

Dillsburg BIC Church Monthly Newsletter



Behold, I am doing a new thing.

I've always loved the optimism and expectancy of Isaiah 43:19. As we turn the page on the calendar over to a brand new year, I hold tightly to its promise. A new year; God can do new stuff with old stuff!

Last year held many wonderful things and also some hard, hard things. There are situations from last year that continue into this year, much as I would like to leave them firmly in the pages of my 2017 calendar. However, this verse gives me hope for those situations. God can redeem them, make them new.

But what can *I* do with them? How can my attitude reflect my conviction that God can make things new, especially when it smacks of same old, same old already? Having hope, I've learned, can open me up to hurt. In some of these situations, I so yearn for a new understanding, a better connection, that I find myself grasping at anything that offers that first glimpse of hope that it can actually change. I let down my guard; I open my heart and, wow, I am surprised at the swift and firm landing right back where I began. "How can you possibly be surprised by this?" I berate myself as I turn it over and over again in my mind.

I am Charlie Brown, swayed by a sweet-talking Lucy who gives me every reason to believe she won't pull that football away at the last moment before I kick ... even though she has ever other time. My mind brings up that bit of wisdom often attributed to Albert Einstein: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity.

Or, I suddenly wonder, is it optimism defined?

Forgive 70 times seven. (Matthew 18:22). Never tire of doing what is good. (2Thesselonians 3:13) Forget what's in the past and press on. (Philippians 3:13) Faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

Maybe there are challenging situations that have followed you into the New Year. Like me, maybe you've been tempted to give up on them, avoid them or worse yet, resign yourself to them. No, let's not do it!

"Behold I am making all things new." That promise that began in the Old Testament encourages us straight through to Revelation 21:5, where we see it in all its glory. In other words, God's eternal promises are unfolding now, and forevermore.

Yes, Lord, Yours is the *active* verb. You **do;** You make things new. Mine is the being verb. I can be optimistic; I am hopeful because of His Promises. Because I know Him; because I trust that His plans for me are good, optimism has to be my default. It's my part, and in that, I realize, there is great freedom. I do my part and I cannot worry about what the other person does with theirs.

So, in the year ahead, I will always try one more time; I will open my heart again. At times, I know I might feel like I'm dancing on the brink of insanity, but I know He will back me up every time. With anticipation, He and I together will write joy across the pages of 2018, as He will for all those who believe His promises are true.



Díllsburg BíC Staff



Rev. Rob Douglass Senior Pastor



Jeff Conrady Pastor for Youth



Kathy Bennett Administrative Assistant



Emily Wingert Children's Ministry Director



| Jan. 7 | Epiphany | Matt. 2. 1-12 |
|---------|--------------|----------------|
| Jan. 14 | Thanksliving | Phil 2. 12-18 |
| Jan. 21 | Thanksliving | Phil. 2. 19-30 |
| Jan. 28 | Thanksliving | Phil. 3. 1-14 |

Dillsburg Brethren in Christ

Doulos Editor: Carolyn Kimmel

Layout: Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions for the February 2018 issue to:

carolynkimmel@comcast.net

or place them in Carolyn's church mailbox by **January 8th**.

A new twist to this year's Congregational Council

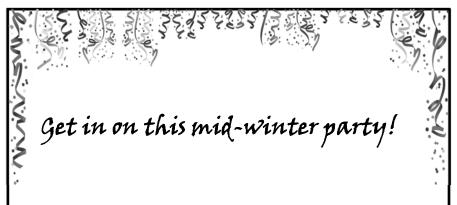
Congregational Council is just around the corner!

We will be meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, for breakfast, with the meeting to follow no later than 9:45. Please watch the bulletin for information about how you can help in the breakfast preparations.

There will be packets of material to be discussed available December 31. Among the items included will be the budget for 2018.

Apart from the budget, this Council meeting will be slightly different from some that you have attended in the past. After a brief update on the state of the congregation, we will have an extended time of listening and dreaming. The topics include staffing, basement renovations, the new property, our exploding youth group, the restart of Kids' Club and where God seems to be leading us.

Come having prayed for discernment, come with anticipation, and come ready to share in what God is doing at DBIC!



Reply by Jan. 10 and say you'll come to the Ladies' Secret Pal Dinner!

Regardless of whether you have a pal now, would like a pal for 2018 or simply would like to get out of the house, this is the party for you!

This women's event will be held on **Tuesday, January 16** in the Fellowship Hall. Your personalized invitation should have been placed in your church mailbox. If you misplaced it or didn't receive one, please let Nina Hoover or Sue Lauver know that we can expect you!

