



The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

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

Togetherness

By Esther Spurrier

The Pelicans got together for our annual gathering recently.

Only 10 of the 16 of us were able to come; one couple couldn't make it through the fog and two other couples were too far away. We get our name from the house we stayed in at the Outer Banks, now more than 25 years ago, to celebrate 25th anniversaries! The T-shirts we wore at times that week said "Married 200 years." Someone stopped us on the street and remarked, "I'm sure it only feels that way."

We are eight couples, all Messiah College grads (before it was a university), all having done cross-cultural mission service at some point in our lives. We have a lot in common, but we have some major differences that have challenged our relationships along the way. We find it pretty amazing that all 16 of us, now into our 70s, are still living—and all the marriages are intact.

Much of our evening was spent in quiet conversation. Not surprisingly, at one point it turned to grandchildren. Their lives are so different from our growing-up experiences (tag, kick-the-can or touch football with the neighbor kids), and we worry about them. Do they have close friends with whom they hang out and do healthy group things? Or are their leisure moments spent mostly playing games on devices? We often affirm the importance of community, how nourishing it has been for us Pelicans to get together several times each year, and how we've been able to challenge and encourage each other.

If that's true of the Pelicans, how much more is it true of the church.

God designed the church to be community—and even more, to be family, one body. When I was a young adult, I remember hearing that an essential part of the salvation process and experience was joining with a fellowship of faith. Church membership was strongly encouraged as a next step after baptism. We affirm our commitment to God, and we commit ourselves to each other.

We are more than a group of saved or seeking individuals who come to a building—or join online—on a Sunday morning to learn and be challenged. We care for each other, bear each other's burdens, encourage each other, admonish and warn each other, advise and correct each other, pray for and with each other, rejoice and weep with each other. Small groups are a place where such body life often happens well. But can we expand our vision? God's people together are to demonstrate to each other and to others what the kingdom of God looks like. I heard Tony Evans say recently on the radio, "The church is like an embassy, an enclave of belonging and advocacy in a foreign land." I like that picture.

Will you join me in a commitment to be a more faithful living laboratory of kingdom life? If you're already a member, take some time to review what it was you promised when you joined the church. If you have not taken the step of membership, prayerfully consider and explore what that might mean—for yourself and for the rest of us.

Will you join me in seeking to be revived together, to understand and to picture what that might look like? The COVID years and the political divide have worked to challenge body life in the church. Let's defy those forces and breathe the new life of the Spirit.

Will you join me in growing more like Jesus in corporate sanctification? What can it look like for us to grow up together in the faith and in our life together? I'm thankful to be your sister, your fellow body part.



The Pelicans 25th and 50th reunion. —>



THIS CHANGES
EVERYTHING.

Come and see at Dillsburg BIC's Holy Week events.

Sun. April 2, 10:00 a.m. -- Palm Sunday Service

The children will help lead us in this celebration.

Wed. April 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m. -- All Ages Easter Party

Light supper, songs, stories, and an Egg-Decorating Contest (bring your own or decorate with us). Prizes for all ages. No RSVP needed.

Thurs. April 6, 6:00 p.m. -- Meal and Communion

Please RSVP in the church narthex or at office@dillsburgbic.org.

Fri. April 7, Time TBA -- Prayer Walk

Begin at St. Paul's Church and continue around Dillsburg.

Sun. April 9, 7:00 a.m. -- Sunrise Service

Scripture and songs outside (weather permitting) with donuts and hot drinks.

10:00 a.m. -- Resurrection Day Choir & Worship Service

DILLSBURG BRETHREN IN CHRIST STAFF



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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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“This Changes Everything”

By Pastor Rob Douglass

This year the theme for our Easter service is “This Changes Everything.”

I hope you will consider joining us in person as we worship the resurrection of the One who has changed it all. To get your mind in the groove of the theme, let me share some thoughts that I have been having this Lent in preparation for Holy Week.

In Matthew 26, we read about one of the most dreaded moments that a person can go through. Jesus not only knows that he is going to die, he knows that the time is upon him, and he knows that he will be killed by Roman crucifixion. Before sunset tomorrow, he will be dead, and between then and now there is immeasurable physical agony and emotional despair.

As I have been contemplating this passage as Holy Week gets closer, I have had somewhat of an epiphany.

