

The Doulos Monthly Newsletter 18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847 www.DillsburgBIC.org

What am I doing with my life?... and other 3 a.m. ponderings By Carolyn Kimmel

In the middle of a perfectly good night's sleep, I wake up suddenly to a thought begging for attention: "Shoot, Dr. Wile didn't call me back. How will I make my deadline?"

Well, I reason, I can call him again first thing in the morning and if he answers, I can do the interview and still turn in my story by noon. OK, but what if he doesn't answer? What other oncologist might I call quickly for a comment? Hmmm... who was that doctor I interviewed a couple years ago when I writing about that girl from Hummelstown? was Hummelstown? Where is that place, really? I remember seeing it on road signs when we went to look at a camper for sale. Ah, camping. When's our first trip of the season? Oh my goodness, what if I scheduled camping for the same weekend as Kayla's wedding? Ah, weddings, when will my girls find the right guy? Everyone seems to meet online these days. Now, there's a scary proposition. People can paint any picture they want of themselves... Oh my gosh, the guy could be a sex trafficker! Never mind, I can wait for the weddings. I should get more involved with our church's anti-trafficking effort. Why don't I? Well, I'm already pretty busy. Why am I always working on a book as well as my regular work? Well, that's when I really feel like I can use my writing for God's glory. Everything else is just helping pay the bills. But time is going by really fast. What am I doing with my life?

And that's just the first few minutes of what could turn into a marathon of 3,000 thoughts from 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. Some nights, I seem to do my best critical thinking (OK, obsessing) in the pre-dawn hours.

It seems the older I get, the more I think about whether I'm using the gifts the Lord has given me to the fullest extent I can, while I can. For me, that's writing. Few things delight me more than the challenge of introducing readers to someone or something that might enlighten or brighten their day. However, many days, I'm editing mundane copy or writing marketing materials that have nothing to do with any calling I'm feeling. Does everyone stop and take stock of their life like I am prone to do on a regular basis? Maybe I overthink.

Who better to ask than someone who is admittedly in the sunset of their earthly life? Someone who seems to be totally at peace and talks about going to heaven like she's just headed down the street to meet her best friend... someone like Suzanne Erikson.

"Well, I'm looking forward to heaven," Suzanne told me cheerfully. "But I don't mind staying, too! I'm just thankful for the 83 wonderful years I've had with family and friends."

Suzanne was recently diagnosed with lymphoma, and she isn't sure what the next chapter of her life holds, but she has ultimate faith in Who holds it. Sure, I thought, we all say that, don't we? But when the rubber meets the road, so to speak, is practicing that absolute faith easier said than done?

"I don't find it real difficult," Suzanne said simply. "It all comes down to the Lord having first place in my life and truly believing that His plan is best. So, I don't fret about the future. That's just a wonderful feeling, and you can't imagine it until you have it."

We all probably wonder at some point or another if we've fulfilled our purpose or are doing all we should be doing, Suzanne assures me. When she looks back over her life, serving others was the mission she felt called to pursue –



Continued on Page 2

whether mothering her four sons, working at Messiah Village or teaching children about Jesus through Child Evangelism's Bible release program.

"What I've always done is pray that my plans would be in line with God's plan for me," Suzanne said.

In times of great challenge or uncertainty – and there certainly have been those in her life – Suzanne says she prayed mightily, and peace came.

"Everything is part of God's plan, and the Lord has just been so good to me," she said. "I just take life moment by moment. That's all any of us have, really. We concern ourselves with tomorrow, or next week or next year... but who knows if we'll be here? How we spend this moment is what counts."

Suzanne's wise words echo in my mind and somehow give me peace. Just a few days later, I think of those words when I hear my brother-in-law has been pulled from the river, resuscitated twice and airlifted to a hospital. Does he have a tomorrow and what does it hold? To Suzanne's point, we could all ask ourselves the same question.

Who knows, except the Lord? "I know the plans I have for you..." Oh Lord, please give me the wisdom to recognize them and the grace to accept them. A worthy 3 a.m. prayer!



Thank you cards: Have you used the thank you cards in the pew racks? If so, could you let the office know if they help you cultivate a habit of being thankful? Have you received one of them from someone else? We would love to hear from you about how it made you feel! Please email or call the office to share your input!

Do you have a prayer request? Would you like: To receive emailed prayer requests? To receive the weekly DBIC email? A church mailbox? Offering envelopes? You can contact us by email at connect@dillsburgbic.org. or by using the individual contact info below.



