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The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

The Problem with Advent

By Pastor Rob Douglass

It is hard to believe that as you read this, Advent will be upon us. It is the season of preparing for the celebration of the coming of Christ.

While I love Advent and while we are wise to learn from past generations of Christians by following the rhythms of the liturgical calendar, a month's preparation for Christmas comes with a particular problem.

In his book, *Maybe (Maybe Not)*, Robert Fulghum recounts an experience he had at a doctor's office in the middle of February several years ago.

As he sat in the waiting room, he noticed an elderly couple who were also waiting to be seen. The woman was wearing holly berries and had poinsettia leaves in her hair. Realizing that Fulghum had noticed them, the man looked at Fulghum and proclaimed, "Merry Christmas!"

Before he realized what he was saying, Fulghum returned the greeting. It was only afterwards that he remembered that it was February.

The man proceeded to fill the quiet of the waiting room by singing Christmas carols.

In an attempt to restore order, the receptionist told the man, whom she called Uncle Ed, that the doctor was ready for him.

Once he left the waiting room, Ed's wife moved to the seat next to Fulghum, hoping to explain Ed's behavior.

Apparently, a few years ago, Ed suffered a couple of strokes. While he recovered in many ways, his behavior started to change.

One March morning, he came down the stairs announcing the he had forgotten it was Christmas. He convinced his wife to put up decorations and

wrap gifts. So as not to disappoint her husband, the wife called their daughters and on that very day the entire family got together and celebrated Christmas.

Now, every few months, Ed will suddenly announce that it is Christmas, and the family will gather again to celebrate.



The daughters see these times as a Father's Day of sorts, an opportunity to make their dad happy.

No one ever knows when the Christmas conviction will strike, but when it does everyone is ready and willing to participate. Fulghum recalls Ed's wife as saying, "It's kind of refreshing to have Christmas come as a surprise."

The layers of preparation of the season are daunting. There are gifts to make or buy, decorations to put up, cards to sign, and food to prepare. If we take Advent as an opportunity to spiritually prepare for Christmas, there is even more to do.

But on that first Christmas, everything was a surprise. Mary was surprised by God's plan. Joseph was surprised that Mary was pregnant. The

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Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Staff







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The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editor: Carolyn Kimmel Layout: Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions for the January 2020 issue to:

carolynkimmel@comcast.net

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

December Sermon Series:

The Ouestions of Advent

December 1 Where is he? How can I be sure? December 8 December 15 How can this be? December 22 Who am I?

The Doulos

Continued from Page 1

shepherds were surprised by the angels. The magi were surprised by the star. Herod was surprised by the magi.

It is my prayer that as you go about making all of your preparations, you will know the greatest surprise of the Christmas story—that God is with us and that God is for us.

Whether this year finds you in joy or dread, in anticipation or depression, already prepared or having no way of catching up, I pray that you will know that God is with you and that God is for you. May you find hope, peace, joy, and love in the surprise that his unexpected presence brings. He is forever Emmanuel!

Christmas is in the air!

During the Advent season, we have some special events planned to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

special dates:

Sunday, Dec. 8 - See the debut of the DBIC Adult Handbell Choir during the morning worship service.

Thurs. Dec. 12 - Women, join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the LIFT Women's Christmas event. Sounds of the Season - and Tastes Too! We′∥ intergenerational Christmas carols and music presented by our own talented musicians and singers. Bring two dozen cookies - one dozen to enjoy together and one dozen to exchange. Everyone will go home with a nice assortment of Christmas cookies . . . a heart filled with Christmas joy!

Sunday, Dec. 15 - Don't miss the Children's DBIC Christmas during the program morning

Mark your calendar for these worship service. Bells, songs and a skit will celebrate the season!

> Sunday, Dec. 22 - Everyone looks forward to the Christmas Choir! Hear their joyful songs during the morning worship service.

> Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Join us at 7 p.m. for a special Christmas Eve service, the perfect way to prepare your heart for Christmas Day. There will be special music, carol singing, candle lighting and the presence of Christ. Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

> There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 29.

> Please note, the church office will be closing for the holidays at 1 pm on Dec. 23 and resuming normal office hours on January 6.





EAT 'N RUN MENUS

Meals are served 5:15 PM—6:00 PM

The meal is free and open to the community.

December 11

BAKED HAM
SCALLOPED POTATOES
VEGGIES
FRUIT SALAD
HOLIOAY DESSERT

Anne-Marie Brandt and Sarah Hoover are looking for volunteers to help with setup, meal prep, serving and cleaning up.

