



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR

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

February 2024

"What Should I Say?"

By Anne-Marie Brandt

As a writer and former journalist, I am acutely aware that choosing the right combination of words in a sentence is crucial. Isn't it funny how just one or two words can change the tone or the entire trajectory of a sentence or conversation?

For example, I recently reposted a meme on my Facebook page. It said, "Synonyms are weird because if you invite someone to your cottage in the forest, it sounds nice and cozy, but if I invite you to my cabin in the woods, then you're going to die." If anyone has been to our house on what I call "Brandt Mountain," then you would totally understand why I find this so amusing. (We live on 10+ acres of wooded land on top of a mountain, and have an extremely steep and rocky driveway. Needless to say, our house/cabin is totally secluded from the main road.)

Throughout the years, there have been numerous times when I've put my foot in my mouth by choosing the wrong word(s) when speaking with someone; whether it was with a stranger, friend, family member, or even a business colleague or client. For instance, when I was younger, I remember congratulating a former co-worker I hadn't seen in a while on her pregnancy, only to find out she wasn't pregnant at all. Instead, she had recently put on some weight and was wearing an unflattering top. Whew—talk about being mortified!

There are other times when I hold my tongue and don't say anything at all for fear of saying the wrong thing and hurting someone's feelings or offending them. What do you say in response when a friend shares that they have been diagnosed with a serious illness, experienced a tragedy or death in their family, or are losing their job? Situations like these are challenging to gauge what words of encouragement or sympathy should be given. Are the words "I'm sorry" or "that stinks" ever adequate or appropriate in these situations?

In the past, I've often caught myself saying the words "I'm sorry" in response to someone's bad news. By definition, the words "I'm sorry" are to be used as an apology towards a person you've wronged, not as words of sympathy or empathy. Lately, I've rephrased how I offer

encouragement and sympathy by saying "I'm sorry you have to go through this" or "How can I travel this journey with you?" These phrases come more from my heart and feel more sincere, rather than full of pity or apology.

The Greek word for "encourage" is "parakaleo." It is used in the New Testament to describe not only giving comfort to someone but also involving exhortation, urging, strengthening, and even appealing. It is used in passages like 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing,*" and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*" (www.placefortruth.org/blog/biblical-encouragement)

One of my love languages is "Words of Affirmation," which consists of encouraging, positive words and verbal or written acknowledgments of love and care. In the past, I've tried not to be stingy with words of encouragement, no matter how simple and brief. Within the past 10 years, I've become a huge fan of texting! I know many people do not like to text using their mobile phones, but I absolutely love to text! I have found that texting allows me to send short, encouraging messages to friends without interrupting them with a phone call. Granted, there are many situations where a phone call appropriate, but I've found that the majority of the time, a text allows the recipient the flexibility to respond when they are able to.

This month: I encourage you to send a card, a text message, or a simple email to five people who come to your mind after you read this article. Don't fret over having to come up with a long letter or flowery prose—just jot down a sentence or two and send it. Even if your entire message consists of only "your name popped into my head and I just wanted to say 'hello'" - it's enough. I guarantee that the recipient of your communication will feel encouraged when they receive it.

Trust me, it's true!.



A Fair is Coming to DBIC!!! Sunday, February 4



Blue-ribbon pies, adorable livestock, and the sweet smell of freshly cooked funnel cake? Well, not quite that kind of fair! But how about a gathering of DBIC ministry leaders ready to connect with you about what their ministry area is about and how you can both

be served by and serve in that area? Whether it is connecting with a small group or a deacon, sharing your artistic skills, connecting with the Dillsburg community, or simply helping greet people on a Sunday morning, there will be information for all! AND, we will have finger food, a scavenger hunt, and DBIC logoed take-home items - yours for just stopping by! All this and more on Sunday, February 4th, right after the morning service! See you at the Ministry Fair!

** SAVE THE DATE—February 10 **

Annual Congregational Council Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Council meeting will take place on **Saturday, February 10**. This is where we elect members of Leadership Council and approve the 2024 budget and other recommendations of Leadership Council. The meeting is open to everyone who attends DBIC, although voting is restricted to members. We will share a potluck breakfast at 8:30 am, and the meeting begins at 9:15 am. Suggested contributions for the breakfast are as follows: If your last name begins with: A - L Pastry, M - S Breakfast Casserole, T - Z Fruit. Coffee, juice, paper products and utensils will be provided.

DILLSBURG BRETHREN IN CHRIST STAFF



Rob Douglass
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Associate Pastor

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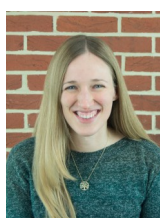


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The Doulos Newsletter Information

Doulos Editors: Kathy Bennett, Anne-Marie Brandt
Rhonda Hebbard

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

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
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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/

February 7

Chicken Tortellini Bake
Salad
Rolls
Rice Krispie Treats

February 21

Chicken Tortilla Soup
Quesadillas with Toppings
Ice Cream Sandwich Cake

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

Getting by with a little help from a friend...

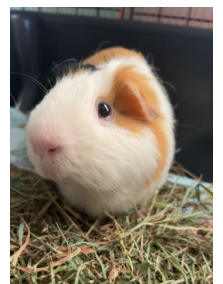
Note from Anne-Marie Brandt: You may have noticed a new name on the Doulos Editing Team. It is my pleasure to introduce you all to my friend Rhonda Hebbard. She has graciously offered her proofreading skills to us during this time of transition after Carolyn Kimmel's passing. She is an amazing friend, trustworthy business colleague, and a most wonderful human being. If you get an opportunity to meet her—I'm certain you would agree.

Who is Rhonda Hebbard?

You may have seen that she's stepped in to help edit the monthly Doulos newsletter, but many of you may not know her. A recent retiree from sales and marketing in the global tech space, she has her roots right here in central PA. Prior to moving into technology, she was the owner of Hooplas Etc., the event planning and decorating business located in the West Shore Farmers Market, where she was known for her imaginative balloon creations.

But beyond her work, she is most proud of her family. She lives in Mechanicsburg with her funny and full-of-life husband, David. Currently her 19-year-old daughter, Riley, is in Orlando working for 'The Mouse' as part of the Disney College Program. Rhonda and David have spent much of the past year in Orlando exploring the area and spending as much time with Riley as possible.

Making the most of retirement, the Hebbards spend time camping and traveling together and cheering on the Baltimore Ravens! Rhonda is a dedicated Pickleball player, avid reader, crafter and mom to Chester, her beloved 9-year-old guinea pig!



THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

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Dear Church Family ~ Thank you to each one who prayed for me and my family throughout the 3.5 years of my little sister Naomi's battle with cancer. We are thankful for your care and support. We celebrate Naomi's freedom from her sick body and simultaneously mourn the void left in our hearts and lives since she is no longer present with us. Nothing takes the pain away, but the prayers and practical kindnesses of God's people have been a blessing.

With thanks, Julie Cook.

The family of Naomi Rose Cook is thankful for her life, for your friendship, and for your kindness and prayers.



STOP TRAFFIC

by Marj Strayer



There is a lot happening at Peace Promise. First, I would like to update you on what is happening among the women we serve and those women who now partner in serving. Several of the women have asked for a Bible study specifically designed for trafficking survivors. Patty and Nikki, a survivor, will co-lead this study. How exciting and gratifying it is to see these women becoming leaders. Two other women have been asked to speak at the "For Love & Freedom Benefit" dinner this year. God is working through prayers and the wisdom he gives to those who reach out and walk beside them. I encourage those who are praying for Peace Promise to keep trusting God for the journey of trafficking survivors and those who are just starting on the way. It may be slow going, certainly not as fast as we would like, but I am convinced that His timing is perfect for each of the individual women He is drawing to His light. To date God has set 35 women free who were, and some who still are, connected with Peace Promise.

The benefit dinner mentioned above is scheduled for March 8th and will be held at Messiah University, Martin Commons. Details will follow in the bulletin and online at www.peacepromise.org. But the collection of auction items is already being called for. This could be something for your small group, Bible study, office friends, family or individuals to consider donating. You can reach the sign up on the Peace Promise Facebook page or check out DBIC this Week email.

PS. Tiana, the survivor whose story I shared during Advent, and her husband are teaching the youth at their church and sharing their story among the churches in their area. Thank you, God.

Online Registration: <https://peacepromise.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/peacepromise/eventRegistration.jsp?event=53>

For Love & Freedom

Annual Benefit Event
March 8, 2024 | 6:00pm

New Hope Ministry Musings

By Ginny Spurrier

DBIC family,

Thank you, once again, for your generous contributions for New Hope Ministries for the Thanksgiving Baskets in November and the Christmas Blessings Express in December. Your participation blessed many families and individuals over those celebrations.

Following is just a bit of information that was gleaned off the New Hope website that I thought you might be interested in reading as it pertains specifically to the Brethren in Christ church here in Dillsburg. If it tempts you to know more you can access any other information on the website, nhm.pa.org.



BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

January 1982 it was announced that because of government cuts to domestic programs, particularly to human services, Community Progress Council of York would be phasing out the programs of Dillsburg Dover Social Services, Incorporated (the only social service center in the area) by the end of the year. Concerns about the impact this would have on the community, particularly for those 430 families being served at a time of growing unemployment, prompted representatives from local churches to begin planning for an outreach ministry that would help fill the void when the government-funded center closed.

Generally, individual churches are not prepared to handle the task of emergency assistance alone, but by networking together with the community, churches can provide a center of service and emergency assistance, encouragement, and hope to those struggling with real survival needs.

New Hope Ministries was incorporated by the end of the year, 1982. The name "New Hope" had been selected to convey a message of hope and encouragement to those coming for assistance as well as to identify the ministry with the message of hope Christ holds out to all mankind.

On January 3, 1983, New Hope Ministries opened its doors in an approximately 15' x 25' space at the Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church, with a food pantry of about 10' x 12' in a limestone-walled basement corner accessed only from the outside at the corner of East Harrisburg and South Chestnut Streets. ("Those guesstimated measurements cannot be verified today because of renovations that have taken place in those spaces.") That first month, with just one part-time but very committed staff person and many dedicated volunteers, New Hope was able to have its doors open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

New Hope Ministry records show that the first month of New Hope's operation (January 1983) 56 families were served. That number jumped to 80 in February. In just two months, New Hope Ministries had served 109 different family units, that number reflecting some family units served in both January and February. By the end of that first year the total number of families served was 239.

By April 1983, The Salvation Army approached New Hope Ministries, asking New Hope to administer their funds for the area. Later in the year, York Rescue Mission asked New Hope to distribute thirty-seven Thanksgiving baskets in New Hope's service area. In December, New Hope

conducted its own Christmas dinner distribution of sixty-six boxes of food donations and wrapped gifts for children.

A year later, on January 7, 1984, New Hope Ministries filed a formal application with the United Way of York County to become a Partner Agency. On February 1, 1984, a United Way panel met with a group of New Hope staff, board members, and volunteers to review New Hope's application. On April 1, 1984, New Hope Ministries was formally approved as a United Way Partner Agency.

Did you know that the United Way of Adams County, United Way of the Capital Region and the United Way of York County provide low- to moderate-income working families with help completing federal and state tax returns? New Hope also serves as a meeting location. In fact in York County alone, New Hope Ministries provides 4 out of the 7 locations! For more details, visit your local United Way website.

As New Hope Ministries has grown, God has abundantly provided committed staff and volunteers and the needed resources, and after 35 years, we are still committed to sharing Christ's love by helping our neighbors in need, and currently provide services to close to 20,000 individuals from 8,400 families in York, Adams, and Cumberland Counties.

"There are so many people around you in need today, not just physically or financially, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Everyone you meet needs someone to encourage him or her. Will you make time to reach out and show them the awesome, unconditional, sacrificial love of Christ? Remember, God sees everything you do in His name and will bless you for all you do in obedience to Him (Hebrews 6:10).

Jesus, show me where I can serve others with Your love and compassion. Work through me to draw others to Yourself. Amen.

My hope is in Jesus because He is worthy of my service."

(Excerpt from Jesus Our Perfect Hope by Dr. Charles Stanley, copyright Charles F. Stanley.)

Our New Hope donation For February is: Laundry detergent.

Thank you!!!



General Announcements:

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9 a.m. During the months of January-March, the adult class will view two video series with teaching by Ray Vander Laan. We will journey with God's people in their exodus from Egypt and travels in the desert with the series "God Heard Their Cry" and "Fire on the Mountain."

Here are the locations for all Sunday School classes:

- Preschool: Room 105
- Grades K-2: Room 103
- Grades 3-5: Room 201 (note change of location!)
- Youth (Middle/High School): Room B-6
- Young Adults: Orange Room
- Adults: Fellowship Hall

Service Livestream: We will continue to stream the church services for those who do not attend in person. You will receive a link via email each Sunday. You can also join the livestream by going to the website (www.dillsburgbic.org) If you view the service using the link in your email, you will not need a username or password; however, please note that a username and password will be needed to access services from the dillsburgbic.org website due to privacy and copyright issues. The username will ALWAYS be: dbic and the password will always be: "sermons" (without the quotes). Feel free to share this information with anyone you know who would like to join us virtually as we worship!

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

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

Newsletter availability: While we distribute the monthly newsletter by email and it is available on the website, we also realize some people prefer having a paper edition. If you would like a printed copy in your mailbox each month, please call or email the office and let Kathy know!

Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES




Jeff & Lois Conrady	February 15
Tom & Kathy Renard	February 26



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rob Douglass	February 1	Tyler Whitesel	February 16
Becky Horst	February 1	Nancy Prowell	February 18
Eliana Miller	February 2	Jan Kerstetter	February 21
Eleanor Poe	February 3	Tariq Waris	February 21
Paul Lerew	February 4	Eben Sneddon	February 22
Sharon Brandt	February 5	Kendal Rank	February 23
Emily Schmehl	February 8	Mary Ann Brubaker	February 23
Emily Vader	February 10	Suzanne Erikson	February 26
Samantha Brandt	February 10	Jon Dale	February 27
Angelina Waris	February 11	Katie Renard	February 28
Diana Dale	February 12	Beth Shelly	February 28
Annabeth Rotz	February 14	Tessa Walsh	February 29
Deb Monko	February 16		

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	2	3
4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Ministry Fair	5 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	6	7 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life Meal 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	8 Doulos Deadline 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	9	10 8:30 am Potluck Breakfast 9:15 am Congregational Council Meeting
11 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 12:00 pm LC/MC/Staff Discipleship Meeting	12	13 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom)	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 6:30 pm Leadership Council 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	16 9:00 am Local Outreach	17
18 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	19 7:00 pm Deacon Meeting (Zoom)	20	21 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life Meal 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	22 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)	23	24
25 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	26	27 6:40 pm Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom)	28 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	29 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 7:30 Prayer (Zoom)		