DILLSBURG BRETHREN IN CHRIST STAFF

Rob Douglass Jeff Conrady Senior Pastor Associate Pastor rob.douglass@dillsburgbic.org jeff.conrady@dillsburgbic.org



Esther Spurrier Pastor of Congregational Care espurrier49@gmail.com





Iulie Lerew Worship Coordinator julie.lerew@dillsburgbic.org



Naomi Smith Associate Pastor naomi@dillsburgbic.org



Kathy Bennett Administrative Assistant office@dillsburgbic.org

The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editor: Carolyn Kimmel Doulos Layout and Design: Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: carolynkimmel@comcast.net or place them in Carolyn's church mailbox by 8th of this month.

Do you have a prayer request? You can contact us by email at connect@dillsburgbic.org or by using the individual contacts in the staff listing.

Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church 18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA 717.432.3847 www.DillsburgBIC.org

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THANK YOU

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*It's not something I have to say. It's something I get to say. Something I am inspired to say! To those who have touched me with their support, love and donations! **Thank you** from the bottom of my heart to the members of DBIC for attending the fundraiser/bake sale for my son who has idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and requires a double lung transplant. God truly blessed me! When all was said and done, we raised a little more than \$1,700.

~ Carolyn Derr

THANK YOU

*Thank you for supporting Mennonite Central Committee's work of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.

~ Ann Graber Hershberger, MCC US Executive Director

*We are **thankful** for the support you have shown to Paxton Ministries through your donation! Your gifts make such a difference to people from our community who have faced many difficult challenges in life.

~ David Zilka, Executive Director, Paxon Ministries

*Thank you for your gift to Capital Area Pregnancy Center. We use gifts like yours to provide a safe place where we can meet the clients God brings to us and share encouraging words and support.

~ The Rev. John Schaffer, Executive Director, Capital Area Pregnancy Center

THANK YOU

*Thank you for your donation to Family Promise! Your faithfulness in all you do for us and those we serve is a blessing and inspiration.

~ Matthew Wagner, Executive Director, Family Promise Harrisburg Capital Region

*Thank you for your support of Matt and Julie Walsh. We are grateful to be in ministry with you!

~ Randall Fairman, President, SIM USA



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

DBIC offers two support groups, which are open to the public.

Fresh Hope for Mental Health: Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Orange Room. This is a peer-to-peer group, meaning that everyone attending is affected by a mental health challenge of their own or of a family member or close friend. It is not necessary that you be in treatment with a therapist or doctor to attend, but our meetings are not a replacement for treatment when needed. We incorporate faith practices with psychological information or science-based information about mental health and share information, support, and encouragement with one another. The privacy of individuals who attend is important, so we are asked to keep our conversations confidential.

Support Group for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ children. (Meeting time shared as needed to protect privacy) Do you want support in your efforts to love your child and have a good relationship with them? Do you have questions or fears about your child's future? Are you questioning your parenting? We are not trying to change your child, the church or the world. We are here to support and honor each other in our efforts as parents who love their LGBTQ+ children. If you would like to join us in judgment free conversation, please contact Rob at freshhope@dillsburgbic.org or 717-432-3847.

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CELEBRATING THE YOUNGEST AMONG US!



On Sunday, May 8, we celebrated being children of God. The kids and youth of the congregation were involved in all parts of the worship service: welcoming the congregation, reading Scripture, praying, playing the bells, hosting the children's time, answering questions during the sermon and playing and singing with the music team.





















After the service, we enjoyed snacks, drinks, and a chance to take photos with people we love (and with silly props)! A huge THANK YOU to all the young people who bravely shared their gifts and talents with us and in praise to God.

Clean Up Dillsburg!

By Rachel Miller

Last month, the men's group invited all of us to do some spring cleaning around downtown Dillsburg.

As a borough resident and a believer in eliminating clutter, this project was right up my alley! I appreciated that there was something for everyone to do. It was a joy to walk around town with church friends while holding a trash bag open as my children scampered around finding trash to fill it (not unlike the egg hunts we had had a few weeks prior!) I like to think we're less likely to leave trash behind and more likely to pick up trash that we weren't responsible for after that event.

What was especially great about this project was that it was a non-invasive way to offer a service to our town. Putting up a dumpster with a sign inviting people to fill it would have been generous, but the guys went above and beyond by borrowing a dump truck and driving around to pick up bulk items from people's properties. The only fingers we asked Dillsburg residents to lift were the ones they needed to type out their addresses on Facebook. Way to go, strong guys! We joked that we would either return a half-empty dumpster or wish we had gotten two! But it turned out that we got just the right amount—the dumpster got so full that I noticed Isaac later in the week working to pack things down because late submissions crept over the "FILL TO" line. I hope to see this event become a new spring tradition at DBIC.





NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS: CAR WASH June 4, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Advanced Auto Parts, Dillsburg



On Saturday, June 4th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., we will be doing a free car wash in the parking lot of Advance Auto Parts to show the love of God in a practical way. Bring your buckets, sponges, and drying cloths and come join us. In order to reach the top of taller vehicles, two step stools are needed as well. You can sign up for the entire four hours or come for only a two hour shift at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f44a9a722a20-free. We need people to wash the cars, hold signs to advertise, talk to those who come through the car wash, and pray for this event. Please arrive at the parking lot 15 minutes prior to your shift. Please contact Cindy Raboci at sraboci@yahoo.com or at (717) 432-9140 for any questions.

In the Pew Next to You...

Meet Martha Adams

Born and raised in . . .

I was born in Clear Springs, on the outskirts of Dillsburg, being the fifth child of six. We lived on a farm, basically dairy, until I was 5 years old when we moved to a "mostly chicken farm." That land was later developed and became Carroll Manor.

A bit about my family ...

I had three brothers and two sisters. My father was a minister in the Church of the Brethren. Mother worked at home until the household became just her and my dad, and then she began caring for elderly persons in their homes. I believe this is why I love working in geriatrics.

I spend my days doing . . .

After 20+ years in administration at Cross Keys Village in New Oxford, I retired and currently am working part time at Celebration Villas.

How I became a Christian ...

Being raised in a Christian home, at 6 years of age, I promised to live my life for Jesus during a revival service and was baptized by my father.

A time I really saw God work in my life was

The time I really saw God working in my life was the years I cared for my husband with Alzheimer's disease.

My biggest passion is

My biggest passion has been raising my three children; and now spoiling my seven grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren. They are the "light of my life."

Favorite Bible verse

There are many verses in the Bible that are meaningful to me, so I cannot limit to one. However, one that I use quite often is Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

My favorite thing about Dillsburg BIC is

There are several things that I appreciate about Dillsburg BIC, including Pastor Rob's messages that always provide a challenge to me, the music that means so much to me and the very active participation of the church's outreach.

Something that might surprise you about me is

When my husband and I lived in Florida, I rode my own motorcycle.

My favorite song is

If I had to pick just one hymn, it would probably be "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

A prayer request I have is

A daily prayer request of mine is that all my children and grandchildren come to know the Lord as their personal Savior and the younger great-grandchildren will follow.





This month, we check in with the Beers Family Choma, Zambia

Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier, DBIC Global Outreach Commission

It has been a very busy quarter. The biggest event was going to Malawi for six weeks to take a Foundations for Farming (FfF) agricultural course. Also attending with me were Bishop Nseemani, several BIC pastors, our BIC missionary team from Malawi and Catherine Hamatowe and Albert Nseemani from our own Nahumba congregation.

The course applied biblical management principals to farming along with minimal tillage conservation agricultural techniques. The training was long and demanding but also very



rewarding. To get my training certification, I still need to plant a quarter-hectare of maize using only compost and manure as fertilizer and have my field inspected by a FfF field staff member.

I started harvesting grass and other materials for the compost and requested a 60m x 60m plot of land from the Nahumba farm committee. The BIC church is very excited about the training. I have been contacted by several people wanting farming trainings—from both the BIC and other local churches.

Messiah University is sending a Collaboratory engineering team from May 15 to June 1 to build an egg incubator that can be made here in Choma. They have been working on the design for two years and are very excited about the upcoming field trial.

Finally, we are going to be returning to the U.S. for home ministry in June. Please pray for us as we prepare to share our experiences with churches and do fundraising activities. Also pray for good visits with family and friends.

Tony, Vee, Lilli and Tasha Beers will be in Pennsylvania for a short time before the BIC U.S. General Assembly in Kansas. Global Outreach Commission together with the Beers' MOST Team are inviting you to a picnic in the church green space to connect with them and hear what they've been doing in Zambia.



What: It's a cookout! When: Wednesday, June 8, at 5 p.m. Where: Church green space

Bring: Side dish, dessert or chips to share. We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, rolls and fixings, drinks and paper products.