Volunteers will eat together at 4:30 p.m.



Should I Use Offering Envelopes?

Yes! Even if you do not require a donation receipt for your income taxes, using the offering envelope system makes the ushers' job easier when they count and record the offering. In addition, using offering envelopes helps to protect your privacy. We use a "blind" offering envelope system, which means that one person does not have access to your name and your total giving for the year. The financial secretary tracks your giving using your envelope number. When the year-end statements are printed, they are placed in a sealed envelope with your envelope number noted on the front. Then our administrative assistant attaches a label with that number and the associated name so that you get your receipt.

If you would like to use offering envelopes in 2020, all you need to do is notify the administrative assistant by phone (717-432-3847) or email (office@dillsburgbic.org). If you currently use offering envelopes, you will automatically receive envelopes for 2020 during December unless you contact the office and ask not to receive them.



Ladies' Secret Pal Dinner Coming Soon!

What is the secret? It's the Ladies Secret Pal Program!



What is the Secret Pal Program? It's for all post-high school ladies of the church. It provides an opportunity for ladies to make new and lasting friendships.

How does it work? We gather once a year to PARTY! Really, it consists of keeping your Secret Pal in your prayers, a \$5 gift on her birthday, a \$10 gift at the end of the year party (suggestions given) and participation in the end of the year party. Yes, we do party. Complete with food, fun, and fellowship.

Whether you have a pal now, would like a pal for 2020 or simply would like to

get out of the house, this is the party for you!

When is it happening? The dinner party will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in the Fellowship Hall. Your personalized invitation will be placed in your church mailbox near the end of this month. If you do not currently have a mailbox, see Nina Hoover or Sue Lawver, and they will be happy to give you an invitation.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

By Avis Whitesel

Here are some highlights from the October Leadership Council meeting:

- We approved the expenditures for the AV upgrades and the parking lot engineering from the money from the ingathering offering.
- We discussed various staffing possibilities.
- We discussed the Safety Team Report and one of their recommendations to move the location of the ushers who count money on Sunday mornings. Necessary office equipment will be provided to equip this office.

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, Pastor Rob Douglass, Phil Engle, Ray Knepper, Gary Lebo, Sharon Miller, Heidi Tucker or Avis Whitesel.

Winter Sunday School Classes

During the month of December, all adults will gather together in the Fellowship Hall for a class called "Behold: Songs and Stories of Christmas," featuring a Christmas hymn sing on December 8.

During the months of January and February, several classes will be offered:

- A class for young adults
- A class on the miracles of Jesus
- A class on faith and mental health Stay tuned for details!



New Hope Ministry Musings... by Ginny Spurrier

Many, many thanks to each one of you who contributed turkey gravy packets during October and November. Thanks again for doing your part to help make a yummy Thanksgiving meal for New Hope guests.

Please continue to remember these families, who are guests of New Hope, in your prayers—that God would grant them grateful hearts and provide for their needs.

Thanks to each of you who have contributed to the Christmas Blessings Express by taking an 'ornament' from the tree in the Narthex and purchasing a gift. The due date is even earlier this year than last so hopefully you have already purchased and put your unwrapped gift in the red bin beside the tree. They are due to the New Hope Center in Dillsburg by Tuesday, December 3. You also have the option of dropping your gift off directly at the New Hope Center.

On behalf of New Hope Ministries, thank you once again for your loving and thoughtful generosity throughout this past year. Be in prayer that each guest who receives gifts will be drawn to receive the greatest GIFT of Jesus this Christmas. God's richest blessings to each of you!

IN THE PEW NEXT TO YOU: MEET CHOU GABIKINY

Born and raised in

I was born in Brazzaville, Congo and raised all over Congo. I spent some time in Yaoundé, Cameroon and in Manhattan. Then in 2004, I made South Central Pennsylvania my home away from home.

A bit about my family

I have three children: Hope is 13, Gabe is 7, and Daniel is 5.

My biological mom and maternal half-sister live in Brazzaville, Congo.

My stepmom and my half-siblings on my dad's side live in Pittsburgh, Pa. and Baltimore, Md. My dad lives in Harrisburg, Pa.

I spend my days doing

When I'm not being mom and running (more like rolling in) between medical appointments, I am either writing, training or counseling.

How I became a Christian

Early in my teen years, a friend invited me to an English service at her church. I first went because I wanted to keep speaking English (French is the legal language in Congo). That was almost 20 years ago and now I can't imagine living any other way.