Three times in the Gethsemane passage (Matt 26:36-46) Jesus tells his disciples to “watch.” Naturally, we interpret the word to mean “stay awake” or “be vigilant,” and this is what the Greek word leans towards. But what are they to be vigilant about or stay awake for? Jesus was not asking them to stand guard to defend him or to be alert so that they can try to keep this terrible future from happening. Jesus simply told his disciples to watch and pray (41).

I understand the command to pray. These were monumental minutes. God’s help was needed, and Jesus could use any encouragement that their friendship could provide and any spiritual support they could possibly offer him. Of course, they should pray.

It is the command to “watch” that has caught my attention this year.

Why were they to watch? They were to watch (and pray) so that they themselves would not fall into temptation. Their watchfulness was somehow for their own good.

What were they supposed to watch?

Were they supposed to watch Judas when he arrived with the crowd? Were they to learn how easy it is to betray him?

Were they supposed to watch the mob itself, sent by the powerful and connected religious leaders? Were they to learn how dangerous earthly powers can be when they feel threatened?

Were they supposed to watch each other? Would going through this shared trauma unite them in ways they could never imagine?

Were they to watch Jesus? Were they supposed to see how he didn’t protest the fact that he was innocent and

being mistreated? Did Jesus want them to learn from his example of not fighting to defend himself or trying to escape? When Friday was over, would they try to forget what they watched?

Was there any way that what they watched could have made any sense before Easter? I think the obvious answer is “no.”

Without Easter, our story is a terrible movie that ends with the hero being dead, the beloved being all alone, and the villain celebrating his/her victory.

But Easter changes everything.

If I am honest, it feels at times like we are in Gethsemane. The changes that have happened in our society in the last ten years have been foundation-shifting. I would never have imagined in my twenties that marijuana would ever be legal, and today recreational marijuana use is legal in 22 states. As considerable of a change as this is, it feels like a drop in the bucket of all that we have experienced. I feel like some days when I watch the news either my heart is going to break or my head is going to explode.

I am reminded of a conversation between Frodo and Gandalf in Tolkien’s *Fellowship of the Ring*. Frodo says, “I wish it need not have happened in my time.” “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

So, when we are in what feels like Gethsemane, darkness is gathering and seems like it could win at any moment, I believe Jesus might say to us the same thing he said back then, “watch and pray.”

Watch how he walked into the deepest darkness of human evil and sin. Keep watching. Keep praying. Hold on for just a little while. It may not make any sense now, but when Jesus shows up, everything changes.

The first disciples could not have imagined how Easter would change the meaning of everything that had happened on Thursday and Friday. As we prepare to celebrate his resurrection, may he surprise us again and change everything one more time.

Easter us again, O God!



Leadership Council Report

By Avis Whitesel

Here are some highlights from the February Leadership Council meeting:

- Some financial reports of note:
 - The following transfers were made to cash funds: \$1,075, Contingency Fund; \$19,000, Facility Improvements, and \$1,000, Youth Conference.
 - \$24,960 was allocated for General Church Use, which includes \$2,500 dedicated to improvements to B1 for worship rehearsal, \$499 earmarked for PC for pastoral staff, and \$21,961 added to the Facility Improvements Fund.
 - \$6,313 was allocated to Ministry with Partners, including \$1,313 - Help with the completion of Project 1151 (Eric and Corey Thuma); \$2,500 for Local Outreach, and \$2500 for Global Outreach
- Review of By-Laws
 - We will begin reviewing historical documents and making updates on a regular basis.
 - We will also look at organizational structure to see if we want to change it, then we can bring a recommendation to Congregational Council that will include aligning the by-laws with the organizational structure.

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, Travis Moyer, Rachel Pease, Jason Smith, Heidi Tucker, David Vader or Avis Whitesel.

What Is Leadership Council and What Do We Do?

By Rachel Pease

Every organization needs systems of governance and layers of checks and balances to keep it moving forward in a healthy direction. DBIC is no different. Here, we rely on an integrated system of governance to manage the business of the church.

Every member of DBIC is officially part of the Congregational Council and therefore has a voice in how the church is managed. Leadership Council (LC) is appointed by Congregational Council to serve as faithful spiritual leaders of the church, provide counsel and support to the lead pastor and ensure all congregational ministries operate in a manner that is consistent with the decisions of the Congregational Council and the General Conference of the Brethren in Christ Church. LC also functions as the Pastoral Committee of DBIC and, as such, collaborates with the Susquehanna Regional Conference Bishop to conduct the initial appointment and regular five-year reviews of our Lead Pastor.

