



## The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847

[www.DillsburgBIC.org](http://www.DillsburgBIC.org)

### *"Your Light Has Come"*

*By Naomi Smith*

Our Wednesday evening kids' program at DBIC is called "Shine," so each semester we choose a Bible verse to learn with the word "shine" in it. This fall we have been memorizing the first verse of Isaiah 60, where Isaiah says to the people of God: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Emily Vader has been teaching the kids American Sign Language to accompany the verse, and as we move our hands and say the words together, I feel the joy that pulses through Isaiah's declaration.

Although this prophet lived more than 700 years before Christ, he knew what the glory of the Lord looked like, and he saw the light of Jesus beginning to break through the darkness. Isaiah stood in the stillness before the sunrise and eagerly pointed to the horizon, proclaiming:

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Here at the beginning of Advent, I am standing with Isaiah and looking for the light. Like the prophet, I see the way that "darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples." In a year when wars have dominated headlines and destroyed lives, we rightly lament the thick darkness of evil. We cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus, and make all things well!" At the same time, we also cling to the truth that we have a God who brings light into the darkness. Even in our grief, we rejoice that our Lord Jesus came as a baby and lived as Emmanuel, our God with us, and died and rose again to make all things well.

Isaiah understood the power of light in darkness when he said to the weary, worn-torn people of God: "Arise, shine, for your light has come." The image here is of the people themselves glowing with the light of God's glory, reflecting God's goodness, beauty, and righteousness with such strength that "nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." As the light of God inhabits

his people, we become his lights in the darkness, pushing back against the evil in the world with a million pinpricks of hope, peace, joy, and love.

I am grateful that in our part of the world, we celebrate the birth of Jesus during the darkest month of the year. Throughout the long nights of December, we pay more attention to the way that light can overcome darkness. Even small amounts of light draw us in and keep us mesmerized. I love the way neighborhoods look with rows of houses adorned by strings of Christmas lights. I love the way my living room looks in the soft glow of the Christmas tree. And I love the way my children's faces look in the brightness of the candles winding around our Advent wreath.

Brothers and sisters, as the darkness grows around us this December, let us once again become bearers of God's light. Let's draw near to God and pray with courage and compassion. Let's sing the songs of Advent and Christmas with gusto and good cheer. Let's remember how God has been at work, both in the pages of Scripture and in our lives. Let's give generously to those in need. Let's say to one another, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you!"



## CELEBRATE A SEASON OF *WONDER*

*Worship & Wonder Art Show- All Month in Church Lobby*  
*Deck the Halls- Wed. Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m.- pizza and decorating*  
*church for Christmas*

*Caroling on the Square- Sat. Dec. 16, 3:00 p.m. at Dillsburg Square-*  
*hot drinks provided by Tucker & Co. Bakery Cafe*

*Christmas Choir & Worship Service- Sun. Dec. 17, 10:00 a.m.*

*Carols and Stories for All Ages- Wed. Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.*

*Children's Program & Worship Service- Sun. Dec. 24, 10:00 a.m.*

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- Sun. Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.*

### DILLSBURG BRETHREN IN CHRIST STAFF



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**Please send submissions and content for the next issue to: [newsletter@dillsburgbic.org](mailto: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](mailto:connect@dillsburgbic.org) or by using the individual contacts in the staff listing.

### Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church

18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA

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## MEN'S BREAKFAST—December 9th

"Attention all men: mark your calendars for the next men's breakfast on Saturday, December 9th, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship. We will be hearing more of Ray Cross's story. This is a great opportunity to connect with other men in our church. Sign up at <https://www.dillsburgbic.org/mens-breakfast/>

*Celebrating Life Together!*



On November 26th, we had a special Sunday School session where Doug and Barb Miller's children shared stories about their lives as MKs (missionary kids). During the Worship Service, Doug and Barb also shared their own stories.



*Welcoming our newest addition!!  
Nathan & Sarah Hoover –Jeremiah*



THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

\* You are part of something exciting! **Thank you** for this gracious gift. God is using your faithfulness together with SIM cross-cultural workers and partner churches demonstrate the goodness of Jesus in many places where people otherwise live and die without having a single Christian who will be their friend. We are compelled to keep going so that all may experience the goodness of Jesus in human form!

*SIM—Matt & Julie Walsh support*

\* **Thank you** for your recent donation to Messiah University. With God's faithfulness as our anchor of hope, we thank you for investing in our students to be enriched, equipped and encouraged to meet the challenges that will face as future graduates of Messiah University.

*Jon C. Stuckey, Vice President for Advancement, Messiah University Office of Development*

\* We are very grateful for your recent support of Paxton Ministries. **Thank you** for helping us provide a safe, comfortable home for adults in need. Your donation makes a big difference! One of our residents shared recently that he is looking forward to celebrating his sixth anniversary at Paxton Street Home later this year. He said: "This is a great, great place for me. I've really grown and changed a lot here. And there's always someone I can talk to when I need it." With support from his loving family, this resident is gaining stability and learning greater independence and new skills as he continues to make his home at Paxton. It's so encouraging to see it happening, and it's a blessing to hear him speak of how grateful he is. You make this possible for him and for many others just like him who experience the challenges of mental illness or disability. Your gifts to Paxton Ministries offer a caring, supportive home where growth and healing happen. You are transforming lives. Thank you!

*David Zilka, Executive Director, Paxton Ministries*

\* **Thank you** for providing the dumpster recently. We greatly appreciated having a crew pick up our pile of miscellaneous items. Again, many thanks.

*Paul & Patty Cathro*

\* **Thanks** for providing the bounce house and being part of Fun Day. Hope you can join us next year—Friday, October 18, 2024.

*Sherry Thomas, Dillsburg Farmers Fair*

\* Because of you, there is food for the hungry, help with transportation needs, financial assistance for heating, and life-changing programs like GED, Nurse Aide, and Forklift Certification so our guests can obtain training and find a job. **Thank you** for joining with us as we continue to provide help and share the hope of Jesus to more than 20,000 people every year. Your generous gift helps care for our neighbors who are hungry, helpless, and hopeless. Thank you! You're making an investment in our life-changing programs which serve so many people here in our community. Thank you for your support and prayers!

*Molly Helmstetter, Director of Development, New Hope Ministries*

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

# STOP TRAFFIC

by Marj Strayer

There is good news to report for Peace Promise this month. On Saturday of Farmer's Fair, Peace Promise had a booth set up at the craft area in Dillsburg Elementary School. As it was our first year at Farmer's Fair, we didn't know what to expect. Despite other sellers of soaps and lotions, indicating competition, we managed to sell over \$1,000 worth of products that day. What a beautiful surprise! Thank you to all who came and supported Peace Promise.

The Run for Freedom was also an amazing success. Our goal was to raise \$35,000, and with a drumroll, please... these participants brought in \$37,000! We extend our gratitude to all who participated, both in person and in prayer. This has been a very encouraging season.

Renovations have begun on our house in Camp Hill. One generous person has covered all the costs of the top floor, where Patty will meet with the women we serve on a one-on-one basis. Additionally, we've received donations totaling \$40,000. This has been a precious time of offering thanksgiving to our Father for the bountiful provision He has made possible. We at Peace Promise are humbly grateful.

As renovations continue, please pray for all those involved in the construction, planning, ordering of materials, and equipment, that they will work well together in full cooperation, and that God will keep them all safe. Also, please remember us when you are looking for Christmas gifts this year. These women and volunteers are producing some fine products. Thank you, DBIC, and we hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Just Us

Because there is no

Them, our enemies are not

Flesh and blood. Love us.

*Kimberly Tucker*

## **In the Pew Next To YOU: Meet: Art Bert**

### **Born and Raised in...**

Upland, California in the late 1940's. My home was right in the middle of citrus groves. The sounds and songs of Latino workers in the groves surrounding our home are a part of my childhood memories.

### **A bit about my family...**

Donna and I have two sons. Jesse lives on Puget Sound, in the Seattle area. He is a metal artist— teaching and making. Aaron (plus his wife and four grandkids) live in Camp Hill. Aaron is a librarian at the Army Heritage Center, Carlisle.

### **How I became a Christian...**

I was born into a passionately Christian (BIC) home. I think I went to the altar at least three times as a kid... wondering if I finally got it right! There was a lot of guilt to deal with in those days. I don't feel like Christ became a real centering presence in my life till later in adulthood.

### **A time I really saw God work in my life was...**

Leaving a "real job," selling a business... and trusting God for direction for my next incarnation!

### **One passion I have is...**

I have a passion for historic vernacular architecture!

### **I spend my free time doing...**

I am retired. I'm a fair-weather, recreational biker. I spend lots of hours in my shop creating detailed pieces in the folk art style known as "tramp art." I enjoy reading novels.

### **My favorite thing about Dillsburg BiC is...**

It is a comfortable, welcoming church family... I simply feel at home! And Pastor Rob's messages nurture my spirit in a fresh way.

### **Something that might surprise you about me is...**

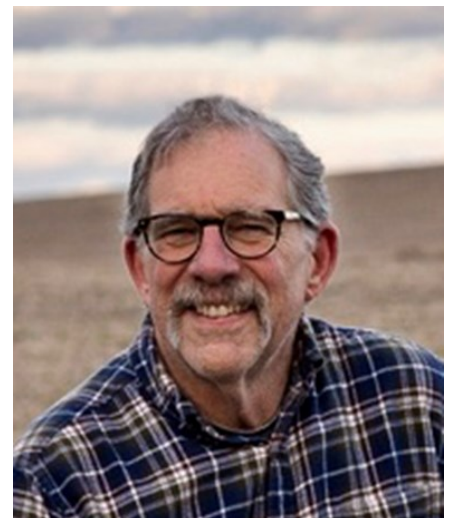
Early 2000's, I was fortunate to be part of a team that dismantled a barn outside Carlisle, moved it to northern Lancaster County, and re-erected it as a residence. My forte was the trim, detail and finish work.

### **My favorite song is...**

Oh my! If you saw my Pandora play-list you'd be shocked... mostly 70's and 80's rock! Don't hold it against me... I was left unsupervised.

### **A prayer request I have is...**

For God's sustaining care as Donna and I move further into our senior years.



# New Hope Ministry Musings

*By Ginny Spurrier*

To all of you who have so generously given to supply the Thanksgiving Baskets and also bought gifts for the Christmas Blessings Express... thank you SO much! You cannot know how many lives you have blessed and encouraged by being a part of the 'supply chain' of New Hope Ministries in Dillsburg.

Following is a short article that will hopefully bless and encourage you, letting you know that with your giving, you have indeed been 'Blessing the King'!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Blessing the King  
by Patricia Holbrook

As a Christian, I have always loved Jesus' parables. One of my favorite illustrations is at the end of the parable of the talents. In this parable, he challenges us to be good stewards of our resources and talents. He ends the parable by telling the audience that the king, representing God, rewards those who gave him something to eat when he was hungry, or something to drink when he was thirsty; those who visited him when he was sick and clothed him when he was naked. The statement seems puzzling. How can we feed God, or clothe him? Jesus ends the illustration with the answer from the king himself: "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me."

In other words, we show our love and thanksgiving to God, the giver of all good things, by giving to those in need, even to the least of them. Because when we bless the hurting, we're blessing the king.



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In case of inclement weather, DBIC's policy is to cancel any in-person morning activities if Northern York School District is on a 2-hour delay. This would not impact afternoon and evening activities. All in-person activities will be canceled if the district is closed for the day or dismisses early due to the weather. For activities on weekends or days when school is not in session, please check

radio and TV announcements (ABC27) or our website ([www.dillsburgbic.org](http://www.dillsburgbic.org)) for closure information.

**Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.**

**— Max Lucado**



## Prayer for Palestine

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

*A timely and helpful letter from our missionaries in the Middle East, D and MG.*

Many of you reached out to us wanting to know how to pray over the current situation in the Middle East. If you're not sure where to start, here's a prayer from MCC Canada's Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, Anna Vogt:

O God of life and love and peace,  
We witness the violence and injustice in your Holy Land  
And our hearts break.

Our hearts break for the people of Israel—  
For the victims of violent attacks by Hamas  
For those who live with fear and insecurity  
For those who suffer from the inter-generational trauma of violence.

Our hearts break for Palestinians—  
For the victims of violent attacks by the Israeli military  
For those being denied water, electricity and medical care  
For those who are refugees, long displaced from their homes.

We especially pray—  
That weapons of war be laid down  
That walls of separation be dismantled  
That prisoners be released  
That demonizing of “the other” cease  
That political leaders seek the good of all people in Palestine and Israel.

O God, whose heart breaks for the world,  
May your justice dwell in the land  
May your righteousness abide in fruitful fields  
May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust forever  
May the effect of justice be peace—enduring peace.

Amen





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 Meals

On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, come to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious free meal served from 5:30-6:00 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 6:30PM. If you can volunteer time to help prepare, serve, or clean up after the meal. Please sign up at [www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/](http://www.dillsburgbic.org/corner-life/) We only have one meal for the month of December due to the holiday schedule.

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

**December 6**  
Pork Loin  
Smashed Red Potatoes  
Baked Corn  
Assorted Pies



### For Unto *Us* a Child is Born

When I resort to an escape response [in dealing with conflict], I am generally focusing on "me." I am looking for what is easy, convenient, or non-threatening for myself. When I use an attack response, I am generally focusing on "you," blaming you and expecting you to give in and solve the problem. When I use a peacemaking response, my focus is on "us." I am aware of everyone's interests in the dispute, especially God's, and I am working toward mutual responsibility in solving a problem.

*Taken from [The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict](#) by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 46-47.*

### *Food for Thought*

The great pronouncement of the prophet Isaiah concerning the Messiah--"For unto **us** a child is born, unto **us** a son is given" (Is. 9:6a, emphasis ours)--takes on special meaning this time of year as we reflect on Ken's words, above.

By definition, Christmas can never be fully celebrated by "me" as a "personal family time with loved ones." If we celebrate in this way, we duck the piercing challenge of Christmas. We embrace the left side of the Slippery Slope and seek only that which is "easy, convenient, and non-threatening."

But Christmas is very threatening indeed. It is good news, but it is the kind of good news that cuts through "easy, convenient, and non-threatening" like a sword. Christmas is a stubbornly "us" celebration.

Just as Jesus redefined "neighbor" in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Christmas redefines "us" and insists that that definition--and the celebration of Christmas--must include those we'd rather not see around the tree on Christmas morning. In Jesus' Christmas celebration, our enemies are there--those who slander us and curse us and steal from us. Total strangers are there, for whom we now can and must care because God has cared for us. And even those who simply hurt our feelings unknowingly are there--those against whom we may presently be harboring tiny seeds of bitterness in our heart.

How and where will you celebrate Christmas this year? Will it be an "easy, convenient, and non-threatening" celebration spent entirely with loved ones? (One can almost hear Jesus' question in Matthew 5:47, "Do not even pagans do that?")

Or will your Christmas celebration take you to visit a home you'd rather not visit? Will it cause you to pick up the phone and dial a number you've long since quit dialing? Will it draw you outward to bring good news to a modern-day "shepherd" watching flocks by night (a convenience store clerk on Christmas eve, perhaps; or on-duty police officer or fire fighter)? Will it cause you to proclaim "good tidings of great joy for all the people"--to a stranger that you might otherwise pass without a word?

If so, then you will be swept up into the great prophecy recorded in Isaiah 9:7: "Of the increase of his government and **peace** there will be no end" (emphasis ours).

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# 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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Andrew Miller	December 1	Jacob Brandt	December 12
Lincoln Horst	December 4	Randy Fish	December 13
Julie Walsh	December 5	Jason Smith	December 14
Reuben Smith	December 5	<i>(Naomi's husband - not to be confused with Jay Smith's son)</i>	
Romina Altez-Nunez	December 6	Peggy Knepper	December 16
Avis Whitesel	December 7	Jane Tucker	December 19
Zimra Waris	December 7	John Spurrier	December 19
Susan Hatch	December 9	Jordyn Moyer	December 20
Avery Carlson	December 12	Wendell Hoover	December 20
Julie Cook	December 12	Clarence Brubaker	December 23
Nicole Rank	December 12	Lauren Renard	December 28

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	5	6 5:00 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer (In-person and Zoom)	7 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	8 Doulos Deadline	9 8:00 am Men's Breakfast (FH)
10 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm LC/MC/Staff Discipleship Meeting 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer (Zoom)	14 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	15	16 3:00 pm Christmas Caroling
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	18	19	20 6:00 pm Children's choir rehearsal 6:30 pm Carols and Stories	21 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	22	23
24 NO Sunday School 10:00 am Worship (Children's Program) 7:00 Candlelight Service	25	26 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study	27	28 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	29	30
Church Office Closed						