



The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847

www.DillsburgBIC.org

"What's next?"

By Anne-Marie Brandt

I have been struggling for almost a week with how to write this article. I've wrestled with the idea of dedicating it to Carolyn Kimmel's memory or chronicling my year-long cancer journey. Either way, I wanted this article to be inspirational and uplifting, yet I find myself at a complete loss for words and direction.

I've always had a love-hate relationship with words. Growing up, I wanted to become a novelist, a human interest story writer, or an investigative reporter. Every chance I had growing up was spent either reading or writing. By the time I graduated college, I had stacks of notebooks full of handwritten poems and short stories, floppy disks brimming with articles, and even a screenplay. Writing words on paper breathed life into the ideas racing through my mind at breakneck speeds. I hope the ideas I finally got on paper here are an inspiration for each of the readers.

Carolyn and I became friends over 17 years ago when Dan and I became involved with DBiC. (Fun fact - Carolyn's husband, Mark had coached Dan's baseball team when he was younger.) Early on we shared our love for writing. I was thrilled that I found another journalist who loved writing human interest stories as much as I did. I remember one of our early conversations about how we approached writing articles. Besides the typical "who, what, when, where, why, and how" questions, we explored what was next for our subjects.

This past year has been filled with the question "What's next?" Last September, I was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer after a routine mammogram. In just a few days, my whole world came to a screeching halt. Decisions had to be made, additional tests scheduled, and medical appointments lined up. I can still feel the buzzing in my ears as I heard the words "You have cancer." After the shock wore off, I remember thinking, "What's next?"

A friend tried to comfort me when I was upset. She told me that my life as I knew it was going to change, and the sooner I realized that simple fact, the sooner I would be able to move forward with a plan of action. I know that this may sound harsh - but it was the statement I needed to hear. Instead of wallowing in the diagnosis and treatments, I had to look forward to what lay ahead.

The twelve months since my initial diagnosis have been riddled with complications and dreadful side effects from medication and treatments. (Radiation is hard on the body!) Each time I recovered from one complication, another would hit me like a sucker punch. It often felt as though I'd climbed the complications tree, hitting every branch while spiraling headfirst toward the ground. Many times, I'd cry out in frustration, "What's next?"

In April, I attended a Breast Cancer Survivorship Clinic. In one session the moderator discussed how our lives were disrupted by cancer and how we all had to realize and adjust to our "new normal." I've always despised that phrase, and my dislike for it only grew in the following months. To me, the "new normal" implied an obligation to accept whatever this "normal" entailed. I prefer to view it as making "adjustments" or embracing new chapters in our journeys.

When I reflect on my life, I see many chapters that have been written. Some contain trauma, while others are filled with wonderful highlights. The beauty of these chapters is that they often stand as independent stories or share continuity between them. I believe that a good story or chapter always prompts the reader to ask, "What's next?"

I have finally completed my year-long cancer journey chapter. My upcoming chapters will include new physical limitations that I must acknowledge, but they won't hold me back from living my life out loud. Some things I have planned for these chapters will need be adjusted, but that's okay.

Over the past year, I lost two dear friends. Jen Reed passed away the day after my first surgery last October. We had attended college together and remained close throughout the years. We often exchanged texts and calls to catch up on our life's journeys. Losing Jen created a void in my heart and an emptiness that has yet to be filled. Her best friend and I have stayed in close contact since



losing her, exchanging texts several times a week with silly memes, discussing our pets, and sharing memories. It's not the same, nor are we attempting to replicate the friendship we had with our mutual friend. We've adjusted our friendship to include each other, and it's been comforting.

Losing Carolyn has been hard. We have been friends and colleagues for over 17 years. We collaborated on several projects together through my business and worked on the Doulos together for eight years with Kathy Bennett. This past year, though, we became cancer buddies. Our routine emails, preparing for upcoming Doulos editions, began to include words of encouragement for each other. We started texting each other health updates, photos of our beloved pups, words of encouragement, and expressions of frustration and sadness. Often, we would ask each other, "What's next?" in terms of treatments.

Throughout Carolyn's cancer journey, she remained diligent with her editing for the Doulos. Even up until last month, she was still contributing and asking what she needed to do for the next issue. This is the first edition without her input, and it feels and breathes differently. As Kathy and I struggle to adjust to our "new normal" in preparing the newsletter each month, it's going to be a little awkward. We feel a void in our team.

Many members of our church family are also undergoing significant adjustments in their lives, whether it's adapting to a newborn baby, dealing with empty nests, pursuing new occupations, coping with changes in health, navigating divorces and separations, or coping with the sudden loss of beloved spouses. All these changes and transitions are challenging. It can be difficult to contemplate "what's next."

When I feel like I can't look ahead or even breathe, I lean heavily on 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." Much to my parents' chagrin, I have this verse tattooed on my wrist as a constant reminder that although I may not know "what's next," God certainly does. And then, I'm able to exhale.



Thirteen years ago, I created a blog to serve as an information hub for Dan's cancer journey. Eighteen months ago, it chronicled my Dad's cancer battle, and now it's chronicling mine. You may read it at:

www.teambrandtfamily.wordpress.com



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The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editors: Kathy Bennett, Anne-Marie Brandt
Doulos Layout and Design: Anne-Marie Brandt
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Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: newsletter@dillsburgbic.org by the 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

Welcoming our newest members!



On September 10th , we welcomed 12 new members into our church family.



Dee Maxwell, Terry Bachmann, Tom & Amy Austin



Ray & Cheryl Cross, Erika Pease, Joey Hecker



Mitchel Lampron, Al & Connie Darbrow, Ginny Spurrier

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

***Thank you** for helping us maintain a posture of gracious Christianity, rooted in intellectual and spiritual humility as we model servant leadership and responsible citizenship. We appreciate your generosity.

Joh Stuckey, VP for Advancement, Messiah University, Office of Development

***Thank you** for your recent gift. Your investment in these precious lives is making a real difference. We're making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you. It takes consistent and tireless work on behalf of our Peace Promise team to forge relationships of trust, hope, and safety with these individuals. We're making a difference, and we couldn't do it without you. 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.

*Susan Vigliano, Board President, Peace Promise
Patty Seaman, Executive Director, Peace Promise*

***Thank you** your gracious gift. Please ask God to give us creativity, wisdom, opportunities, and resources to help people discover that God is calling them to go to least-reached communities. We are grateful to be in ministry with you. Thank you for magnifying the Lord with SIM as we exalt His name together.

SIM USA

August marks the end of summer ... where did it go? School will start soon and all that goes with it - sporting events, homework, buses with red flashing lights and more! I know a young Christian lady who is a good academic and a great two sport athlete. She was really looking forward to her senior year. Well, now she is pregnant...and not to someone she wants to spend "forever" with. One bad decision and all of her dreams and expectations have taken a sharp turn. We are thankful that she will carry and parent but I can't help but think about the "what ifs" and how things could have been very different.

Recently you sent us a generous gift Thank You! We'll use gifts given to us to help this young lady (and the many others God brings to our doors to see that even though things seem overwhelming and "not to plan," God is known as "the God of hope." We have a great God and He has an intense and intimate interest in us ... He is the source of hope resulting in joy and peace!

*Rev. John Schaffer, Executive Director
Life Choices Clinic, Capital Area Pregnancy Center*

Goodbye, Carolyn.
I miss your straightforwardness.
Eternally One.

Kimberly Tucker

We wanted to say thank you to the DBIC family for the incredible support we've been blessed with over the past 14 months. The meals, cards, texts, calls, visits, friendship, flowers (they haven't stopped since last summer), gift cards and maybe most importantly, the prayers, that gave Carolyn the strength, energy and hope that endured to the very last breath. DBIC was truly God's hands and feet for us. Your love carried us all through this trying time and continues to help us thru each minute, hour and day without her, painful though it is. We weep for ourselves and the incredible hole her absence leaves, but we know Carolyn is perfect again in Glory.

Thank you all, from Mark, Olivia, Becky & Amy. And our son Fabian, Olivia's husband. He has been astonished by the outpouring of love and practical support we have received.

The Kimmel Family

STOP TRAFFIC—We can do this together!

by Marj Strayer

An exciting new booth will appear at the Farmer's Fair craft area on October 21st. We will have Soaps by Survivors, showcasing all-new and wonderful products. The bar soaps are now made using a cold process, resulting in a better and longer-lasting product. There are new fragrances for all products, including liquid hand soaps, foaming hand soaps, body wash, bath salts, body butter, hand and body lotions, healing salve, and lip balms, to name a few. We've also introduced some new scents and products geared toward men. While most products feature scents, there are also all-natural options available.



So, please come and check out our booth. You will be pleasantly surprised by our range of new products. The proceeds from Soaps by Survivors directly benefit the women and children served by Peace Promise. The products are lovingly crafted by several survivors and volunteers from Peace Promise. In case you are not able to attend the Dillsburg Farmer's Fair you can check out the products on line and order them on line. <https://soapsbysurvivors.org/>



Summer Senior Picnic

by Carmy Hess

On June 24, twenty-five "seniors" (ages in their 60's to 90's), enjoyed a picnic at the home of Bob and Carmy Hess in Dillsburg. Participants especially enjoyed two activities: reminiscing about gadgets and products that were common in their earlier days but are now hard to find or no longer exist. There was even some "show and tell!" Afterward, they enjoyed a time of sharing, where some discussed how they have grown more like Jesus over many years. Finally, everyone joined in to sing the "Doxology."

The weather was iffy, but during the picnic, it was delightful. By all accounts, there is a desire for more DBIC senior activities in the future.





MCC and the Cuba Brethren in Christ Church bring much-needed relief to communities

*Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier,
DBIC Global Outreach Commission*

The first Sunday in October, we celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday. It's a time to remember how big God's Church is—and to pray for Brethren in Christ brothers and sisters in many lands, even those we don't hear about very often. Below, you can read a recent Mennonite Central Committee report on the BIC in Cuba.

August 28, 2023. Eliecer Valdez Suárez is a pastor and a missionary with the Brethren in Christ Church in Cuba (BICCC), but just last year, he was working as a gravedigger. COVID-19 was taking a heavy toll on both Cuban families and Cuban tourism industry, and the already difficult conditions on the island had become even worse. Valdez had many graves to dig. But when a shipment of MCC relief kits and canned meat arrived in Cuba, he stopped digging and started driving containers across the island nation. "This help arrived in a moment where we didn't have anything to eat, when we were fighting COVID-19 face-to-face in the streets. It arrived like manna from heaven."

Working with the church is a key part of MCC's relief work in Cuba. Since the beginning of the pandemic, MCC has worked with the BICCC to distribute 3,615 relief kits and 91,006 lbs of canned meat to communities throughout Cuba during the pandemic and accompanying economic crisis. MCC has plans to send more kits in the coming year as conditions in Cuba show little sign of improving.

Many Cubans haven't eaten meat or eggs in months and struggle to find basics like cooking oil, soap, toilet paper, and towels. Even for those with some money, it is nearly impossible to import the everyday items Cubans need to survive.

With an entire nation in crisis and a unique set of challenges to providing humanitarian relief, where does an organization like MCC begin to help? Since an initial project that provided funds to rebuild houses after Hurricane Sandy in 2012, MCC has supported the BICCC churches as they grow their capacity to respond to emergencies. The relief distributed through the BICCC goes not just to pastors and church members, but also to neighbors who aren't part of the church, which has gained them the respect of the communities and even of local government.

Valdez remembers the reactions as a truck loaded with relief kits and canned meat pulled into communities throughout his province. "The pastors were smiling from ear to ear because they saw that the heavens had opened," he said. "[The cans of meat] weren't just those little cans that you would think were tuna! But the buckets too, the towels, all of the personal hygiene products inside — they came at a moment of tremendous crisis, where there was nothing in our country for us to buy."





You are invited to... Shine!

All elementary-aged kids (K-5th grade) are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet Bible characters, sing songs, play games, make crafts, enjoy snacks, and more.

We hope to see you there!

Who: Kids from Kindergarten to 5th Grade
When: Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall, Dillsburg BIC Church
What: Learn, Sing, Have Fun, Eat Snacks!

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/bcaffb>

corner life
Where food, fun, and neighbors
come together

WEDNESDAYS

5:00 pm - Food

6:00 pm - Fun

relax | connect | share
with each other and our Dillsburg
neighbors

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 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 www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/

**** Menus are subject to change. ****

October 4
Ham, Potato, Corn Chowder
Salad
Dinner Rolls
Brownies

October 18
Walking Tacos
Fruit Salad
Cookies

New Hope Ministry Musings

By Ginny Spurrier

Thank you SO much for your faithful and generous donations to New Hope each month!

This year the Thanksgiving Food Baskets, will be distributed Saturday, November 18, 9am-1pm.

DBIC's donation to the baskets is 250 TUBS OF FROSTING...any kind!! (Another church will be providing the cake mixes.) All donations need to be delivered to NHM by NOVEMBER 13.



In case you haven't had the chance to read the recent news from New Hope, here are a few short stories about some guests who have been greatly assisted by several of New Hope's programs, along with details about how New Hope is making a significant difference in the lives of many neighbors in our local communities.

- A year ago, SAVA enrolled in the ROAD TO SUCCESS PROGRAM. Sava had been working over 25 years for the same company. Due to sudden unforeseen circumstances beyond his control, he could no longer perform his job duties and was let go by his employer. Sava came to New Hope Ministries for help, and he found out about our Road to Success program. By working with our staff, he was able to find a new job that perfectly suited him. They recently checked in with Sava to see how things were going and he exclaimed: "I love my job!" He has already received a bonus and a raise in the first year he has been employed! Sava is so thankful for New Hope Ministries and he lovingly said, "I trusted God and God has blessed me."
- TERESA is currently employed, but is still struggling to make ends meet. She came to New Hope for help where she learned about the FORKLIFT CERTIFICATION CLASS. With her dedication to the training and desire to succeed, Teresa earned her certification and now has the skills to obtain a job that will meet her needs. She's also working with the team to build her resume through the JOB JUNCTION PROGRAM.
- During the recent pandemic, BELLO immigrated to the United States. Struggling to make ends meet with additional barriers as a newcomer, he turned to New Hope for help. They provided him with basic necessities while he waited for his work permit. Bello then enrolled in the FORKLIFT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, which helped him secure a job immediately. His dedication paid off as he was named the Employee of the Month within just two months of working. "Bello's positive attitude and "can-do" outlook makes him an outstanding addition to the company family!"

Do you know about New Hope's New TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM?

Many of the guests they serve are not only struggling with basic needs like food and housing assistance, but also need help with transportation. Having safe and reliable transportation is a necessity when getting to and from a job or other essential life demands. Having proper transportation enables people to improve their living conditions and break the cycle of poverty.

This program also provides basic instruction on how to care for vehicles to keep them running in their best condition. DAVID just received a vehicle from New Hope Ministries - he is overjoyed!

****Do you have a good-working vehicle to donate to New Hope? Please give Transportation Manager Michael Tichnell a call today to find out all the details! (717) 432-2087 x213.****

Scholarship Update

By Kathy Bennett

Local Outreach has been touching base with last year's scholarship recipients to find out how they are doing.

We wanted to update you on Connor McEnany, who was scheduled to begin college in the Spring 2023 semester. He received enough other scholarship money, rendering our financial assistance unnecessary for his first semester, and he had a very successful term. He did need a small amount of the scholarship money for his fall semester. He will finish his certificate in Music Audio & Recording in January. At that point, he will be looking for a job and deciding whether to take further classes at another school. If he continues his education, of course, we will continue to use the money that was promised to help him! But if he decides to not continue his schooling, he will return the remainder of his scholarship to the church so we are able help another deserving individual.



Let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth.

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.

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.

People Who Breathe Grace



Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and then they bring his love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life. God delights to breathe his grace through peacemakers and use them to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and encourage repentance and reconciliation.

Taken from [The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict](#) by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 11.

Food for Thought

Have you ever been around a person who was truly filled with the peace of God? Were you drawn to her serenity—regardless of her circumstance? (For didn't you see Christ's peace in her *the most* when her trials were at *their worst*?) Did his confidence in God's goodness strengthen you when you faced times of trial and doubt? (Because you knew that his faith in God was not a shallow faith—but one born of great suffering and painful perseverance through the storms of life?)

When you think about that peaceful, grace-filled person, what were her relationships like? Did she leave a legacy of hurting, offended, discouraged people in her wake? Was he known as a man who "always had the right answer" and frequently spoke words of condemnation? Probably not. People who are filled with God's peace also tend to be at peace with others. Why?

"Peacemakers are people who breathe grace," Ken reminds us. The peace of God transcends all understanding and it fills their hearts like fountains bubbling over with mercy, kindness, genuine care, and abiding love. They are so filled with God's grace that they splash it onto everyone around them. They could no more stop breathing grace than a person could stop breathing air—because grace is the air that they breathe. Their prayers sound something like this:

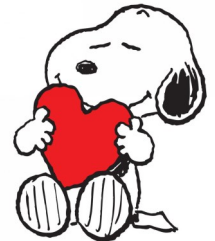
- *Breathing grace in:* The one true holy God sent his Son to die for me? I am saved from hell, from my sin; justified before this holy God; forgiven and adopted? What wondrous love is this! Thank you, God. Thank you for forgiving me all my sins and making the way for me to be at peace with you. I worship You!
- *Breathing grace out:* And now, dear Lord, as I head into my day—let the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ be the heartbeat of my life. Please, God, let every word I say, every action I take, the attitude of my heart, my desires and inclinations—let my life be used by You, for Your glory and the furtherance of Your Kingdom. Please help me to treat others not as they deserve—but as You treat me. May I be your image-bearer, your representative, your ambassador. Thank You, Lord.

Dear friends, let every breath we take and every word we speak today be filled with grace!

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Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Clarence & Mary Ann Brubaker	October 1
Brent & Avis Whitesel	October 3
Don & Nancy Prowell	October 3
Tom & Amy Austin	October 23
Andi & Krishauna Brubaker	October 25



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Julie Lerew	October 2	Patty Cathro	October 17
Anne-Marie Brandt	October 3	Jim Poole	October 21
Arlene VanDyke	October 3	Betty Engle	October 22
Chris Douglass	October 7	Aaron Sieber	October 25
Grace Holland	October 7	Connie Darbrow	October 25
Kenji Kanazawa	October 8	Sam Stoner	October 26
Dave Jones	October 11	John Long	October 28
Alexa Rank	October 12	Nathan Pease	October 28
Amy Miller	October 15	Julianne Hoover	October 30

October 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	2	3	4 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	5 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	6	7
8 Doulos Deadline 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Dbg. Arts Council Concert (Sanctuary)	9	10	11 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	12 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	13	14
15 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm LC/MC/Staff meeting	16 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	17	18 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	19 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	20 10:00 am Kids' Day event (Local Outreach)	21 2:00—8:00 pm Local Outreach event (Orange Room)
22 Morning & afternoon Farmers Fair cleanup 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Missionary Update	23	24	25 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	26 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	27	28
29 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	30	31				A stylized green tree with many leaves and a brown trunk, standing on a small patch of ground.