No Greater Peace

Gathered in His name
worshipping Thee
The Vine, the branches
God’s family

Jesus touches our soul
joy enters in
the mystery of His love
change begins

No greater peace
than time spent with Thee
who renews our hearts
so lovingly.

~ Lorraine Battista
Earth Week - continued: Who is my neighbor?

Who is my neighbor? Who are your neighbors? Who are St. Paul’s neighbors? These are some of the questions that the church Visioning Team is raising as we plan for the church-beyond-Covid.

On April 25, Pastor McMillan and I represented St. Paul’s in a Climate Conversation with 3 other “Foulk Road Congregations”. Our neighbors. It was most enlightening.

So, what is a Climate Conversation? In the Spring of 2018, the Eco Team at Osher collaborated with executive director Lisa Locke of Delaware Interfaith Power and Light (DEIPL) to hold a discussion about climate change among area youth, Osher folks, and community leaders. This was held as part of the Special Events Wednesday series. The youth were charged with developing the discussion topics and to lead the discussions at their tables. This was a first - in the state. No one knew what would happen.

What happened was 80 people participating! It was an energizing interchange of ideas about personal beliefs and attitudes around climate change, what could be done, what was holding us back…. We had a very difficult time adjourning so the next class could enter the room! It turned out that we had just launched “Climate Conversations”. Though we didn’t know it at the time. From that beginning, DEIPL has facilitated over 30 Climate Conversations around the state, in a variety of venues with a variety of audiences. Over 900 people have participated.

Fast forward to this past Sunday. The latest climate conversation. This time, representatives from St. Paul’s UMC, Good Shepherd Lutheran, First Unitarian of Wilmington (First U), and Camden Friends held a Climate Conversation. It was billed as The Foulk Road event, but clearly the boundaries were stretched.

What are these churches doing that got them invited? Good Shepherd has an amazing garden that started as a Girl Scout’s project and has morphed into several garden beds maintained by the church with produce going to the Saint Steven’s Food Pantry in Wilmington…, PLUS 34 beds maintained by neighbors who tithe 10% of their produce to the pantry. The garden has become a community.

First U has a strong tradition of being out in front on major social issues. They are turning their three-acre property into a Green Sanctuary including the planting of native shrubs, trees, and flowers. They are also raising funds for roof-top solar.

Camden Friends has done a major green redo’s of their property and buildings. Also, addressing their electrical needs with solar power. Friends social activism goes back a long way.
Some of our attempts to go green here at St. Paul’s include: a church energy audit, new white roofing material, the use of LED lighting, and making sure that all leftovers at church events go to feed others. According to the US Department of Agriculture, food waste, in the United States, is estimated at between 30-40 percent of the food supply, an unnecessary cost to our environment. So, a history of trying to do the right thing.

What’s next? We will meet again! I’ll publicize info when available. Can you suggest another “area” congregation that should be part of this? What about your senior living facility? Your church group? Missions team? UMW circle? Your neighborhood? Your book club? The possibilities are endless. I’ll try to summarize the discussions for next week’s article.

Regards, Mike Rominger

Staying Safe

The St. Paul's Re-Opening Team recently met to discuss the state of the coronavirus pandemic and our safety protocol. While many of us are getting vaccinated, due to the increasing number of variants and the uptick in COVID cases in New Castle County, we will continue to adhere to our current safety protocol on Sunday morning including: signed acknowledgement forms, attendance for contact tracing, mask wearing, social distancing, no singing, and dismissal by our ushers at the end of the service.

All conversations following the service are encouraged to be held outdoors. After some consideration, church groups are now welcome to use the church grounds and/or building. When meeting outdoors, groups are asked to adhere to CDC recommendations including wearing masks and standing 6 feet apart. Groups wanting to meet indoors are also required to wear masks, to keep social distance, and to meet in well ventilated rooms. Each group is also asked to keep a list of all participants in the event contact tracing is necessary.

All groups interested in meeting indoors are asked to contact Pastor Dave by email at DaveMcMillan@Comcast.net with your meeting date, time, and the name of the room where you would like to meet.

Please be assured that the Re-Opening Team will continue to revisit our safety policy as changes in the infection rate, CDC, and State recommendations, warrant.
Are You a Giver or a Taker?

“...give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give
will be the measure you get back.”
- Luke 6:38

“I've learned that you shouldn't go through life
with a catcher’s mitt on both hands.
You need to be able to throw something back.”

Maya Angelou.com

Are you a Giver or a Taker? A few weeks ago, a friend was sharing with me a conversation he had with his brother. Acknowledging their differences, his brother said to him “there are two kinds of people in the world: Givers and Takers. You are a Giver and I am a Taker.”

Are you a “Giver” or a “Taker”? On what side of the balance sheet does your life fall? Do you give to the environment: plant native flowers or trees, hang a bird feeder in the winter time, recycle, conserve energy, pick up trash; or, do you feel the natural world is simply there to serve you? In relationships, do you expect others to cater to your needs or do you actively look for ways to be a blessing to others? As citizens of a nation, do you ask “what your country can do for you,” or “what you can do for your country.” As a friend or member of Saint Paul’s, do you look at the church like a consumer for what ministries or activities might meet your needs, or, how you might use your gifts and talents to help build up the ministries of our church?

Of course, it’s nice to be on the receiving end from time to time. It’s tough to give when your tank is empty. And, yet, in the words of Jesus, “it is in giving that we receive.” If you take for most of your life “you might end up gaining the whole world, but forfeiting your soul.” But, if you spend most of your life giving a little, life may come back to you in unexpected ways.