A time I really saw God work in my life was

Recently we needed a place to live. We searched for months and couldn't find anything that worked for us or that I was at peace with. Then 10 days before our deadline, God provided. He always provides and He is always working even when we don't feel it or see it. He is always working everything for our good.

My biggest passion is

I'm passionate about helping people rise above their circumstances. It breaks my heart when people start seeing themselves through the lenses of their experiences, rather than how God sees them. No matter what we are dealing with, our experiences do not define us. A lot of what I do through writing, speaking and counseling is showing people that they are more than whatever happened to them. Our identity in Christ is secure, sealed and settled; no matter what we go through in life.

I spend my free time doing

I might not always have "free time" but I'm very intentional about creating downtimes for myself and my

kids. During those times, we read together, watch movies and discuss how we saw God in action. We also like to explore historical sites, museums, nearby towns, parks and libraries. Hope and I love to sing together. Gabe and Daniel like to put up a good show, whether it's a dance party or an obstacle course throughout the house or a comedy show with jokes that nobody else understands. They are great entertainers for sure, and they do a good job at keeping me laughing.

Favorite Bible verse

Psalm 68:5-6a New International Version (NIV): "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families."

My favorite thing about Dillsburg BIC is

I love seeing different generations worship together at DBIC.

Something that might surprise you about me is

I had a monkey as a pet when I was growing up. His name was CarChou.

My favorite song is

"Great is Your Faithfulness" and "Because He lives" are my all-time favorites.

A prayer request I have is

We just moved to Dover, Pa. Please pray for a smooth transition for all us. The kids are starting new schools, and I pray that they will feel welcomed there.



A Tribute to my Grandma, Mildred Brubaker

By Tyler Whitesel

If you have checked your mailboxes around your birthday or anniversary, you may have noticed a little present to celebrate.

For about two years, I have been giving a small piece of fudge along with cards to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

I have enjoyed doing this because I love making people feel welcome. I do not know everyone's situation or what they are going through, so showing them that someone cares and that they matter is a great feeling to me, especially since it



reflects how God feels about them. Every time someone thanks me, it feels great because I know that I have given them a small bit of joy.

Now not only is this a nice thing to do and something that I enjoy, but for those of you who have not been in the church for a long time, I am actually just carrying this tradition on from someone else – my grandma.

This tradition was started by my grandma, Mildred Brubaker, years ago when I was just a little kid. Some of my earliest memories of her are when she would make fudge and give me some of the extras. I also remember her making little boxes out of old calendars to put the fudge in. They were so cute and well put together. She always made them with love and patience. My mom and I tried to make them like she did when I started, but we failed every time. Even if we had succeeded, I don't think we would have had the patience like she did to put them together every week.

My grandma was the kindest, most joyful person I have ever known. She always smiled and was so joyful as she gave these gifts to her church family. When she moved to Messiah Village, she had to stop making her fudge, and this ministry was lost to the church for years even though I wanted to continue it for a while. Finally, I was able to get myself to start making her fudge and giving them out like she did to honor her since she was unable to continue this ministry in her current situation.

Now that she has passed away to join her beloved Savior and husband, I hope to continue it for a long time, in loving memory of her and all the joy she gave. Although the delivery of the gift and the one giving it has changed over the years, the message that it is meant to convey has stayed the same: No matter who you are or what you've done, you are welcome and loved at DBIC, not only by the members of the church but also and especially by God.





THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT: ANDI & KRISHAUNA BRUBAKER GUATEMALA

Compiled by Steve & Rachel Miller

[From October's end of school year blog post]



[As] we finish up [the after-school program] we will enter our school vacation schedule. We are super pumped to be taking a trip to the zoo with the kids, having game days at the court, afternoons where the guys and girls will be split doing different activities, and using the turf field. We will have the events once or twice a week. We will also have the kids invite friends to these events so that we can continue to grow the program and develop relationships with other kids and families in the community.



Trip to the U.S.

We will be back in the Dillsburg, Pa. area for three weeks around Thanksgiving. We will be sharing a brief update at Dillsburg BIC church on November 24 during the worship service. We would also like to catch up and get together with some of you while we are back so if you are interested, send us a message:) Finally, we will be bringing back Guatemalan coffee! We have ground or whole bean in one-pound bags. **Let us**



know if you would like a bag (or 5). We will also have chocolate covered coffee beans, scarves, and Push The Rock Guatemala T-shirts. They all make great Christmas gifts:) The donations we receive will go toward our trip expenses along with the general ministry budget here.