Grounding Grace By Chou Gabikiny

"God sets the lonely into families..." Psalms 68:6a, NIV

In this polarized and racialized world we live in, it's common for all of us to identify as a member of a particular group, be it civic, political, ethnic and even religious. The one thing that surprised me the most when I returned to the U.S. as an adult, some 18 years ago, was how many churches you would find in one zip code. Although I have moved quite a bit since then, this continues to baffle me. As I was writing this, I did a quick Google search, and I was shocked to find that there are 20 churches within three miles of my house. Expanding the search to a 10-mile radius yielded a list of over 100 churches. **Are we that different that we need so many places to belong, even within the Body of Christ?**

I hope not! Yet, I found myself needing to belong as a child, as a young adult, as a Black woman, as a single parent, as a disabled person... Sadly, I can think of many times when I didn't belong. The pain of being excluded is real and deep. Belonging goes beyond attending a meeting; that's just being present. It goes beyond having your name on a roster; that's just being accounted for. It goes beyond taking part in certain activities; that's just participation. Belonging creates a sense of community, of being an active part of something bigger than yourself. Belonging tells us we matter, that we are connected and that we fill a place that is integral to the existence, survival and growth of the larger group. **Belonging gives us roots, dwelling and purpose.**

In recent months, I have contemplated leaving the U.S. because of lack of belonging. I have great friends who love and support me here, but the longing to belong continues to be an unmet need. And the more I work through my past traumas, the more I see the gaps in my belonging. The things we go through often determine how connected we feel. I often wonder about all the thoughts and feelings Hagar might have experienced. She had no control over her



circumstances. Her masters decided her fate. In so many ways, she was regarded and treated as an outcast to the point of abuse, from being sold as a slave to Sarah, to Sarah giving her as a concubine to Abraham, to being mistreated and cast away from the only community she had (Genesis 16-21). I am sure she felt like she did not belong anywhere and the trauma of it all would have been unbearable.

When people have been hurt so deeply, they will either be so hungry for community that they will cling to anything or anyone just for the sake of belonging or they will build walls to protect themselves from anyone who want to help them belong. This is why we see people joining unhealthy circles, not always because they like the lifestyle-be it drinking, smoking, drugs, violence, promiscuity-but because of the sense of community they provide. It's not uncommon to hear them say, "This is my family" and in the next minute say, "I know what I am doing is not good." This ambivalence is deeply rooted in the need to belong. We are social beings by design. God himself wanted community. That's why He came to earth through Jesus, to be Emmanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:22-23) and He continues to dwell in us as the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). Once in us, He empowers us for a specific work and partners with us to bring His Kingdom on earth (Ephesians 2:10). Think about this for a moment... The angels could be worshiping God without ceasing, but He chose to commune with fallible humans for the sake of belonging. God pursues us because He wants us to belong and because He wants to be one with us, partner with, do life with us. What a love! What a grace!

I also think about the children of Israel spending 40 years in the wilderness. They were a displaced group, yet they belonged. They knew who they were as a people, what they believed in, what they stood for and they had one objective: to arrive to the promise land and honor God on the journey. One as a people, one in values, one in purpose... that's belonging! Therefore, belonging has more to do with the emotional connection we feel rather than the space we inhabit. When I think that my time and location on earth have been established before I even came to be (Acts 17:26), it makes me wonder how much control I have over where I land. Perhaps, just like the children of Israel, my sense of belonging has nothing to do with where I am. I belong here, not because I couldn't be anywhere else, but because this is where God has me for this season and for a purpose that I might never fully comprehend. If you struggle with belonging like I do, maybe you too are where you are meant to be for this season and for a purpose. And remember, God puts the lonely into families (Psalms 68:6a).

We all belong. Not when we have it all together. Not when we have it all figured out. You belong here and now, just as you are! As you go about your day, remember that you belong. You matter. And you fill a space that no one else can.

Knowing that I belong inspires and challenges me to create spaces where others belong as well. And this requires intentionality. I am committing to **B**e intentional about **E**quity and equality, as I **L**ove **O**thers **N**on-judgmentally for the **G**lory of God! Because we all **BELONG!**

Reflection:

- Have you ever felt like you didn't belong? How did that make you feel? What helped?
- Can you think of a time when you helped someone else belong?
- How can we individually and collectively as the Body of Christ create safe places where all can belong?



Fresh Hope for Billsburg

By Kathy Bennett

"Scars you refuse to hide can become lighthouses that warn other people who are headed to the same rocks you hit." Jon Acuff

We are quick to say "I'm not perfect" or "everyone has sin in their lives," but not so quick to be open about the things we struggle with or the mistakes we have made in the past. While I am not suggesting you should spill the deepest, darkest moments of your life to every person you meet, building relationship does require sharing more openly as trust develops within that relationship. Being vulnerable with a small group of people can help you work through some of the pain you may be dealing with or help you to make Christ-honoring decisions as you deal with a problem. It also allows those people to pray for you and keep you accountable, if that is something you need.

