



# DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2021

## *Transitioned: Well done, good and faithful servant*

### *Editor's Note:*

*Our beloved Marlin Zook was, among many other things, a prolific writer whose words of spiritual wisdom often graced these pages.*

*Every time Marlin sent me an article to edit, I read it with great hunger – what new idea or insight would Marlin impart this time? When Marlin spoke – or prayed – I always felt like it was a word that the Lord had directly placed in Marlin to share with others. Marlin was always humble in what he offered and sometimes puzzled over what the Lord meant, especially when it seemed that what he thought he heard and what occurred didn't meet on schedule.*

*Here is a piece that Marlin wrote in March 2018 after he and Ruth moved to Messiah Village. He knew this move marked a distinct spot on his earthly path and on his path to eternity, and he aptly titled it "Transitions." He struggled with the move, both physically and emotionally – and he writes about both here.*

*It seems appropriate to start the New Year with a word from Marlin, who transitioned to his new home in heaven on Dec. 4. His challenge to himself in 2018, and to us, is a good one for 2021: Turn your focus away from the physical, towards God, the One will renew your spirit... forever.*



### **Transitions By Marlin Zook**

At the end of October, Ruth and I moved from our home of 23 years to Messiah Lifeways at Messiah Village.

Each transition is unique; but with all transitions, there is the physical aspect of moving and the psychological aspect of adjusting. The transition to Messiah Lifeways is unique in that we not only changed our location, but we entered a system designed to support our needs until we are transitioned to the grave. This fact puts some emphasis on our mortality and the spiritual aspect of the transition.

The impetus for our move came from my wife, Ruth, who was already volunteering twice a month here at the Village. When she realized that she could walk from an apartment to where she volunteers without going outside, she set her heart on our move. As for me, I knew that the upkeep on our beloved home and gardens was becoming a lot to handle. I also knew our physical capabilities were not what they used to be. So, for me, the move made sense—and of course I wanted to please my wife. She wanted an apartment that had southern exposure and not too much shade from trees or other buildings, and one was available on the third floor. Our financial situation determined the size of the apartment. The first aspect of our transition was physical: how to transfer the contents from a 2,000-square-foot house to an apartment of 780 square feet. A lot of things had to be discarded. I took numerous trips to Mission Central, where I was happy to know that even my Japanese Bible and songbook, along with all the other books we had, were gladly received. We had times for the family to choose anything they wanted, and it was a pleasure to see carloads of things leaving our house but staying in our family, with grandchildren who said they would cherish them.

The day of the move was difficult because of the logistics—a time limit of four hours to unload because of the number of people moving in, the distance from the truck, through the parking garage, down a hall to the elevator and then to the apartment. Ruth had planned meticulously how to make everything fit. In the end, the movers ran out of time and just left many things in a storage area. The second aspect of our move was the psychological or emotional adjustment. Ruth had chosen the apartment and with her gift of spacing and design, she was able to make it a fit for us and our things. For her, it was a joy to see it all come together. Even so, there is the constant question: now where did we put...?

The psychological or emotional adjustment for me, as an introvert, has been a challenge. The emphasis on socialization is everywhere. We are encouraged to get

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## Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Staff

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**Rob Douglass**  
Senior Pastor



**Jeff Conrady**  
Associate Pastor



**Naomi Smith**  
Associate Pastor



**Esther Spurrier**  
Pastor of  
Congregational Care



**Kathy Bennett**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## The Doulos Newsletter Information

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**Doulos Editor:** Carolyn Kimmel

**Layout:** Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions for the  
February 2021 issue to:

**carolynkimmel@comcast.net**

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

The church has an email address which you can use for needs, issues, concerns, or suggestion related to the coronavirus outbreak: **connect@dillsburgbic.org**

Please use this address to connect with the church leadership about any needs you may be experiencing during this time.

acquainted with each other, to know each other. This fits Ruth's personality. She put chairs in the hall outside our apartment and served tea to any who would stop to talk. She loves to talk. I, on the other hand, would rather read—a solitary activity, I know. Every week, there are numerous activities and group trips planned. Even exercise is focused on group activities, such as the Silver Sneakers walking group and water volleyball. Did I mention I would rather read?

