



A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Written by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

Grace and Peace,

With the temperatures rising (along with the pollen count), the number of folks heading to the shore is picking up and the amount of energy for students and their teachers is slowing down. When I was a teacher, this was the time of year when we all took a deep breath and made the final push to the end of the year - which for some brought graduation ceremonies.

Whether a cute preschool production with pint-sized graduates or the high school and college version (which is usually more serious and not nearly as cute), this is the time of year our minds turn to graduating - going from one level of learning to the next. With graduation pictures from years past populating my Facebook feed, I am reminded once more that graduation is not an end but a commencement - a beginning.

To keep learning, at any stage and in any way, is to keep growing. The reason we go to school or engage in studies is to change our position in life - whether moving from one grade to another, one job level to another, or simply to change our way of thinking. Whether formal "book learning" or "getting our hands dirty" learning, the process of change moves us from where we are to where we are meant to go.

The Scriptures encourage us, as disciples and followers of Christ, to keep moving forward - an action that requires lifelong learning. John Wesley put this as "going on to Christian perfection" - perfection meaning completion or a spiritual maturity, not the absence of flaws. The Apostle Paul writes

to the church in Rome, a church that is looking to change in accordance to following Christ as their Lord and Savior. Paul's words that we are changed or mature spiritually when we open ourselves to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Paul also writes in 1 Corinthians 3:2 that those who don't keep learning keep relying on "milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready." A similar sentiment is expressed by the writer of Hebrews when he writes, that the Christ follower or church goer has been following Jesus so long that "by this time you ought to be teaching others."

Learning goes beyond volunteering on our timeline and by our choice, to serving in the timeline and area of need. Teaching goes beyond sitting in a class, for when one teaches, learning increases. Likewise, we can not learn to make disciples if we are not a disciple ourselves.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Graduation - A Commencement - p 1**
- **What is your dream for Mariners? - p. 2**
- **Kids Church Update - p. 3**
- **Staff Parish Relations Committee - p. 4**
- **CRASH Youth Ministry - p. 4**
- **Vacation Bible School - p. 4**
- **May Activities & Events - p. 5**
- **Birthdays & Anniversaries - p. 6**
- **Feed My Sheep Menu for May - p. 6**
- **May Sermon Schedule - p. 7**
- **Save the Date - p. 7**
- **Assisting Bicycle Commuters - p. 8**

(continued from page 1)

In the coming weeks, I will be working with the pastoral staff and lay leadership to create a guide for next steps once someone has said yes to Jesus, or simply feels called to go deeper in their walk of faith. We serve. We learn. We grow. We learn more. We grow more. It creates a chain reaction that leads to spiritual maturity in our Christian faith and ultimately in our witness and in our church. For if we don't grow, we flat line.

Albert Einstein once said, "Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." Being a graduate is a good thing, but it's in the days and years that follow where the graduation becomes a stepping stone to fulfilling God's will in our lives. For followers of Christ, taking each graduated step of living life - with its steps formed from prayer and built upon the foundation of scripture. The truth and grace of the gospel can either graduate us to a new level of faith or trip us up when we try to make it solely on our own.

So for those graduating and moving on up - from school, college, or any endeavor - remember you are not the same person you were when you began this process. And church, the same is to be said of every one of you. In Christ, your thinking has changed and you have grown. And now a new road lies before you - a new beginning, a commencement that proves we are all works in progress and God is not done with us yet.

Congratulations and Thanks be to God!

Pastor Becky



WHAT IS YOUR DREAM PRAYER FOR MARINERS?

Written by Rev. Leo Park

"6. And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." (Revelation 5:6-8, ESV)

Hallelujah!!

In Revelation 5, we see a picture of worship in heaven. Four angels and twenty-four elders are prostrating themselves before the throne of Jesus, the Lamb, and in their hands are harps and golden bowls. And the golden bowls are full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints on the earth. The four angels and the twenty-four elders are praising the Lord with the harps and lifting up to the Lord the prayers of the saints on earth in the golden bowls.

From April 11-13, the first Northeast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church was held in Camp Hill, PA. I couldn't resist the tears from my eyes because what we had been dreaming about for several years was actually happening before my eyes. The Northeast GMC has come a long way over the past few years, with so many challenges, and after enduring the birth pains, we gave birth that day to a new baby named "Northeast Global Methodist Church."