In addition, there are times when you may feel led to share something with your close friends or even the entire congregation. Perhaps you have an addiction and after years of avoiding whatever you are addicted to, you are struggling with an urge to return to that. The struggle with temptation is not a sin to be confessed, but confessing the struggle to your Christian brothers and sisters can have two benefits. The encouragement and the prayer support you receive in return can strengthen you as you fight the temptation. In addition, you may give someone else the spark to avoid that temptation themselves (i.e. warning them to avoid the same rocks you hit). Perhaps what you are sharing actually IS a sin. If it is a sin you have turned away from, warning others of those rocks may still be a good reason to share it.

At the same time, we need to remember that not being honest about sinful choices we have made can be detrimental to those we care about. If you act like you have never sinned or never been tempted to sin, people who are close to you may avoid bringing their needs or questions to you because they may feel like you will judge them harshly or like you can't help them because you wouldn't understand their struggles.

This is also a critical topic as we discuss mental health. Silence about mental health challenges and mental illness perpetuates stigma and stops people who need help from asking for it. May I encourage you to share your mental health challenge with another person today? For some of us, it is as simple as "I get so anxious when I need to drive in a place where I am unfamiliar." For others, it is more difficult. Maybe you have had times in your life when you had suicidal thoughts. To someone who is struggling with hopelessness and suicidal thoughts today, knowing you have struggled with the same thing and survived could be the lifeline they need.

There are things to consider about what is good and helpful to share in either context. First of all, it needs to be YOUR struggle or mistake, not someone else's. We don't want to fall into the trap of exposing someone else's sin or someone else's struggle, which could hurt them deeply and become nothing more than a source of gossip. Secondly, you need to assess your reasons for sharing. What you share should be helpful for building others up or for strengthening your own commitment to living a Christ-like life. It is important to avoid unnecessarily lurid detail and not to share things that would be destructive or hurtful to others.

Make the choice today to be vulnerable with your Christian brothers and sisters. Make the things you might share a matter of prayer and follow God's leading. If someone close to you chooses to be vulnerable with you, meet them with warmth and love rather than condemnation or shock. You may be surprised at the results!

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29 NIV



Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Rob & Chris Douglass	June 1	Randy & Sue Fish	June 16
Zach & Brittany Carlson	June 4	Scott & Chris Eyster	June 16
Chad & Em Brubaker	June 11	Dave & Joyce Jones	June 17
Jason & Naomi Smith	June 11	Kenji & Meghan Kanazawa	June 20
Joe & Kathy Bennett	June 11	Randy & Wendy Zwally	June 22
John & Esther Spurrier	June 13	Tony & Deb Monko	June 25
Bob & Carmy Hess	June 14	Vern & bj Martin	June 25
Mark & Cindy Burkholder	June 16	Chuck & Deb Hill	June 26



Jim Spurrier	June 3	Sue Lawver	June 19
Donna Stoudnour	June 4	Brent Whitesel	June 22
Jill Poole	June 4	Isabella Moesch	June 23
Oswald Miller	June 8	Joyce Jones	June 24
Krishauna Brubaker	June 10	Russ Erich	June 24
Carmy Hess	June 12	Emily Sowers	June 25
Carolyn Kimmel	June 13	Emily Brubaker	June 28
Brittany Carlson	June 13	Karen Pomeroy	June 29
Brianna Eyster	June 17	Tim VanDyke	June 30

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Ned	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 pm Youth (FH) 6:30 pm Zoom Gathering	2 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meet- ing (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	3 9:00 am Local Outreach Meeting	4 8:30 am Prayer Walking 10:00 am Free Car Wash at Advance Auto
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	ω	7	8 Doulos Deadline 6:00 pm Outdoor Picnic and Missionary Update with the Beerses	9 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meet- ing (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeitng (Zoom) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	10	11 7:30 am Pastor Rob's Prayer Team
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	13 7::00 pm Zoom Ministry Council	14	15 6:00 pm Youth (FH) 6:30 pm Zoom Gathering	16 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meet- ing (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Leadership Council (FH) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	17	18 9:00 am Pastor Naomi's Prayer Team
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	20	21	22 6:00 pm Youth (FH) 6:30 pm Zoom Gathering	23 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meet- ing (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	24	25
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	27	28	29 6:00 pm Youth (FH) 6:30 pm Zoom Gathering	30 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meet- ing (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer		