memory loss that affects your day to day life. Some signs would be confusion, not using correct words, having problems performing mentally demanding tasks, or having mood and personality changes. You need to remember that sometimes memory loss has a cause that can be treated. Possible causes are:

- Side effects from certain medications
- Vision or hearing loss

- Physical inactivity
- Social isolation
- Poor nutrition
- Depression
- High or low blood sugar
- Infections
- Sleep disturbances

Check with your Primary Care Provider if you are experiencing any memory problems. Here are some ways to help protect your brain.

- Control hypertension, diabetes, and obesity
- Exercise; increase blood flow to the brain
- Don't smoke
- Have depression treated
- Stay socially involved

Keep your brain healthy and active!

Cindy Smith

Wellness coach

MARCH CALENDAR

Regular Events
(Unless Otherwise Noted)
MOOS, 7am

Prayer Group, Wednesdays, 10:15am
Chancel Choir, Wednesdays, 7pm
Praise Team, Thursdays, 7pm
Prayer Group, Fridays, 6am

3/1, Friday
First Friday Family Fun Night, 5:30pm

3/3, Sunday
Bible Study, 4pm

3/5, Tuesday
Bell Choir rehearsal, 5:30pm
Child Care Board meeting, 6:30pm

3/6, Wednesday
Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00pm

3/10, Sunday
UMW Event, 6:30pm

3/12, Tuesday
Outreach Team meeting, 6:30pm
Leadership Team meeting, 7pm

3/13, Wednesday
Community Meal at Grace, 4:30pm

3/14, Thursday
Lenten Bible Study, 12 noon & 7pm

3/16, Saturday
IMPACT! Missions Workday, 9am

3/17, Sunday
Small Group Bible Study, 4pm

3/18, Monday
Community Table, 8:00am

3/19, Tuesday
Trustee Board meeting, 7pm

3/21, Thursday
Parables Bible Study, 7pm

3/23, Saturday
Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 7:30am

3/28, Thursday
Lenten Bible Study, 12 noon & 7pm

COVENANT

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