



The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847
www.DillsburgBIC.org

Focus on the baby... and rejoice!

By Pastor Rob Douglass

One of my habits each Christmas is to try and enter the story of Jesus' birth anew, with fresh eyes and an open heart – to hear the old, old story like it was the first time.

In the past I have contemplated questions like “What was going through Mary's mind?” and “What was Joseph thinking?”

This year the questions are different.

As you may have heard, Chris and I are excitedly awaiting the arrival of our first grandchild.

This year is the first time I have wondered about what was going through Mary's parents' minds. Were they disappointed in Mary? Were they angry with Joseph? Were they glad to have a grandchild on the way? Did they ever say to Mary what all parents think, “You have no idea how much this is going to change your life”?

All of this together has reminded me of an essay that was written back in 1909 called “The Baby.”

“The Baby” was written by Frank W. Boreham, an Englishman who lived at an amazingly pivotal time. Born in 1871, Boreham heard Moody preach as a teenager. Also at the time, Charles Spurgeon had a Pastor's College in London for training ministers. Boreham is believed to be the last student that Spurgeon personally interviewed for admission into the school.

After graduating, Boreham became a pastor in Australia. Not much is known of Boreham's success in ministry in America, but in 1959, Billy Graham was conducting one of his crusades in Australia and arranged to meet Boreham even though Frank had been retired for 30 years. I can't imagine having the opportunity of meeting Moody, Spurgeon, and Graham.

But my point is not to tell you about Frank Boreham. It is to share some of his thoughts. In the essay, Boreham focuses the reader's attention on the events that were transpiring 100 years earlier.

In 1809, the Peninsular War was going on with Spain, Portugal, and the United Kingdom fighting against the French under Napoleon. As we might expect, everyone in 1809 was eager to hear news about the war.

Boreham writes, “People tear open their newspapers to read of the wars and the accidents and the politics and the sports and the prosecutions, as though these were the things of most importance! The really sensational item in the newspaper is always to be found in the column headed Births, Marriages, and Deaths. Not among the deaths, for those chapters have closed. Nor among the marriages, for here the great choice has been made, and life has taken its shape and colour. But among the births! These babies! What startling and sensational and epoch-making items of news these announcements may represent!”

While he celebrates the possibility presented by births, he writes, “Yet who looks to the baby? Who turns to the baby as the strategic point in the struggle of



nations?" He then pivots and proceeds to catalogue several people who were born in 1809. Some of those on his list are Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Wendell Holmes, William Gladstone (influential British politician and Prime Minister of the UK for 12 years), poets Alfred Tennyson and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, composers Frederic Chopin and Felix Mendelssohn.

Boreham states, "A century ago . . . men were following, with bated breath, the march of Napoleon, and waiting with feverish impatience for the latest news of the wars. And all the while, in their own homes, babies were being born. But who could think about babies? Everybody was thinking about battles. Yet, viewing that age in the truer perspective, which the distance of a hundred years enables us to command, we may well ask ourselves which of the battles of 1809 mattered more than the babies of 1809?"

Boreham continues, "We never find room for the baby. He is always in the manger. It never occurs to us, as we confuse our minds with the world's worries and the world's woes, that the baby in its swaddling-clothes is really the way out."

In these days of conflict and confusion, of stress and striving, may you focus on the baby and not the battles. May you center yourself on the one who offers us peace and the way home. The one who was the baby of Bethlehem is now Lord of heaven and earth, so rejoice!

(The quotations in this article are from Frank W. Boreham's essay, "The Baby" contained in his book, *Mountains in the Mist*.)




Christmas Caroling on the Square
December 10, 3:00 pm Dillsburg Square

Join in the fun with others in singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols. You don't have to be a good singer, you just have to want to join in. We will meet at the Dillsburg Square and then enjoy free cookies and hot drinks in the Square Bean.

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The Doulos Newsletter Information

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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.

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THANK YOU

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*Dear DBIC family, there are no words adequate enough – even for a writer like me – to say **thank you** for your continued support of our family during this unexpected journey we're on. We are AMAZED that you continue to provide meals to us several times a week, and that you take on the challenge of our family's special dietary needs! What a blessing in so many ways! Beyond that, many of you let me know you are praying for me daily – what a humbling thought! I am ever so grateful to know that so many prayer warriors are with me in the battle!

~ With love, Carolyn Kimmel

***Thank you** to the congregation at Dillsburg BIC! We appreciate your financial, spiritual and relational support of the Collaboratory! We are well into the semester, and it has been wonderful to see how God is using our students to care for those in need with their gifts and abilities. That growth would be so much harder without your support.

~ Bryce Watkins, Program Manager, Messiah University Collaboratory

*Your continued support of New Hope Ministries directly feeds your neighbors in need in so many ways. We're serving thousands of families in a year's time who rely upon our programs and services every day. Your donation ensures that every guest has their needs met! **Thank you!**

~ Molly Helmstetter, Development Director, New Hope Ministries

*Because of your incredibly generous quarterly donation, children have a bed. They have a roof. They have a playroom. They have clean clothes. They have three meals a day and more snacks than they can eat. **Thank you** for serving your community and helping to bring us all up. We can't do this without you.

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

*Your generous donation is always a blessing and an encouragement! We use gifts like yours to try to help our clients in the short time God gives us to be with them... hopefully with eternal results! Thank God you took the time to send us your gift. **God bless you!**

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

CORNER LIFE

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious free meal served from 5:00-5:45 p.m. This month we have only one Corner Life scheduled due to the holiday. Everyone is welcome to linger after the meal for Carols and Stories. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal, you can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094da4ac2da7fe3-corner> and thank you!

December 14
Ham
Glazed Carrots | Peas
Dinner Rolls
Strawberry Pretzel Salad

Menu is subject to change :)

Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Highlights from the November Leadership Council meeting:

- Some financial reports of note:
 - Sharon has received budget requests from ministry leaders and will plan to have a budget draft sent out to LC at the beginning of November.
 - General cash went up by about \$2,000 – \$3,000.
 - Budget vs Actual – General fund offerings are in line with where we should be.
 - General fund spending is \$46,000 below budget – a big reason for that is that annual insurance payment comes out in November and no facility improvements have been spent from the current year budget.
 - Someone was approached to take the role of Stewardship Director, and we are waiting for a response from them.
- Pastor Rob's report
 - Things are changing in terms of the age of our congregation, and we need to consider what we feel God is calling us to.

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, Randy Fish, Sharon Miller, Rachel Pease, Jason Smith, Heidi Tucker, or Avis Whitesel.

Stop Traffic

By Marj Strayer

As you may already know, Peace Promise has purchased a property in Camp Hill on 17th Street. It is a wonderful place!

It has three floors. The bottom floor will be for a business rental, the second level will be a coffee shop, and upper floor will be Patty Seaman's office and a place to make the soap. Soaps and lotions will be sold in the coffee shop. There is a great off-street parking lot. Volunteers are busy painting and renovating. It is shaping up and will be such a blessing for the girls of Peace Promise, a safe place for them to find work.

If you are looking for a way to support Peace Promise, there will be a fun drop-in event to cap off our month of Giving Tuesday and Run for Freedom fun! You will be able to take a look around inside our new building, buy some soaps as gifts and stocking stuffers, sample new products, chat with Peace Promise leaders and drink hot chocolate and eat baked goods! You can also drop off items for the Christmas bags for our girls if you have participated in this. Thank you for your love and support.

Date: Tuesday, November 29

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Location: 244 S.17th Street, Camp Hill



Grounding Grace

By Chou Gabikiny

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.—Romans 8:28, English Standard Version

I grabbed my car keys one afternoon, got in my car and started driving with no clear destination in mind. I just needed to get away. Although my conscious mind knew that driving away didn't take the problems away, for those couple hours, my heavy heart needed an escape and going on a physical drive provided the illusion of going far away from what was troubling my soul. Unfortunately, after the 90-minute elopement, I had to come back home and face my reality.

Earlier that day, I received another medical diagnosis, another lifelong issue I would have to just "live with." I am tired of all the chronic illnesses. Just when I was feeling a bit stronger, just when I felt I was getting better, one more piece of bad news and I'd had it! This meant more medical appointments to schedule, more decisions to make about treatments and a more surgeries ahead. I could not take any more bad news!

Have you ever gotten tired of bad news? On TV, online, in the newspaper (for those of us who still like paper prints), and in our lives and the lives of people we know, it seems like we hear more bad news these days than anything else. I wonder how Job felt when he received one piece of bad news after another. While he was still processing the loss of his properties and cattle, he gets bombarded with even worse news ... his children were dead. We might frown upon his wife who told him to "curse God and die," but similar thoughts have probably crossed our minds at times. "Why do I always get the short end of the stick?" ... "I do all the right things, so why do all the bad things still happen to me?" ... "Those who are not Christians don't suffer as much!" ... "If I were not a Christian, I could do this or that, and that would solve the issue."

When I finally decided to turn around and drive back home that weary afternoon, I started to think how it must have felt like bad news for Mary to find out she was pregnant and not yet married and how it must have been even worse news for Joseph, who had to cover up the news, care for and support her, even though the child she was carrying was not his! What would people say? Bad news indeed! However, their bad news brought the Savior to the world and allowed for the salvation of the human race. The bad news of that agonizing Friday brought us resurrection Sunday. Death brought us life, and a very awful Friday became what we all celebrate as Good Friday. If you wonder if God can also redeem the bad news in your life, the answer is a resounding YES!

I have seen Him redeeming bad news in my life over and over again. Health issues have taught me spiritual warfare. Divorce

– the betrayal, the rejection and the shame that came from it – increased my intimacy with God like nothing else has ever done. My emotional and mental toils birthed a calling and ministry that I could have never imagined. God was at work in every detour, every delay, every disappointment and even every disgrace. Just because we don't see it, it doesn't mean that God is not working. Just because we can't feel it, it doesn't mean that it's not happening. God is redeeming the bad spaces and places we find ourselves in for our good and for His glory!

May the remembrance of our Savior's birth bring about a rebirthing in our souls. As we celebrate His saving grace, may we make room for Him to enter the spaces that once pulled us away from Him. May we allow Him to truly be Lord of our pain, shame, guilt and sorrow. May we grant Him full access to all the parts of us, every closet of our lives. He is the God Almighty who can break down every stronghold, yet He chooses to still stand at the door and knock. Would you let Him in today... all in?

May we fully embrace His grace to come as we are, and may we come in complete surrender to His marvelous majesty!





We have guests coming!

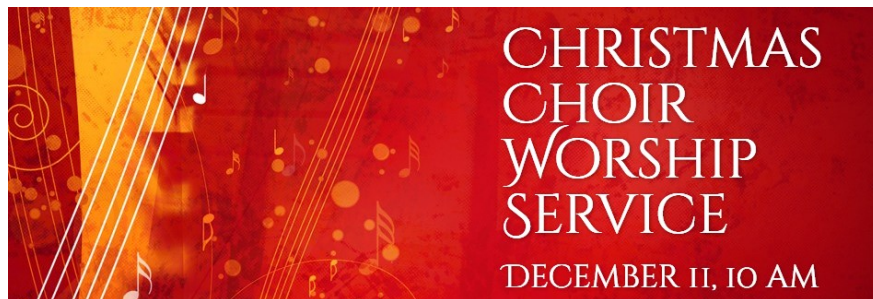
Our church will be hosting families from Family Promise from December 4 through 11. If you are interested in participating in this weeklong event, there are various ways in which you can help. First, we need people willing to serve as evening and overnight hosts. Next, we need food donations for breakfast and lunch. Lastly, we will be providing the evening meals for these families. Descriptions of each role with further information can be found on the sign-up genius sites.

For any other question, feel free to contact Scott and Cindy Raboci at (717)432-9140 or sraboci@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for being such a blessing!

Evening/Overnight Hosts: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f44a9a722a20-eveningovernight2>

Breakfast/Lunch Foods: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f44a9a722a20-family6>

Evening Meals: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f44a9a722a20-family7>



COFFEE BAR RESTART



We're ready to bring back coffee being available before Sunday worship service and are looking for people to help with or lead that effort. If you are willing to be involved, please contact Susan Hatch at 717-979-7852 or tsejhatch@verizon.net

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 with your request.

Fresh Hope for Dillsburg

By Kathy Bennett

I was reminded this week of an Andrew Peterson song, "Be Kind to Yourself." I highly recommend listening to it or looking up the lyrics, but I will share few lines here.

"Be kind to yourself
Be kind to yourself
I know it's hard to hear it when that anger in your spirit
Is pointed like an arrow at your chest
When the voices in your mind are anything but kind
And you can't believe your Father knows best."

The holiday season can be very hectic, with shopping and gift wrapping, family gatherings, church events and work events added to all of our normal everyday activities and filling our schedules to overflowing. Add to that the shorter hours of daylight, which can affect our mood negatively, and potential family conflicts and you may feel like you're about to explode or like you are failing at everything.

Let me encourage you to be kind to yourself by evaluating your schedule and leaving some free space for relaxation and rest. See if some of the social events can be put off until after the holidays when you will be able to better enjoy them. Learn to accept "good enough" rather than aiming for perfection. Enjoy the process as well as the final result when you are shopping or cooking. Simplify where you can and take time to breathe and focus on what we are celebrating rather than what you still need to accomplish. When you make a mistake, just apologize and move on - be kind to yourself by not beating yourself up about every mistake or oversight.

During this season of celebration, allow love to shine through, not just for others but also for yourself - and be kind to yourself! Hear God speaking these words from the song over you: "You belong to me whatever you do. So lay down your weapon, darling, take a deep breath and believe that I love you."

May you feel his love and peace during this Christmas season!



Celebrating Life Together!

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
Jay & Judy Smith	December 30



Andrew Miller	December 1	Peggy Knepper	December 16
Lincoln Horst	December 4	Tony Beers	December 19
Julie Walsh	December 5	Jane Tucker	December 19
Reuben Smith	December 5	John Spurrier	December 19
Avis Whitesel	December 7	Jordyn Moyer	December 20
Zimra Waris	December 7	Wendell Hoover	December 20
Susan Hatch	December 9	Daniel Gabikiny	December 22
Avery Carlson	December 12	Clarence Brubaker	December 23
Julie Cook	December 12	Walter Sharp	December 26
Nicole Rank	December 12	Lauren Renard	December 28
Randy Fish	December 13	Abner Sell	December 29
Jason Smith	December 14		
(Naomi's husband)			

December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	2 9:00 am Local Outreach	3
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study (FH) 6:15 pm Thrive (Youth)	8 Doulos Deadline 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	9	10 3:00 pm Caroling on the Square
Family Promise Hosting						
11 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm NYR Youth	12	13 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30 pm Leadership Council (FH)	14 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study (FH) 5:00 pm Corner Life 6:00 pm Carols & Stories 6:15 pm Thrive (Youth)	15 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	16	17
18 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	19	20	21 6:15 pm Thrive (Youth) 6:30 pm Zoom Sharing & Prayer	22 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 NO Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	26	27 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom)	28	29	30	
Church Office Closed						
						