On the morning of Friday, April 12, we handed out dream prayer cards to everyone at the conference and asked them to write down their dream prayer for the new Northeast GMC and put it in a golden bowl. We read some of the dream prayers in worship that evening, and then I held the golden bowl with all the dream prayers in the air and prayed "tongsung kido" in unison with the 450 people at the conference.

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

We, the Mariners Bethel Church, have come a long way in our struggle with denominational disaffiliation. After enduring great birth pains, we gave birth to a new baby named "Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church."

What is your dream prayer for the new Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church? Dream prayer cards will be available on Sunday, May 5. Please pray about your dream prayer. Ask the Lord what His dream is for our church. God says in Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Psalm 62:5 (NKJV) says, "Wait silently, my soul, for God alone, for my expectation is from Him." I pray that the Lord will reveal to your heart His dream for our church.

The golden bowl will be in the Sanctuary on the altar in front of the organ. Please write your dream prayer on a prayer card and place it in the golden bowl by Sunday, May 12th. We will collect all of your dream prayers, read some of the dream prayers, hold the golden bowl in the air and pray "tongsung kido" in unison during worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.



KID'S CHURCH UPDATE

Written by Tiffany Kelley & Michelle Christopher

Thank you to those who came out for our ARMOR Forum on April 15th. We had a great conversation, and it is apparent that there is a lot of support for moving to a slightly different format for Kids Church. Starting June 16th, we plan to start using a curriculum program called Simply Loved by Group. This program will let us explore the Old and New Testaments with the kids. We will take a journey through the Bible and discover friendship with Jesus throughout God's story.

We plan to take our past Kids Church Program (pre-covid) and our current Family Church program and combine them. Kids will still start in church with their families for the opening and a song or two. We will then dismiss the kids and take them upstairs for their lesson to include the Bible story, videos, music, games, crafts, and more. Giving us more time upstairs will allow us the time to teach them Bible stories written specifically for their age group.

This program will be the most successful with a core group of volunteers. We are looking to have people rotating as volunteers and the goal is that most people will only volunteer once a month (or more if they want to). Our specific needs are as follows:

Emcee - This will be the person leading the message each week. The program is provided for you - you are teaching and leading the kids through the lesson. You will not be giving the message to adults downstairs - just to the kids upstairs. We will have the lesson plans three months in advance so there will be plenty of time for review. They are "Simply" Loved because they are written in a way that is "Simple" for volunteers. We currently have 3 people who signed up for this position so we would LOVE to find 1-2 more to rotate schedules.

Craft - We would love to have another one or two people to plan and lead a craft each week. Miss Judy is amazing, but she would love to be able to attend church herself and loves to travel as well. Again, this program will offer craft ideas if you want to use those, or feel free to be creative with a craft you want to share with the kids.

Leader (Crowd Control) - We would like to have 2-3 each week. This person just helps the kids. Whether it is just helping them sit still, running to the restroom, helping them with a craft, or just being there as support - this is an important part of our program. It allows the Emcee and craft person to focus on their lessons and offers support to the kids as well.

If you are interested in our children's ministry, please reach out to Tiffany Kelley at FamilyandYouth@MarinersBethel.org or Michelle Christopher at KidsChurch@MarinersBethel.org.

We would love to have you be a part of planting seeds in these children's lives!

STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

By Jeff Heintzelman (SPRC Chair)

I am pleased to inform you that Ray Danieli has agreed to join the committee and lead a new activity called "Congregation Connection." We're putting this in place to promote greater unity in the church by informing, encouraging, connecting with, and most importantly, just listening to members of our 'parish' (congregation).

We will do this by inviting no more than 5 or 6 Mariners' members at a time, to join us for a chat and take part in a relaxed conversation in the Hope Center about all things concerning their faith and our church. These 'up-to-90-minute' sessions will be conducted during both day and evening. Before ending our sessions, we will recap the participant's key comments and questions shared, particularly matters requiring follow-up.

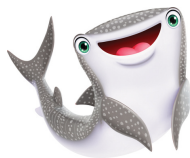
We commit to swiftly sharing notable comments and follow-up with parties that can best address these concerns and questions. Not every issue or concern can be easily or quickly dealt with, and we may not be able to resolve every matter, but we do commit to communicating with all participants and to explain the next steps, reasons for delays, and/or positions taken.