Other notes regarding our trip:

-Our main photo-taking device for photos and video here (an ipod touch) is near the end of its life. So if anyone has an ipod touch, iphone, or other photo taking device that has a decent quality camera that they aren't using and would like to give it to us for our ministry use, we would be so grateful!



-We are always accepting school supplies to sell in our mini libreria (mini store) that the kids purchase with their points. So any new or very gently used supplies we could use!

-If anyone has an extra vehicle that we would be able to borrow while we are back for three weeks, we would also be extremely grateful. We won't be travelling a lot while we are back, but it would just be helpful to have a vehicle we could use instead of scheduling plans and vehicle usage with family members.



What About Farida?

By Grace Holland

Farida is a woman of the Guhayna tribe found mostly in Sudan, Africa. Her people group has grown to more than 2,000,000, and according to the Joshua Project that tracks such figures, they are 94% Muslim. The rest still hold to ethnic religions. There are no known believers in Christ. Farida is subservient to her husband, follows Islamic rituals and has never heard of the Jesus of the Bible nor the true Christmas that we celebrate.

We here at DBIC are considered a strong missions church. We support missionaries who have gone out from our own membership. We have adopted other missionaries whom we support as well. We invite further missionaries to come and speak to us. On Wednesday evenings we pray for all the regular BIC missionaries and all the associate missionaries listed in the BIC Prayer Focus.

Is this enough? What about Farida?

Farida is not alone. More than 40% of the world's population does not have the opportunity to hear the Gospel from people in their own culture. That's more than three billion people! So . . . how many cross-cultural missionaries do you think we should send out from Dillsburg BIC? And how do you think we can find those whom God is calling so we can encourage them? And how do you think we are going to know if God is calling us to go? Many pastors and missionaries say that it was a question from a friend as to whether or not God might be calling them that set them thinking. Sometimes this question connected with questions they were already asking themselves and helped to guide them.

And how can all of us learn more about the three billion and become more involved in what God is doing all over the world to build his Kingdom?

Maybe you've heard of the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course that is given in various places. It began as a way for young people interested in missions to get started in preparation to go cross-culturally but grew beyond this. It looks at the Bible background and the historical development, the cultural issues and the outreach methods being used.

This is a serious course of study running one night a week from January to April. You can take it for college credit or a certificate, or just for the sake of valuable learning. Here's the purpose statement: "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a course about God—what He has done, what He is doing, and what still remains to be done. The purpose of the course is not to transform every person doing it into a missionary but to challenge every Christian to become strategic as well as obedient in participating with the Living God in His mission."

The course has caught on with many older adults as well as young folks. It is currently offered in more than 200 locations in North America, and more than 200,000 students have taken it across the world. It is available online, but it's much more meaningful to take it with others from our area here, interacting with experienced missionaries and teachers, responding together to the challenges. There are lots of things to rejoice about too. Jesus-followers are growing more rapidly around the world than we are aware of—in some places it's just too dangerous to publicize the conversions. Let's learn about this. **The DBIC Global Outreach Commission wants to give some scholarships to those who need them in order to take this course.** Watch for details!

And ask some of our friends at DBIC about the course. Talk to Jaylene Shannon and the Strayers. Marj says it was a wonderful experience. Talk to Dave and Christie Gustafson and Charity Miller. Talk to Stan and Sherry Eyster and Seth Miller. Stan says it really broadened his understanding of how God is working. Julie Cook says she's "a huge fan" of the course. These folks are part of the reason why our church is so missions-minded. God is up to something wonderful. As we think of celebrating his coming as a baby, we can also welcome him as the King. Let's get ready to celebrate with those we've helped to bring to Jesus. We are doing well.





*We wanted to reach out and express our **gratitude** for your financial support and prayers for us and our ministry over the past year. Without your support we wouldn't be able to be here in Guatemala sharing the love of Christ and serving the kids and their families through education and sports. We are so blessed by your encouraging notes, prayers, e-mails, and financial gifts.

If you haven't seen our latest monthly update, visit andibrubaker.blogspot.com to read some updates regarding the after-school program and our trip back to the States. We look forward to seeing many of you when we are back in the Dillsburg area next month.

Have a great rest of your day and week. So thankful for you.

Andi, Krishauna and Sammy Brubaker

*Thank you DBIC, for sharing God's love and compassion for all by partnering with MCC. We want you to know how truly grateful we are for your ongoing support.

J. Ron Byler, Executive Director, Mennonite Central Committee

*Thank you for your support of Matt and Julie Walsh. You are critical to the mission that we undertake together!

Bruce Johnson, President, SIM USA

*Thank you for your faithfulness to our program.

Angela Mountz, Executive Director, Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region



If you are not able to make a Sunday morning service, you are able to send an email to dbicmedia@gmail.com and they will send you a link to the YouTube Live channel to watch online.

The link changes weekly.

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



Did you know we have a smartphone app? Download "Sharefaith Church App" from Google Play or the Apple Store and search for Dillsburg BiC. You will be able to access various features including News, Publications, Calendar, Sermons, and submit a Prayer Request right from your Android or Apple Device.



By the time you read this, the quiz team will have competed in the first tournament of the new quizzing year. Results from the PA Capital Kickoff tournament at Harrisburg BIC church held on Saturday, November 16 will be in the January 2020 Doulos.

The December practice tournament will be Saturday, Dec. 7 at Summit View BIC, 846 Peters Rd, New Holland. We will be quizzing on Hebrews 1-6.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates.

Friday, Jan 10 to Saturday, Jan 11 – Mixer tournament and quizzing retreat at Amherst Community BIC church in Ohio

Saturday, March 7 – Practice tournament at location to be determined—probably DBIC

Saturday, April 4 – Allegheny Open Tournament at Grantham BIC – All day

Saturday, May 2 – Charlie Crider Memorial Tournament at E-Town BIC – All day

Saturday, May ??? - Regional Conference finals, if necessary, at location to be determined

Friday, July 10 – Monday, July 13 – Denominational Finals at General Assembly, Salina, Kansas

Verse of the month: Hebrews 4:9 – "There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God." The Holy Bible, Berean Study Bible. Copyright ©2019 Bible Hub.

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 starting November 1 and ending October 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 717-432-4864 mabrough 58@gmail.com

Brent Whitesel 717-432-9048 abwhitesel@gmail.com



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Ray & Peggy Knepper	December 16
Matt & Julie Walsh	December 18
Jim & Faithe Spurrier	December 22
Stan & Sherry Eyster	December 23
Nathan & Rachel Pease	December 23
Tim & Arlene VanDyke	December 24
Paul & Kimberly Tucker	December 27

"Be generous with gratitude, for it is contagious"

(Naomi's husband)



Andrew Miller	December 1	Peggy Knepper	December 16
Lincoln Horst	December 4	Tony Beers	December 19
Ron Shannon	December 4	Jane Tucker	December 19
Gail Brubaker	December 5	John Spurrier	December 19
Julie Walsh	December 5	Jordyn Moyer	December 20
Reuben Smith	December 5	Wendell Hoover	December 20
Avis Whitesel	December 7	Julie May	December 21
Dulci Brubaker	December 9	Daniel Gabikiny	December 22
Susan Hatch	December 9	Christie Gustafson	December 23
Angelina Delp	December 11	Clarence Brubaker	December 23
Julie Cook	December 12	Walter Sharp	December 26
Nicole Rank	December 12	Abi Johnson	December 27
Randy Fish	December 13	Lauren Renard	December 28
Sylvie Brubaker	December 13	Abner Sell	December 29
Tanya Moesch	December 14		
Jason Smith	December 14		



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Family Promise hosting ends 9:00 a.m. Classes 10:30 am Worship	3:00 pm Middle School Monday 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Pooles')	က	4. 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Faith Finders 6:30 pm Thrive 6:45 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise	2	9	7 4:00 pm Adult Bell Choir rehearsal
B Doulos Deadline 9:00 a.m. Classes 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers') 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Pooles')	6:00 pm Impact Babysitting night	9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:15 pm Eat 'n' Run 6:30 pm Faith Finders 6:30 pm Thrive 6:45 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise	12 6:30 pm LIFT Women's Christmas event	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Classes 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Pooles')	17	18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study Brunch 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Intercessory Prayer & Praise	19 6:00 pm Impact Banana Split night 6:30 pm Leadership Council (Douglass's)	20 6:00 pm Thrive Friday Fun Night	21
9:00 a.m. Classes 10:30 am Worship	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service	25 Church Office Closed	26	27	28 9:00 am Prayer Walking
29 10:30 am Worship	30	31 Jan 1 7:30 pm Game Night Church Office Closed	Jan 1	Jan 2		