Perhaps the most surprising—and difficult—adjustment for me has been the spiritual one. Human frailty and death are constants, of course I knew that; but here, it is a daily presence. People here have lost so much; many need help to dress themselves and some can no longer feed themselves. For some, the ability to remember is gone. To counter the decline of physical stamina, a well-planned exercise and activity schedule is maintained. There is also emphasis on relaxation, massage and hot tubs to make this possible. Still, each day, we hear the names of those who have been hospitalized announced, as well as of any who have died. This begins to take a subtle toll. I want to be an encouragement, to let the joy, peace, and love of Jesus flow through me. I see my calling here as not so much in doing things as being a channel of God's grace. Yet, if I'm honest, the spiritual aspect of the transition is still in progress for me. One thing I am learning is that I must die to my own personal desires, to sacrifice every aspect of my life to the Lord, so that he is free to live his life through me. This is an ongoing task. I sense that one way to minister to people who love Jesus but have lost their ability to be active is to remind them that, although the body is wasting away, the spirit is alive—and encourage them to pray and intercede for whatever the Lord brings to their minds. As I travel this new road—which may at times require that I trade my book for Silver Sneakers—I am keenly aware that Jesus is "God with us," and I long for others to know that truth too.

My hope is that we would be people who spend our time being focused on Him, and the life of His Spirit making us alive. This demands turning our focus from the physical to the spirit and its continual renewal. Perhaps now more than ever, I know the truth of what I have always believed: The body will cease to exist, but the spirit will not... Oh what blessed assurance!



**Marlin Zook**

July 3, 1936—December 4, 2020



## *Secret Pal dinner plans changed*

We've been watching, praying and waiting for the COVID virus to be over. Our plan right now is not to have a dinner party as we've had in the past. We've talked over a lot of different options, and we think we have a plan that might just work – but is subject to change since we don't know what the next four weeks may bring.

At this time, we are hoping and praying to meet together in the fellowship hall for one hour on Sunday afternoon, January 17, to open our gifts and pick a new secret pal for 2021. We will sit six feet apart and wear masks.

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

How does the program work? We gather once a year in January normally for an evening of dinner, fun and fellowship to reveal our current Secret Pals and to pick a new name for the following year. During the year, you pray for your Secret Pal, give notes of encouragement throughout the year, give a \$5 gift on her birthday and a \$10 gift at the end of the year party when your name is revealed.

If you had a secret pal for 2020 and you are uncomfortable coming, we totally understand. We will make arrangements to get your gift from you prior to our time together and your gift from your secret pal to you. If that's the case, please let us know a.s.a.p. If you are comfortable coming to this abbreviated Secret Pal party, please let us know no later than Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Nina Hoover & Susan Hatch & Dianne Rudy

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!**

Starting on Sunday, January 3, two adult Sunday School classes will be held at 9 a.m. via Zoom. The classes will run for one hour and allow time for grabbing another cup of coffee before watching the worship service from home.

During the months of January and February, these options will be offered:

- **Loving My Actual Neighbor.** This class will be facilitated by Jaylene Shannon and based on the book *Loving My Actual Neighbor: 7 Practices to Treasure the People Right in Front of You* by Alexandra Kuykendall.
- **Enduring Hope.** This class will be facilitated by Naomi Smith and centered on Paul's letters to the Thessalonians and words of encouragement in seasons of darkness.

Look for more information about connecting with the classes and feel free to reach out to Naomi ([naomi@dillsburgbic.org](mailto:naomi@dillsburgbic.org)) if you have questions!

*The church office will be open on Tuesdays from 9 am - 12 pm and on Thursdays from 1 pm - 4 pm. Other hours will be by appointment, so please call or email to schedule an appointment.*



## Stop Traffic

By Marj Strayer

I want to send a heartfelt thank you for everyone who has donated time, effort, money and, most recently, items for Christmas bags and prayers to support the precious ladies who are served by Peace Promise.

It is also a huge encouragement to those who serve on the front lines to know that there is a whole host of God's people always ready to provide and to pray. I have often wondered, "How do Patty and the rest of the committed women and men who are on call to provide in person some pretty grave needs 24/7 do it?" The answer to that is simple, but the task is ongoing and difficult and can be very discouraging. They have been called to this and they know it. Because of that, they know that God will be faithful to deliver. There have been some very encouraging stories in the life of these broken lives. God, indeed, is faithful.

I want to center in on one particular way that we at DBIC have provided. It is the most critical of all, prayer. I cannot emphasize this enough. I believe you all know this, as we are a praying church. Not only do we pray as a church for Peace Promise but there are those who gather both at First Friday prayer at McBIC and the second Thursday of each month here at DBIC. These prayers have unleashed the power in the heavenlies that leads to the deliverance of many and will continue to do so until sexual exploitation is no longer a scourge in our nation and around the world. That is our hope.

This brings me to January, the month that we are being asked nationwide to focus our efforts to fight human trafficking any way we are led. I am encouraging you all to pray for the end to human trafficking and sexual exploitation in its many ugly forms. You are praying for the deliverance and safety of someone's daughter or son and granddaughter or grandson, and mother or father.

I will leave you with this quote from Tim Keller's book, Prayer.

"The Bible contains laments and petitions and pleadings, for prayer is rebellion against the evil status quo of the world—and they are not in vain, for they are as "church bells beyond the stars heard and indeed are reversed thunder." Thunder is an expression of the awesome power of God, but prayer somehow harnesses that power so that our petitions are not heard in heaven as whispers but as crack, boom, and roar. Prayer changes things."



## Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Highlights from the November Leadership Council meeting:

- Some financial reports of note, as of the end of October:
  - Loan Balance is \$110,463.
  - General Fund offerings are about 6% above what they were last year in October.
- Motion was made seconded and passed that masks will be required of everyone, at all times in each area of the church. Face shields may be worn only in the orange room, and only if medically necessary. Those singing or preaching are asked to wear a mask if at all possible. Reduce capacity in the sanctuary to 45.
- Additional meeting was held on Dec. 11 to discuss the best way to love our neighbors in light of rising hospitalizations. The decision was made to move to a live stream worship service as of 12/20.

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 – Pastor Rob Douglass, Phil Engle, Ray Knepper, Sharon Miller, Rachel Pease, Heidi Tucker or Avis Whitesel.





\*Dear Church family,

Your generosity is greatly appreciated, but more than that, the support and outpouring of prayers is needed and humbling. **Thanks** for being our family!

*Sharon Brandt family & Sylvia Klick*

\***Thank you** so much for financially and prayerfully investing in expanding God's kingdom in the Middle East. Your encouragement and love propel us forward. This work is a partnership; you've helped open doors to help give aid relief to Syrian refugee families and bring healing to people who are learning to understand God in a new way. Recently, one lady said, "I can't explain how I am feeling – I've never experienced anything like this in my life! God is showing me that he loves me! He loves me!" **Thank you** for the input you've made!

*With gratefulness, The Geigers*

\*Imagine Mary's wonder and excitement holding her baby boy for the first time. The stable was not the perfect place to give birth, but she treasured the moment. **Thank you** for helping us allow men and women to experience the joy in their own lives as they celebrate Christmas with their own little miracle!