The Secret Pal program, which is for all post-high school women of the church, provides an opportunity to make new and lasting friendships. It consists of praying regularly for your Secret Pal, a \$5 gift on her birthday (suggestions given), a \$10 gift at the end of the year party (suggestions given) and participation in the end-of-the-year party.

This is a great way to get to make new and lasting friendships! Hope to see you for an evening of fun!

Get to know your Savior better through our next Women's Bible Study: The Quest

There Is No Quest Without Questions

The crooked punctuation mark (the question mark) at the end of a sentence speaks of curiosity, interest and perhaps doubt. A question is an invitation to vulnerability, to intimacy. The Bible does not shy away from such an invite. Over and over we see the people of God asking questions of their Creator. We also see the God of the universe asking questions of His creation.



The Quest is a challenge to accept the invitation. In this six-week excursion with Jesus, Beth Moore uses questions from Scripture to lead you into intimacy with the One who knows you best. Learn to dig into the Word, to respond to the questions of God, and to bring your questions before Him. Let the crooked punctuation mark be the map that points you into a closer relationship with the Father.

- Learn to pray to promote intimacy with God. •
- Explore questions and responses from the Bible.
- Track your quest by journaling along the way.
- Learn to read and respond to Scripture.

We will resume our Wednesday morning Bible study beginning Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please join us for a time of study, sharing and prayer. Childcare is provided. The Monday evening Bible study is continuing, following on a slightly different schedule. For more information on the morning study, see Carolyn Kimmel or Naomi Smith; for more on the evening option, talk to Jill Poole.

Again and again, we hear from women how much it means to come together every week for these special times of studying together and prayer support. If you've been yearning to know God more and to find a group of women who will encourage you and walk alongside, join us!

Leadership Council Report By Avis Whitesel

During our November Leadership Council meeting, we discussed the possibility of beginning a search for an associate pastor.

The other topic of discussion was regarding property and facilities and fundraising for the basement remodel as well as the new property.

A discussion occurred regarding the nomination of key leaders and these names will be brought to congregational council for approval. The proposed 2018 budget was discussed and approved to bring to the congregation for final approval.

The full minutes of the Leadership Council meeting are located on the bulletin board in the lobby.

If you would like additional information or to follow up on any items, please contact a Leadership Council member,

Mike Beachy, Clarence Brubaker, Jason Brubaker, Pastor Rob Douglass, Christie Gustafson, Gary Lebo, or Avis Whitesel.

In The Pew Next To You...

Seth & Amy Miller

Born and raised in

AMY: Altoona, Pa.

SETH: Born in Mercersburg, Pa., raised in Pa., NJ, Va., and overseas in Malawi.

A bit about my family

AMY: I am the fourth of five children, with three brothers and one sister. My parents owned a print shop for all of my growing up years, which was like a second home. I can still close my eyes and hear the printing press running and smell the blanket wash. My dad passed away about five years ago from pancreatic cancer and my mom still lives in Altoona, with the hopes of moving to Carlisle soon. My brothers live in Massachusetts and my sister lives nearby in Carlisle. I love married life with Seth and I love being an aunt to my six nieces and two nephews.

SETH: I have four siblings, all younger. My family moved to Malawi in 2000, when I was 15. It was quite the transition, but it was a lot easier since we were close knit. My parents are still working there as missionaries, but most of the siblings are in this area. The one exception is Susanna, who is in Morocco, with her husband John. I'm thankful that I get to be close to most of my family.

I spend my days doing

AMY: I started a home organizing business with my sister about a year ago called Dwell Happy. I spend most of my days working on the business or helping people to organize their homes. I love to help people get decluttered and organized!

SETH: I spend most of my weekdays as a project manager at Katapult Engineering, right here in Dillsburg. I knew nothing about utility engineering before I joined Katapult in 2016, but it's been a blast learning and growing. Every once in a while I get to go spend time out in the field, surveying utility poles. It's usually fun, unless it's raining and cold.

How I became a Christian

AMY: I grew up with Christian parents who did their best to show us and teach us the love of Christ. I "asked Jesus into my heart" at a very young age, but my decision to follow Christ happens everyday.

SETH: I was fortunate to be raised by parents who wanted me to know God, but didn't pressure me. One time in Sunday School we sang "One Door and Only One." It really stood out to me and I remember asking my parents what it meant. Through that conversation, I realized I wanted to follow God.

A time I really saw God work in my life was

AMY: When I was in my early 20s, I was really confused about what God wanted me to do with my life. After dropping out of one college, I blindly decided to go to another college for a different major without really consulting God first. Now, at this new college with this new major, I knew God was telling me that I

wasn't supposed to be there. I ended up leaving after a month into the first semester. At first, I felt so alone and ashamed of the decisions I had been making, but I could feel God guiding me to pray, read, and listen. I knew He was



with me and that no matter what I decided to do, my worth came from Him and nothing else. I still have to tell myself this everyday. **SETH:** In my mid-20s, I realized I was relying too much on the way I lived to save me (going to church, Bible study, etc.). I was tired of living that way. If that was how I was going to be saved, I didn't want it. It wasn't worth it. I went back home for a visit and told my parents I wasn't sure I believed in God any more. I remember thinking, huh, they sure didn't react as negatively as I thought they would. Looking back, God was clearly with me. It took several years, a major move, changing jobs, doctors' appointments and the faithfulness of friends and family to make my way out of that valley. And that's not to say it's all been smooth sailing since then, but now I have something solid and concrete that I can point to and say yes, God has been faithful in the past and will be faithful now, even if it doesn't seem like it.

My biggest passion is

AMY: I love food, art, music, and I've been known to talk about racial justice and feminism. I hope to someday start a non-profit to help single moms organize their homes. **SETH:** I like helping people.

I spend my free time doing

AMY: I love to be creative and to make things with my hands. My most recent project was making wreaths. Seth and I love working on projects together, traveling, listening to podcasts and playing rummy. We also love camping, of which my favorite part is the breakfast made over the campfire, of course.

SETH: I really like reading. When I was younger I used to sneak a flashlight into bed so I could finish reading my book. I don't do that so much any more, but I still enjoy sitting down with a good book. I also enjoy working on projects around the house, especially if it means building or fixing something with my hands. Amy and I enjoy eating good food and traveling together. We took a 6-week road trip soon after we got married and it was an amazing time of getting to know one another and enjoy God's amazing creation across this country.



~ STOP TRAFFIC ~

By Marj Strayer

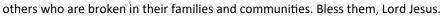
Last month we had Christ's Birthday offering. Since this is being written ahead of the actual offering, I don't know what that offering will be. But I do know that since Jesus is in charge and since I know how generous our church is, I know that I can thank you ahead for what you all gave to the children and FGA sponsored primary schools in Pakistan and for Peace Promise, both serving those who have been oppressed and in need of hope.

Because of your giving, poor and oppressed children will be able to go to school and receive a good education. Not only that, they will have the chance to hear the gospel. They will have the opportunity to go on and further their education. The cycle of poverty will be broken for them giving them safety from exploitation and the hope for employment that will raise their standard of living. Whole new



generations in Pakistan will grow up with a new hope and faith and freedom. And many will go on to share the gospel with others in their communities, their country and beyond. Bless them, Lord Jesus.

Because of your giving, women will be set free from the continuous cycle of exploitation and hopelessness. They will receive life skills training to manage daily living, help to complete their GED and go on in higher education and help to seek employment that is "fulfilling and gives them a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day." They will also receive help in finding safe and affordable housing for themselves and their children. Some will be given help in seeking freedom from drugs and alcohol, and freedom from the control of those who would exploit them. They will be given help reuniting with their families. Peace Promise believes in investing in the lives of those Jesus died to save. Each one of these women knows that it is the "church ladies" who bring them unconditional love, and most know that it is Jesus who brings them there. Some have started to attend church. Some will go on to share the gospel with





If you have not been able to make a donation to Christ's Birthday Offering and would like to, there is still time. You can place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning or get it to Kathy Bennett in the church office and mark it **Christ's Birthday Offering**. Thank you, Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church. Bless us, Lord Jesus.

Continued from Page 4—The Millers

Favorite Bible verse

AMY: There are too many to choose from, but my current favorite is Proverbs 19:21: Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

SETH: I actually don't have a favorite Bible verse at the moment, but I really enjoy reading the Psalms.

My favorite thing about Dillsburg BIC is

AMY: The people. They are so warm and welcoming. **SETH:** Everyone is so friendly.

Something that might surprise you about me is

AMY: I am a hopeless romantic. I love period piece movies and have probably seen all of the Masterpiece Theater movies and series. Also, who doesn't love Jane Austen?

SETH: I spent three years driving as a milkman. I got to work at Apple Valley Creamery, driving a delivery truck and I really enjoyed it. Getting chocolate milk was only one of the many perks. I got to work on projects with Sam Stoner, doing things like wiring up enormous fans in the new cow barn. I got to see the seasons come and go while driving through the back roads of Pa.

My favorite song is

AMY: Once again, there are too many to choose just one, so I'll just name a few: "Spinning" by The Innocence Mission, "Because I Told You So" by Jonatha Brooke, "Farther Along" by Josh Garrels, "Close Your Eyes" by Jump, Little Children **SETH:** "Ulysses" by Josh Garrels.

A prayer request I have is

AMY & SETH: To know how God wants us to connect with the local community around us.



A few weeks ago, Pastor Rob invited us to speak aloud the names of people whom we consider saints, people who have helped us in our faith journey. Though I did not share these names then, I want to honor Cecilia, of Wycliffe Bible Translators, and Esther Spurrier. They are two women in my life who have inspired me and helped me in my faith journey. I think of them with **deep** gratitude.

I want to say **thanks** to Emily Wingert, not only for the excellent job she is doing as children's ministry director but for her courage to take on a calling she wasn't sure exactly fit her life at this moment. Emily, it's obvious that God is giving you everything you need to serve the kids of DBIC so wonderfully! I am so proud of you!
Carolyn Kimmel

~ Our most important mission at Push the Rock is to use sports to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ, one life at a time. When our coaches take the time to lovingly care for the kids in our programs, they are able to build lasting relationships and open avenues to share the gospel. Incredibly, the message doesn't end there! Those same kids we nurture will pass these truths on to others. You are instrumental in helping to spread the Gospel far and wide. **Thank you** for your partnership.

David P. Walton, President, Push the Rock

~ Thank you for your vital part in fulfilling our educational mission of educating men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society. Your gift to the Messiah College Collaboratory helps make our mission possible!

Beth Trott Clark, Director of Annual Giving, Messiah College

~ Thank you for your support of Matt and Julie Walsh. Your compassion for people is inspiring!

Bruce Johnson, President, SIM USA

Thank you for joining with us as we continue to provide help and hope to close to 20,000 people every year. Your recent donation was a true blessing! *Eric Saunders, Executive Director, New Hope Ministries*



the Book Nook by Harriet Conrady



NONFICTION

• **The Magnolia Story**, by Chip and Joanna Gaines. On the cover of this book, you will recognize the husband and wife team of the hit TV show, *Fixer Upper*. This is the story of their journey together and the way God used their skills for His honor and their progress together. They have left their TV show for the sake of spending more time with their family of four children and now work out of their location of *The Silos* in Waco, Texas. About this move they say "God has been there and orchestrated our lives together. We've learned to trust Him, and we are overwhelmed with all of this."

FICTION

- The House of Unexpected Sisters, by Alexander McCall Smith. Okay, line up for this latest edition of *The New No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Novel*. This is a very popular series and many of our library readers will want to read this new edition. You will want to read more about traditionally-built Mma Ramotswe and her "assistant" Mma Makutsi. There's a troubling story of a woman who has been wrongly dismissed from her job at an office furniture store which they must investigate and that brings more surprises in the course of their inquiries. Mma Ramotswe untangles these issues, and many more, as she deals with important truths about friendship, family and other relationships that people of Botswana choose. You will not be disappointed with this eighteenth book in the series!
- **Beneath a Navajo Moon,** by Lisa Carter. Deep in the heart of the Navajo nation is an ongoing search for a woman who disappeared. Anthropologist Erin Dawson searches through a terrain of red rock walls, mesas and canons for well-hidden criminal evidence. Her path thrusts her into a battle with tribal policeman Adam Silverhorn. They must rely on each other for their very survival as they encounter a crime ring that no one had even imagined existed.
- Where We Belong, by Lynn Austin. The rules in the city of Chicago in 1892 are very strict for Victorian women. But sisters Rebecca and Flora Hawes are not typical Victorian ladies. Their love of adventure and their God-given talents have taken them out of ballrooms and delivered them to the Sinai Desert . . . and into a major sandstorm. The two women are on a quest across the desert, chasing rumors

of an important biblical manuscript. Follow their adventures and discover how their lives make a difference.

See you in the library!



New Hope Ministry Musings... by Ginny Spurrier

Bible verse for the New Year...

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in him." Lamentations 3:22-24 (ESV)

By the time you read this, New Hope Ministries will be moved into their new facility. On December 13,14 and 16 many volunteers and staff came together to help move from both the existing center at 6 N. Second St. and the Administrative Office on 211 S. Baltimore St. to the new site at the intersection of West Church and North Second Street.

It has been exciting to observe the construction of the new building and anticipate more space in which to present NEW HOPE to our neighbors and our community!

Thanks again for all who participated in the New Hope Christmas Blessings by taking an 'ornament' from the Giving Tree and purchasing gifts. I am sure they were all received with deep thankfulness.

Please continue to keep the ministries of New Hope in your prayers and consider becoming a volunteer in the New Year. You will be blessed and you will be a blessing and contribute to dispensing hope in Jesus' name.



Our item for the month of January is **dish soap**. Please place your contributions in the box under the coat rack beside the office. Thank you!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD. "They are plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)



JANUARY 2018

The Doulos



On Saturday, December 2, the quiz team went to Elizabethtown BIC church for the monthly practice tournament. There were eight teams from six churches. We had seven quizzes since we quizzed every team one time. It was a wonderful morning of quizzing.

The January practice tournament (mixer) will be on **Saturday, January 6 at Grantham BIC church from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** It will be a combined event with teams from the Atlantic, Allegheny, and Susquehanna conferences. There will be quizzing, eating, playing games, and possibly more quizzing. We will be quizzing on 1st Corinthians, Chapters 1-12.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates.

Saturday, Feb 3 – Practice tournament at New Hope BIC – 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 3 – Practice tournament at Dillsburg BIC – 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 14 – Allegheny Open Tournament at Meeting House-Carlisle – All day Saturday, May 5 – Charlie Crider Memorial Tournament at E-Town BIC – All day Saturday, May ? – Regional Conference finals at TBD Friday, July 13 – Monday, July 16 – Denominational Finals at Messiah College

Verses of the month: 1st Corinthians 8:2-3 – "The one who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the one who loves God is known by God." - BSB (2016)

A great way to financially support the quizzing ministry at Dillsburg is to purchase Giant gift cards. Please see Avis Whitesel to purchase gift cards or if you have any questions.

To be eligible to quiz, you must be between the ages of 12 and 19 sometime during the quizzing year, which is defined as beginning Nov. 1 and running through Oct. 31. Quizzing provides an opportunity to study God's Word, fellowship with other youth, participate on a team and experience positive competition.

If you have any questions about quizzing, please contact one of us:

| Mel Brough | 432-4864 | mabrough58@gmail.com |
|----------------|----------|----------------------|
| Brent Whitesel | 432-9048 | btw10@comcast.net |

Did you know you can download and listen to past sermons on our website? http://www.dillsburgbic.org/media





WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Riley & Emily Wingert Jason & Dulci Brubaker January 2 January 4

forever & always

alle and



Naomi Smith Joe Zwally **Kyle Leister** Beth Beachy Liam Wingert Sierra Storm **Terry Stoudnour** Ron Rudy Scott Eyster Vern Martin Jeff Conrady

January 1 January 1 January 2 January 4 January 6 January 7 January 9 January 10 January 13 January 13 January 14

David Vader Marian Hoover Jeremy Rank Stephanie Walsh Dave Miller Steven Miller **Claire Reitnour** Rachel Miller Sarah Hoover Mary Faulhaber January 29

January 15 January 18 January 20 January 23 January 26 January 26 January 27 January 27 January 29

Lífe Groups....

Often intergenerational, life groups care for one another, apply God's Word to their lives, and reach beyond the circle of the group. They are an important way in which we discover the love of God and share it together. Some meet in homes, others in the church building, and most gather about twice a month — creating opportunities to develop meaningful relationships that go far beyond the Sunday morning handshake.

For more information, contact the church office.

| | | Ja | January 2018 | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--------|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Iuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 7 | 2 | 3 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive | 4 | ى ك | 6 9:00 am Bible Quizzing (offsite) |
| 7 9:00 am Classes 10:15 am Worship | 8 Doulos Deadline 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers') 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study (201) | 6 | 10 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:15 Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive | 7 | 12 | 13 9:00 am Breakfast & Congregational Council Meeting |
| 14 9:00 am Classes 10:15 am Worship | 15 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study (201) | 16 6:00 pm Ladies' Secret Pal Dinner | 17 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:15 Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive | 18 6:30 pm Leadership Council | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:00 am Classes 10:15 am Worship | 22 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study (201) | 23 | 24 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | - | | Family Promise Host Week | - | - | |
| 28 9:00 am Classes 10:15 am Worship | 29 3:00 p.m. Middle School Monday 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study (201 | 30 | 31 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:15 Faith Finders 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm Thrive | | | |