We hope that by giving the congregation a forum and opportunity to share what's on their mind and ask questions about Mariners and the Global Methodist Church, our members will feel that they have a voice and are being heard. If you would be interested in being invited, please let Ray or me know when you see us or by email to beartrap108@yahoo.com. We look forward to our chat.

CRASH YOUTH MINISTRY BY TIFFANY KELLEY

Our youth are getting ready to start the first of many Parent's Night Out events. These events will be held in the Hope Center on either a Friday or Saturday night from 5-8 PM and will consist of lots of games (both indoors and outdoors), dinner, and a movie! This event is helping our youth raise money to attend a mission week in Philadelphia, PA at the end of July, where youth will again have the opportunity to rebuild homes, churches, and work directly with the city's homeless population.

The first Parent's Night Out is **Friday, May 10th from 5-8 PM** in the Hope Center. The cost is \$15 for the first child and \$5 for siblings and is for children ages 6-12. You can sign up today on the church center app or by going to <https://marinersbethel.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2278618>.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

At SCUBA, kids plunge into an undersea world brimming with colorful coral, flashy fish and abundant life. Immersed in oceans of fun, kids discover God is a real friend who loves them forever.

Again this summer we welcome kids ages 4 through finishing 5th grade to participate in the "greatest week of the year," by attending our VBS from July 8-12. Daily sessions from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Each day will include songs, skits, Bible stories, crafts, snacks, games, videos and so much more. There are also limited spots for youth 6th grade and above. Register online today, or stop in the office to sign up!

<https://marinersbethel.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2216851>

ROCK OF AGES SPRING LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 4 at 12:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

The theme of this fun-filled afternoon of great food, entertainment and fellowship is Springtime Serenade. All Mariners Wise Youth (those aged 70+) are invited to attend this wonderful annual event.



POT LUCK DINNER

Sunday, May 19 at 5:00 PM in the Hope Center

Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a dish to share, and enjoy great food and fellowship. Any questions, contact Karen Brassart at kbrassartrn@gmail.com

MARINERS BETHEL WOMEN

Monday, May 13 at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to our meetings. This month we will enjoy a time sharing stories for Mother's Day. We hope to see you there. You are welcome to bring a friend. Contact Bonnie Cannon or Nancy Lathbury.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

From **May 23 through June 27th**, CBS will be doing a new Bible Study, "God's Amazing Book." The group meets from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Social Hall. All age groups are invited! For further information, contact Marty Quillen at martyquillen@mediacombb.net.

ABC BIKE SALE



On Saturday, **May 25th**, from 8 AM - Noon, come to the church's Outdoor Pavilion, where the Assisting Bicycle Commuters Ministry will be selling refurbished bikes. Come and see the great selection at terrific prices, and support this important ministry at the beach. For further information, contact Mike Shriver at glfnguy18@gmail.com, or call the church office.

SON WORSHIP AT THE HOPE CENTER

Sunday, May 26 at 8:00 AM

Come and experience our new worship service on Sunday mornings. This special service is casual and will allow you to spend the rest of the day Sun worshipping or whatever you need to do!

Held Memorial Day through Labor Day!



WOMEN CENTRAL'S SUMMER BEACH STUDY

This summer Women Central will again hold their beach study at Bethany Beach and 2nd Street. The study will be "The No-Homework Women's Bible Study: Group Hug IV," by Christine Tate. Get ready to buckle up for another fun round of discussion based critical thinking centered around God's word with your Christian sisters. This study takes you through engaging weekly discussions including submitting to God's will, anger, selfishness, being fruitful, hearing God, white lies, fear, and the highs and lows of life. The study will be held **Wednesday mornings** beginning **June 12-July 31**.

BIRTHDAYS

5/1 - Carlie Smith
5/2 - Marty Quillen
5/2 - Angel Bunting
5/3 - Joanne Young
5/4 - Chance Megee
5/5 - Jeff Heintzelman
5/5 - Tim Smith
5/6 - Kathryn Beck
5/7 - Tiffany Kelley
5/8 - Richard Nippes
5/9 - Marilyn Adams
5/9 - Hywel Davies
5/10 - Bob Lueckel
5/10 - Jeannette Saneholtz
5/12 - Dave Metzger



BIRTHDAYS

5/15 - Jim Hedgespeth
5/16 - Jack Wheeler, Jr.
5/19 - Wally Huffman
5/21- Fred Stokes
5/22 - Fran Milio
5/23 - Eileen Mazzatenta
5/25 - Carol Lewis
5/26 - Barbara Crowell
5/26 - Joan O'Day
5/27 - Ethel Poplovski
5/27 - Gladys Bunting
5/28 - Heather Smyth
5/30 - Savannah O'Shields
5/30 - Vicki McCowan

ANNIVERSARIES

5/6 - Keith & Amy Brothers
5/13 - Bill & Carol Lewis
5/16 - Jeff & Liz Heintzelman
5/21 - Bob & Pat Schlauch
5/26 - Wayne & Bonnie Cannon

Menu for May

Feed My Sheep Cafe
Tuesdays from 11:30-1:00
in the Hope Center

May 7

Italian Sausage Sub with a side of Tater Tots
Soups: Potato Leek and Chicken Enchilada

May 14

Chicken Patties Parmigiana with Salad and a Roll
Soups: Ukranian Chicken and Broccoli Cauliflower

May 21

Baked Chicken with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Soups: Chicken Noodle and Tex-Mex Meatball

May 28

Cheeseburger with Chips
Soups: Cheeseburger and Bacon Zucchini with Corn



Menu changes may occur
due to food supply

May 2024 Sermon Schedule

MAY 5

Unshakeable Truth: Salvation

Rev. Becky Collison

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24

MAY 12 - MOTHER'S DAY

Unshakeable Truth: Power of Love

Communion Served

Rev. Becky Collison

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

MAY 19 - PENTECOST

Unshakeable Truth: Victorious Faith

Rev. Becky Collison

Scripture: 1 John 5:1-6

MAY 26 - MEMORIAL WEEKEND

What Matters Most?

Rev. Becky Collison

Scripture: John 17:1-11



SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR

- 5/4 Rock of Ages "Springtime Serenade" Luncheon
Model Train Show in the Hope Center
- 5/7 Raising Canes Bible Study at 10:30 AM
- 5/10 Parents Night Out 5-8 PM in the Hope Center
- 5/12 Mother's Day/Communion Sunday/New Member Launch
- 5/18 New Member Voyage
- 5/19 Pentecost Sunday/Welcome New Members
- 5/19 Pot Luck Dinner in the Hope Center at 5 PM
- 5/25 ABC Bike Sale under the Pavilion at Mariners
- 5/26 Memorial Day Weekend
8:00 AM New Sunday Service in the Hope Center Begins
- 5/27 Memorial Day Monday – Church Offices Closed
- 6/1 EOH Volunteer Appreciation Day
- 6/2 Graduate Sunday
- 6/12 Women Central's Beach Study Begins at Bethany Beach & 2nd Street - 8:30-9:45 AM

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Collison

Senior Pastor

PastorBecky@MarinersBethel.org

Rev. Leo Park

Associate Pastor

PastorLeo@MarinersBethel.org

Office

81 Central Avenue

Ocean View, DE 19970

Tel: 302.539.9510

Administrator@MarinersBethel.org

www.MarinersBethel.org

ASSISTING BICYCLE COMMUTERS MINISTRY

Written By Mike Shriver

The ABC bike ministry begins the 2024 season by saying goodbye and thanks to two of our key volunteers: Louis Melton (Director) and Joanne Yuvanc (student engagement). We are extremely thankful for all they did to raise the bar to the highest of levels.

We begin the 2024 season in great shape with well over 160 bikes ready for distribution to those in special need of transportation and the J1 students who will be visiting our communities over the next 5-6 months.

Our 16 ABC volunteers have spent the winter months servicing all of our bike inventory, ensuring our bikes are ready and safe to ride.

Our bicycle safety team is positioned to provide both in-classroom training and observation, evaluation and improving actual bicycle riding skills using a course laid out in the parking lot. Bike lights and helmets are a requirement for the students and our helmet incentive program will be in full force this season.

Funding for the ABC bike ministry comes from generous donations from members of our community. We also hold a bike sale to generate critically needed funds to operate. This year our ABC bike sale will be held on Saturday, May 25th from 8-12 in the pavilion adjacent to the Hope Center.

Donations of bicycles are always welcomed. Bikes that we do not use are donated to the Shepherds Office or DelDot's bicycle program.

For more information about how you can support the ABC Bike ministry, contact Mike Shriver at 704-292-4481, or abc80central@gmail.com.