*The board and staff of Capital Area Pregnancy Center*

\*Dear friends at DBIC,

We have used the opportunity of COVID-19 to creatively re-think how we work with families. We have temporarily been using our Day Center to house families while volunteers have assisted with food, funding, gift cards and other basic needs. We have had an over-abundance of food and resources. Due to the generosity of your church and others, we have been able to provide food and basic need items not only to the families in the program but also to some of our graduates, our transitional housing families and several other families in the community who are on the brink of homelessness.

**Thank you** for all you do! We love having you as a partner.

*Angela Mountz, Executive Director, Family Promise of the Harrisburg-Capital Region*

\*We praise God for sustaining us! Your prayers and donations have gotten us to this point – **thank you!** We approached 2020 as a time to re-evaluate and get creative... We did not have summer youth camps, and retreats were non-existent for nearly four months. So, we added a family camp in July – so successful that it will become part of our annual programming. We plan to add a day camp at Cedar Grove BIC Church – a first for CRC. We are also excited CRC is reviving Adventure Camp in 2021. We are now fully operational and anticipate a robust camp and retreat season in 2021.

*With gratitude, Sharon B. Engle, Development Director, Christian Retreat Center*

\*Alone and sad, Leslie didn't know how she was going to pay her utility bills. Her health was suffering, and no one was there to help. Life was, in her words, "really miserable." Because of you, Leslie is no longer alone, sad or worried about her heating bill. At Paxton Ministries, she enjoys a safe, warm home with supportive people who care about her wellbeing. Your generous support has been truly lifechanging for Leslie! **Thank you** for joining us to provide affordable housing and support services to adults in need with Christ-like love!

*Jodie Smiley, Executive Director, Paxton Ministries*

\***Thank you** for your recent gift. **Thank you** for helping to release these precious souls into freedom and restoration so they might live lives of endless opportunities, meaningful relationships and enduring peace.

*Gratefully, Susan Vigliano, President, Peace Promise*

\*I want to **thank** everyone for many prayers during Marlin's illness and then condolence cards. I also want to **thank** the Deacons for sending me beautiful flowers. I feel very supported by our congregation. The graveside service on December 12 was for the immediate family only. I want to thank Pastor Rob for his words of comfort. My grandson's wife recorded the service and then added some pictures of Marlin. It can be viewed at: Marlin Zook Memorial Service on vimeo.com.

*Ruth Zook*





# JANUARY

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES




None!



Naomi Smith	January 1	David Vader	January 15
Joe Zwally	January 1	Noah Austin	January 17
Kyle Leister	January 2	Marian Hoover	January 18
Beth Beachy	January 4	Jeremy Rank	January 20
Sierra Storm	January 7	Stephanie Walsh	January 23
Gabriel Gabikiny	January 9	Sam McIlhenny	January 25
Seth Miller	January 9	Dave Miller	January 26
Terry Stoudnour	January 9	Steven Miller	January 26
Ron Rudy	January 10	Rachel Miller	January 27
Scott Eyster	January 13	Charlie Miller	January 28
Vern Martin	January 13	Sarah Hoover	January 29
Jeff Conrady	January 14		



# JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 10:30 am Worship	4 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study	5 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study	6 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	7 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	8 Doulos Deadline	9 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
10 10:30 am Worship	11 7:00 pm ZOOM Ministry Council	12 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study	13 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	14 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement) 6:30 ZOOM Human Trafficking Meeting	15 6:30 pm ZOOM Deacons	16 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
17 10:30 am Worship 1:30 pm Secret Pal reveal/gift exchange	18	19 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study	20 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	21 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement) 6:30 pm ZOOM Leadership Council	22	23 10:00 am ZOOM Prayer Walking 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
24 10:30 am Worship	25	26 7:00 pm ZOOM Women's Study	27 6:30 pm ZOOM Gathering	28 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (basement)	29	30 7:00 pm ZOOM Prayer Gathering
31 10:30 am Worship	1 <i>These events subject to change. Stay tuned for information from DBIC on any canceled or rescheduled events.</i>	2	3	4	5	6