~ Pastor Dave
Welcome Back to Children's Sunday School!

St. Paul’s Children's Sunday School has resumed in-person classes. We meet outside each Sunday morning at 10:45 am as long as it is not raining; be sure to dress appropriately. Classes will be about 45-60 minutes. Extra time spent on the playground is at the discretion of each family.

There are two classes. Karen Pollack is leading age 3 to 3rd graders. Nicole Macturk and Susie Lengel are leading the 4th to 6th graders. Parents of the ages 3 to 3rd grade class are asked to stay on-site at church (bring a lawn chair and visit with other parents or wait in your car). We will do our best to maintain social distancing outdoors. Face masks are encouraged.

If rainy weather, we will meet inside church; face masks will be required. Again, parents of younger kids are asked to remain on-site at church.

Sunday School will be held through May 23 with a possible special activity on May 30. Any questions? Please contact Karen Pollack or Nicole Macturk. We are excited to see you all again!

Part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is currently searching for a new staff position, a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Please keep our search in your prayers…

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 1314 Foulk Road, Wilmington, is looking for a part-time (20 hours/week) Director of Children and Youth responsible for designing and facilitating a children and youth ministry program focused on building young disciples for Christ. A bachelor’s degree is required with demonstrated knowledge and experience in children and/or youth ministry. If interested in the full job description, please contact the church by emailing stpaulsumcde@comcast.net, Attention: Pastor David McMillan.
Freeborn Garrettson Adult Sunday School

The Garrettson Adult Sunday School continues our Social Justice Bible Challenge. These are the challenges and Bible readings for the next month. We are working through various New Testament books in our readings. We are working through the New Testament books in our readings.

05/02/2021 Day 39 James 1: 19-2:17 - How do we see our work day-to-day reflected in our faith?

05/09/ 2021 Day 40 1 John 4:1-21 - God is love. Behavior matters. God is calling us to serve.

Coming soon to a Zoom Sunday School near you!! Our friend, Connie Hastings, is the author of a blog, entitled “The Trouble with Jesus.” From May 16-June 27, 2021 the Garrettson Class will be using the blog and the discussion questions that Connie is creating for us and will send to each class member each week. In fact she will be joining us each Sunday via Zoom! How exciting. If you are interested in joining us on Sunday mornings at 11 via Zoom for this excellent opportunity please send Agnes Barkley your information at shewho46@gmail.com.

Thank You

We had a very successful spring clean-up day on Saturday, April 17. Gardens were weeded, raked, and mulched and a tree and bushes were trimmed. A big thank-you to all who worked on our church property - Agnes Barkley, Mike Battista, Ray Clowesley and Tricia Kronen, Debbie Demeter, Jan Dill, Victor and Doris Ferzetti, Rick Gibison, Joe Gloyd, Rob Kennan, Ralph and Candy McCafferty, Pastor Dave McMillan, Ken Morley, Frank and Nancy Pollack, Dwayne and Teresa Powell, Fran Smart, Chet Thayer, Suzanne Utke, Ed Vansant, and Matt Zehr.
Greeting Card Ministry Thank You

What caring, and prompt members we are blessed to have! Thanks to calls from Barbara Crawford, Lorraine Battista, and Barbara Robinson, our committee now has 12 members, one for each month. It is a joy to welcome them to this ministry.

It is nice to have a substitute, in case of unforeseen events. If you would like to join our committee as an occasional substitute, please call, Karen Muller at 302-475-0595.

Pastors Chat

Everyone is invited to meet with our pastors, Pastor Dave and David, every Thursday afternoon, at 1 pm, for a brief devotional followed by an opportunity to discuss current events, church life, and to ask questions. This Thursday, we’ll consider Jesus as The Vine and we who are his branches.

To join this Zoom Meeting, click or copy and paste the following address on your website browser: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86024126920?pwd=WElKcU5KZnA4b2NaWWF3bUtQbmJZUT09

If you are joining by phone only, dial the following number 646-876-9923 or 301-715-8592. You will then be prompted to give the Meeting ID: 860 2412 6920 and Password: 709660.
Preaching Schedule for Eastertide

Eastertide is a festal season in the liturgical year of Christianity that focuses on celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a period of 50 days, spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. Come and worship on Sunday mornings and witness the various ways in which the risen Christ continues to make Himself known in the midst of our daily living.

May 2

May 9

May 16

More Church News

The Messenger
I am always Looking for contributions to our weekly Messenger. Please consider sending in prayer requests, poem, jokes, baby pictures, reflections, etc. to DaveMcMillan@Comcast.net.

Pastoral Care & Emergencies
Pastor Dave (484-883-1050) and Pastor David (the older one - 302-545-3232) are available for pastoral care. If you have any concerns, or would like to talk, please give them a call.
Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

Norma Zumsteg, in the passing of her husband, Ken Holmes

Carol Apanowicz (healing)

Carol’s father, David Wiggins, 96 ½, going into hospice care

Frederick Smith (healing)

Carole Burdge (healing)

Shirley Erickson (healing)

Jim Jenkins, son-in-law of Dolores Garritano, who is still recovering from back surgery

Dot Wood (healing)

Tom Sobocinski (strength)

Elaine Linton (heart)

Florence Seney and Joan McGhie (back)

David Finch (healing)

Rick Stout (healing)

Rick Gamble (healing)

Kia, a friend of Elisabeth Parisi, who is having problems with her pregnancy

Our church, including caregivers

Our nation: leaders, citizenry, and the refugees in our midst