The lead pastor serves as the official liaison between Leadership Council and Ministry Council (which envisions and carries out all of our various ministries — from children's ministry to musical worship and more.) In our monthly LC meetings, Pastor Rob brings updates from various ministries, asks for feedback on ideas for new initiatives and shares

matters of congregational concern and opportunity. Furthermore, in keeping with the fiduciary responsibilities we hold, LC reviews the YTD budget and spending each month, approves requests for larger expenditures, and ensures the church is operating in a fiscally responsible way.

The LC secretary periodically provides a short update about what has been discussed at LC in the Doulos. The minutes from our monthly meetings are placed in the church narthex after LC approval.

Anyone serving on Leadership Council must first be a member of DBIC. We serve three-year terms that can be renewed for up to six years. Current LC members are Rob Douglass, Lead Pastor; Rachel Pease, Chair/Elder; David Vader, Stewardship Director/Elder; Avis Whitesel, Secretary/Elder; Heidi Tucker, Elder; Randy Fish, Elder; Jason Smith, Elder; Travis Moyer, Elder.

Got questions? Feel free to reach out to Rachel Pease or any member of Leadership Council. Rachel's email address is peaserachel@gmail.com.



***Thank you** so much for being extremely kind and generous to me throughout this school year. Everything you have done for me has been more than a blessing, and I cannot thank you enough.

Ally Maylock (a student the DBIC supported through our Christ's Birthday offering)

***Thank you** for your recent gift to Messiah University Collaboratory. We are thankful for your faithful partnership.

Jon C. Stuckey, Vice President for Advancement, Messiah University

***We** love having you as a partner! Your consistent, generous support of our families through Family Promise is what makes a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Matthew Wagner, Executive Director, Family Promise Harrisburg Capitol Region

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

Susan Vigliano, Board President, Peace Promise

GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD
His LOVE endures FOREVER!!!

Stop Traffic

By Marj Strayer

Please pray for Peace Promise and the upcoming fundraising banquet. Pray for God's abundant blessing upon this event. May He provide all that is needed to support the women and the ministry and all those who give themselves in their steadfast commitment to doing the Almighty's work here on earth.

He is adding to the number of people who will volunteer to work with the women in this new leg of the journey. The house that has been purchased, with the help of a doner from our church for the downpayment, will provide industry for those who are ready to learn job skills to help them to become independent.

Please continue to pray for Patty Seamans, director of outreach to the women. She continues to battle cancer and yet is able to keep working most days. Her words to the surprised nurses and doctors are, "It's Jesus."

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.





Play Ball!

"If it's possible... live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

There are three dimensions to the peace that God offers to us through Christ: peace with God, peace with one another, and peace within ourselves. Many people care little about their relationships with God and other people, but they still want peace within themselves. As you will see, it is impossible to know genuine internal peace unless you also pursue peace with God and others.

Taken from [The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict](#) by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 44.

Food for Thought

As a peacemaker, are you covering your bases?

The batter takes his stance. The pitcher winds up and throws. The batter swings and hits the ball, and immediately runs to... that's right -- first base. Unless you're watching a bunch of folks goofing off or a really young T-ball team, no batter is going to hit and then run to second base. That's just not how the game is played. You run to first, then to second, and then on to third; you've got to cover all three bases.

Ken reminds us of the three peace bases for the followers of Christ: peace with God, peace with one another, and peace within ourselves. As believers we've got to cover all three bases -- that's how the Christian life is lived. Meditate for a few minutes on the following Scripture verses:

Peace with God: Rom. 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Peace with others: 1 Thess. 5:13 "Live in peace with each other."

Peace with self: Col. 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

And once you've covered the three bases, you get to run... that's right -- HOME!

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Food for Thought

By Dale Meadowcroft, Bethany Village, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; submitted by Terry Stoudnour

I recently enjoyed a television show I had recorded earlier. As I was going through the motions to delete the show, the television reverted back to a live broadcast of a PBS children's morning show. Just as I was turning off the television, I heard these words, "It can feel great when we appreciate."

That started me searching for inspiration and I found this story.

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which read, "I am blind, please help."

There were only a few coins in the hat – spare change from folks as they hurried past.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. Then he put the sign back in the boy's hand so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy.

That afternoon, the man who had changed the sign returned to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way."

I wrote, "Today is a beautiful day, but I cannot see it. "

Both signs spoke the truth. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind, while the second sign conveyed to everyone walking by how grateful he was...

When our lives seem full of troubles, it can be difficult to maintain an attitude of gratitude. All we see are our problems, like a blackened storm cloud casting a dark shadow over our lives.

And the times when everything just seems to be going smoothly? We often take these precious moments for granted too, don't we? Caught up in the bliss, comfort, and familiarity of it all, we can simply forget to be thankful.

So what, then, is gratitude? Simply put, gratitude is a habit. It's a way of looking at the world and all the good things in it with a feeling of appreciation, regardless of whether or not our current situation is to our liking. Gratitude is a heart-centered approach to being at peace with yourself and with all you have. When we practice this feeling of gratitude, it attracts even MORE things into our life for which to be grateful.

And the great thing is that gratitude or appreciation can go both directions. We accept gratitude when people want to do something for us. Because as much as we can be grateful for the small and the big things that happen to us, we also have to be open to receiving them.

Gratitude should come from your heart, that you are truly happy for what life offers to you. Go ahead, try it out right now. Say something "positive" and you'll see something "positive."





What: A fun and faith-filled program
Who: Elementary kids (K–5th)
When: Wednesdays 6:30–8:00 PM
Where: Dillsburg BIC Church
How: Register at dillsburgbic.org/shine

Mark your calendars for these theme nights:

February 8: Beach
March 8: Farm
May 3: Camping
(Ending Celebration)

Join us for a complimentary meal, served from 5:00–5:45 PM on these dates:

February 4
March 4 and 15
April 19
May 3

Dillsburg BIC Church
18 E Harrisburg St, Dillsburg PA
(717) 432-3847



Calling Softball Players - Interested in playing softball? Games are typically Monday or Tuesday evenings, May through July. No experience needed, just a desire to have fun. Contact Nathan Hoover 717-439-5230 for details.

CORNER LIFE MEALS

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious free meal served from 5-5:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome to linger after the meal for songs and activities for all ages, including Thrive youth group which will begin at 6 pm, and Shine which will begin at 6:30 pm. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal. Please sign up at <https://www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/>

April 19
Chicken Legs
Broccoli Salad
Baked Beans
Ice Cream and Toppings

Menu is subject to change :)

Celebrating Life Together!



Fresh Hope made valentines at two of our meetings and Jason Smith facilitated sharing them with the kids' Sunday School classes.



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.

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.

Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Jack & Helen Leach	April 2
Nathan & Sarah Hoover	April 16
Jon & Diana Dale	April 29



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Tim Horst	April 1	Ed Strayer	April 17
Erika Pease	April 4	Patti Miller	April 18
Jason Smith	April 4	Amy Austin	April 19
<i>(Jay and Judy's son)</i>		Josh Weiser	April 20
Tyler Monko	April 10	Paul Matthew Lerew	April 21
Corie Thuma	April 10	Hope Gabikiny	April 22
Kayce Heck	April 12	Chris Eyster	April 23
Shelby Sieber	April 12	Luca Thuma	April 25
Chou Gabikiny	April 13	Ray Knepper	April 27
Thomas Walsh	April 14	Elijah Carlson	April 27
Tony Monko	April 17	Travis Moyer	April 30
Ariela Vader	April 17		

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Neighborhood Outreach 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5 5:00 pm Easter Party	6 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday foot-washing 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion	7 Prayer Walk	8 Doulos Deadline
9 7:00 am Sunrise Service 10:00 am Worship	10 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	11 7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom)	12 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Prayer and Sharing (Zoom)	13 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	14 7:00 pm Susq. Regional conference Praise and Worship night	15 9:00 am Susq. Regional Conference Annual Meeting
16 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	17	18	19 5:00 pm Corner Life 6:00 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Prayer and Sharing (In-Person & Zoom)	20 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 6:30 pm Leadership Council (201) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	21 6:30 pm Global Outreach (Zoom)	22
23 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Missionary update	24	25	26 6:00 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Prayer and Sharing (Zoom)	27 6:30 pm Fresh Hope meeting (Orange Room) 7:30 pm Zoom Prayer	28	29
30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship						