

THE PLOWSHARES

July 2018

Carry Your Cross

Matthew 16:24-25: Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

One of the struggles of the church across our country today is that we have moved from Christianity being a dominant force in our communities to a place now where the faith is in serious decline. In the golden years of the church in America, much of life revolved around the church. If you weren't a part of the church then it was hard for you to be a leader in your community or to make do. This meant that churches were full and the church's resources were abundant because the church was the place to be.

Unfortunately, things are not so easy now. Now, as churches struggle and fight to stay alive, the golden days have long gone. When things were easy we didn't have to work so hard to evangelize our communities, try very hard to get people in the doors, put much effort into seeing a church full on a Sunday morning. The church worked hard and cared for its members, but we didn't have to look far to find good people to serve. It was like this for so long that I believe we may have come out of practice in sharing our faith and evangelizing our communities.

But now is when the rubber really meets the road and we find ourselves in a situation more similar to the early church. It's not so easy now because the tide of society is against us. The early Christians faced a daunting task, to share the Gospel in a hostile world. They faced persecution and sufferings that we can't begin to imagine. It was hard work and people suffered and died for it. We may not have to go to such extremes as to die, but we may have to pick up our crosses and do some things differently. We may have to step out of our comfort zones and invite people to church. We may have to share our testimonies and faith with coworkers and neighbors. We may have to evangelize and go door to door in our communities. We may have to risk ridicule as we talk about our awesome God with those who may not believe in him. I hope that you will work with me to figure how we can accomplish this great task together.

-Pastor Eric

Church Picnic!

Ann & Bill Collier would like to invite everyone from both churches a church picnic on Sunday, July 15th.

Their address is 16343 Oakland Rd., Henderson, MD. 21640.



The picnic will begin at noon with swimming and lunch around 1:00 pm. The meat will be provided but guests are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

SUMC Vacation Bible School

Join the Fun!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

(For Children ages 3 and up)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
251 St. Paul's Road, Ingleside Md.

Wednesday - Friday
July 25, 26 & 27, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

POLAR BLAST - Where Jesus' Love is COOL!

2018 Summer Grilling Groups

July 3, 2018 @ 6:00 pm

Frank & Patty Waters
15898 Brooks Haven Dr., Goldsboro, MD. 21636
*Please RSVP to 443-977-9454

July 24, 2018 @ 6:00 pm

Jim & Faye Robinson
220 Ewingtown Rd
Church Hill, MD 21623-1222
*Please RSVP to (410) 758-6714

July 31, 2018 @ 6:00 pm

Ron Brown & Marion Swindell
15884 Brooks Haven Dr
Goldsboro, MD 21636-1180
*Please RSVP to (410) 253-2863

August 14, 2018

Buck & Judy Dashiell
1320 Sudlersville Rd
Sudlersville, MD 21668-1652
* Please Rsvp to (410) 556-2600

Food Pantry News for July!

*The SUMC Food Pantry Distribution for July will be:

Monday, July 23, 2018 at 10:00 am-12:00 pm and

Monday, July 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm– 7:30 pm.

There will not be any food distribution on Tuesday, July, 24th.

Thank You

~Maxine Rash & her family would like to thank everyone for their kindness & friendship during their time of sorrow. The beautiful basket of flowers was extremely appreciated.

New Address

To those who are sending cards and visiting Rev. Linda Mariner, her room has changed.

Corsica Hills Center, Genesis Health Care, 205 Armstrong Ave., **Room #55**,
Centreville, MD. 21617

REPORT FROM PENINSULA - DELAWARE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 234th session of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference was convened at UMES at the end of May. Pastor Eric and I were in attendance from our Charge, as your pastor and Lay Member to Annual Conference, respectively. The theme this year was “Leading as Followers of the Way”, with Psalm 23 being the theme scripture.

Opening worship was first on the agenda this year with a rousing time of praise and worship led by a combined team from three churches in the Conference. The guest speaker was Rev. Russell Ewell from St. Louis who reminded us that we need to be mindful that our churches do not overlook persons with disabilities or others on the margin of society. Later in the day, Clergy and Laity split into their respective sessions to conduct business and hear various speakers across the denomination.

During the Conference it was reported that our Conference’s giving to missions had increased in 2017 over 2016, most of that being due to support of UMCOR for disaster relief. Our Conference also, once again, continued to give 100% to the General Church apportionments. As a denomination, within the bounds of the Pen-Del Conference, the average worship attendance has decreased, yet participation in small groups has grown.

The Vision Team reported that a structural racism audit had been done to examine the policies and procedures of our Annual Conference’s structure through the lense of racial justice. The audit revealed that areas of financial equity, increased cultural communication and policy need to be examined more closely.

There was a brief celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United Methodist Church. We also heard reports from Wesley College, the Congo Mission Team, the Missions Board & VIM, and other ministries throughout the Conference.

Friday Night we celebrated Commissioning and Ordination in the Ella Fitzgerald Auditorium. One missionary was commissioned, who will be serving in California. One deacon and five elders were commissioned to probationary status. Also, three were ordained to the status as full elders.

In the business of the Annual Conference several resolutions were adopted, most as presented, three as amended, and one was withdrawn. If you are reading this on the Internet, I strongly urge you to go to the website of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference to see each resolution for specific language and its adoption at www.pen-del.org and **click on the link for the Annual Conference and also in the scrolling area, the “2018 Pen-Del Annual Conference Summary”**.



REPORT FROM PENINSULA - DELAWARE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONTINUED

Generally, the resolutions were affirmations and continuance of policies that are currently in place in our denomination and/or Conference. There was a 2% cost of living increase to the salary structure of pastors and there was a change in the retiree health coverage of pastors. The apportionment funding formula remained the same as in the past. Pastor Eric will be addressing Resolution #9 in the near future, which was entitled, "To Urge Unity in the Face of Schism", which was amended from its original language. In brief, our Annual Conference voted to amend it "to maintain the current language in the United Methodist Book of Discipline concerning matters of human sexuality as we prepare for the special session in 2019."

The Pen-Del Annual Conference will reconvene next year at the Wilmington Chase Center in May 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Carroll, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Sudlersville Celebrate Recovery

As most of you reading this know, there is a Celebrate Recovery ministry program held at Calvary-Asbury UMC every Thursday night from 7 to 9 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery, (known by the shortened name CR), is a biblical-based recovery program aimed at healing any "hurts, habits or hang-ups" one might have. There is a big misconception that CR is only for chemical dependency recovery. This is far from the truth, as I can personally attest to from being one of the participants, and never having been burdened with that type of problem.

CR also helps with issues such as, but not limited to: high anxiety, anger or control issues, family or financial dysfunction, eating disorders, codependency, gambling addiction, as well as chemical substance addictions.

You may wonder how all of these folks mixed together can recover from their various habits effectively. I would say that the success of this program wholly lies in the fact that Celebrate Recovery is based on the eight principles taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 and through a twelve step balanced program that addresses the hurts and habits that people experience in their daily lives. The healing occurs because Christ is at the center.



Sudlersville Celebrate Recovery Continued

The Sudlersville CR functions as a collaboration of ministry leaders from several churches: the Sudlersville Charge, Holden's Chapel, Hope Fellowship, and the Church Hill UMCharge. The general format is that from 7- 8 p.m. there is large group which is a time of worship and praise, and either a lesson taught based on the principles mentioned above or a testimony given by someone who has been part of CR either locally or from afar by video. The second hour, after a quick grab of coffee and snack, the men and women separate into our small group by gender, for interpersonal sharing of what the lesson or testimony has meant for each participant. All discussions are confidential and meaningful.

I recently asked the attendees at the Sudlersville Celebrate Recovery to anonymously jot down thoughts as to what CR has meant to them, and here are some of the answers that I received: "Peace, love, friendship, a safe place, a relief, family, caring, supportive, non-judgmental, life changing, life-saving, soul-saving, a new journey with Jesus, a weight lifted, re-born, helps me know I am not alone, freedom." So you can see by these remarks, Celebrate Recovery has and is making an impact on our community one person at a time, through the healing power that comes from Christ.

You may wonder why I attend Celebrate Recovery as I seem "pretty normal and composed" most of the time, and I already stated I don't have a substance dependency. I have to admit that I first went to be a "helper" in the new ministry, but it wasn't too long after I began attending, that I realized, as one of our attendees said, "We all have issues". I am no exception. Celebrate Recovery has helped me to understand myself better, "to learn to accept things I cannot change" (still working on that one), and to live a more peaceful life. I also have been able to see lives changed through this ministry, as no other than I have experienced before, and that has been a blessing in itself.

Do you think Celebrate Recovery might be for you or someone you know? If so, please come join us one Thursday night at 7 p.m. and check out the program. Someone's life may depend on it.

Submitted by,
Billie Carroll, Lay Leader CA

Note: Celebrate Recovery is a copyrighted ministry program developed by Saddleback Church pastored Rick Warren, and all materials used at our programs are part of that ministry.

