



From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Quentin Wallace

Hang In There?



But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9



Recently I saw an old poster of a cat hanging from a tree limb with the caption above displaying three words HANG IN THERE. Clearly for the cat it is much easier said than done.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he is highlighting that life is not easy, because we each will go through ups and downs, good days and bad days. Through these vicissitudes of life, what holds the person of faith and sustains them is what's on the inside -which is the Holy Spirit that Paul describes as a treasure. Paul uses several descriptors in his letter: hard pressed on every side, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down.

This reminds me of a television program I recently watched about an atheist or agnostic who was having a crisis in her romantic relationship. Ultimately the character seeks a psychic for advice and is told that spirituality is the solution. Because the character is not a person of faith, this presents another crisis. To make a long story short the character finally looks for comfort in a Bible that belonged to her deceased mother. As the character reads the Bible, a note is found that was written to God from her mother requesting assistance from addiction. After reading the note the character immediately reverts to not believing in God again, because her mother had died of a drug overdose. In her mind, if there was a God, her mom would not have died in this way.

For some people it's that easy to dismiss the idea of God and Faith; so many of them go through life trying to simply hang in there.

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Sidelights

COVENANT'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision Statement: **Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond.**

Our Mission Statement: **We Invite, We Welcome, We Nurture, We Serve.**

Pastor Quentin's theme for 2021 is **Becoming More Like Christ.**

Please be in prayer for Covenant Church.

WAYS TO CONTINUE GIVING

Thank you to our faithful members who continue to support Covenant Church. Here are options for you to give your personal tithes and offerings:

- Mail checks to 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA, 17603
- Place offerings in the basket during our drive-in services on Sunday morning.
- Give online. Go to our website www.covenant-umc.com and click on the GIVING link and follow the directions.
- Text 717-769-1063. After the initial setup, giving is easy.

Please call the church office with questions.

Sidelights

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request, please call Patti Willard at 717-872-7561. If she is unavailable, please leave a message. Also, if you are interested in being a member of the Prayer Chain, please contact her to add your name to the list.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

Don't forget to notify the church office when you or a loved one is in the hospital. Our Care Team is available to visit and share prayer.

UPPER ROOM

You can purchase the Upper Room daily devotional for only \$1. We have regular and large print in the office.

LOBBY GREETERS

1st Sunday of the Month
Tina Butler

2nd Sunday of the Month
Youth

3rd Sunday of the Month
Mary Lou Hill

4th Sunday of the Month
Phil & Cindy Biechler

5th Sunday of the Month
Cathy Boyd
Bobbie Schwan

We Worship Together

Sunday Worship

Until further notice, in-person worship will be held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook for those who wish to worship at home.

Additional Online Opportunities During the Week

- Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. on Facebook Live, Pastor Quentin will bring words of encouragement.
- Wednesday at 10 a.m. and Friday at 6 a.m. join our conference prayer call at 605-313-5107 (202700#).

CELEBRATION SERVICE FOR PASTOR MEFFERD

You are invited to share in the Service and Celebration of the life of Pastor Ted Mefferd. This will be held at the Cornwall United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 31, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. A Reception will follow. Come and Celebrate!

WORLD THANK OFFERING SERVICE

On November 21, we will celebrate the United Methodist Women World Thank Offering during our morning worship service. Pastor Sally Ott will present the message. Remember to be thankful for your many blessings by filling your WTO boxes, jars, and butter tubs with gifts to help those in need locally and around the world.

Sharing Your Faith

This statement was made by a Bishop of our church. He said, "I did not become a Christian because of a pastor, program, or congregation." While each of these played an important role in the growth of his faith, it was a teenage friend who invited him to her youth fellowship meeting in her church. "She told me about her relationship with Christ in a way that made sense to me," said the Bishop.

Did you ever stop to think that EVANGELISM is just that simple? Think about conversations you have with neighbors, close friends, and relatives. I suspect that most of our conversations center on things that we consider important, what we're concerned about. Recently, my conversation with a doctor turned into a discussion about what was happening with her teenage children in school and about her position on the school board. Our conversation with others is the springboard to sharing with others what Jesus Christ means to us and how Jesus has changed our lives.

The truth about evangelism is simply this: followers of Jesus care enough about people to get to know them, love them, and share their story about the difference Jesus makes in their lives. Evangelism must be grace-filled and grace-fueled. It has to acknowledge that Jesus disciples have to earn the right to share their story because they have demonstrated how much they love. It must treat others as people precious to God. And most of all, evangelism must demonstrate that same love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross.

Sharing Jesus with others is the cornerstone of evangelism. Why not share your faith with each other in the congregation and thereby gain experience as one who can meaningfully share your faith?

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However, thanks to Paul's testimony in the passage above, he shares that we will go through tough times alone. And for every struggle Paul listed, he highlighted God's power to sustain. While he shares about being hard pressed, he also highlights not being crushed. While believers are sometimes perplexed, they don't fall into despair. As a follower of Christ, Paul had been persecuted but never felt abandoned, and although struck down at times he had not been destroyed.

As we enter into this season of our lives, we must embrace God's power as our sustainer and share with others as Paul did, so others will know that we are not simply making it through life on our own but by God's grace. Contrary to what non-believers may think, we, as followers of Christ, are not just left to hang in there. We have Christ.

BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN

Pastor Quentin will be teaching a Thursday evening Bible Study via Zoom from October 7 through November 11. Please sign up for the Zoom link to be sent to you. I look forward to the discussions as we learn more about Christ's teachings and his plan for our lives. The Sign-Up Sheet is located on the bulletin board, or you can call the church office to be placed on the list.

MASK RECOMMENDATION

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have escalated the number of Pennsylvania counties that have substantial or higher levels of COVID-19 transmission, including Montgomery, Lancaster, Bucks, Lebanon, Luzerne, Philadelphia and Monroe. The CDC recommended last week that counties with substantial or higher levels of transmission return to masking indoors.

Sign Up for the New Church Directory

Be sure to sign up to have your photo professionally taken for the new Covenant directory. Sign up dates are October 28, from 2 to 7 p.m.; October 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and October 30, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If we need to add dates and/or time slots, we will.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Gathering Area each Sunday, or you may sign up online at www.ucdir.com. Click on the yellow sunburst icon, enter PA896 in the Church Code field, and enter photos in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment.

There is no cost to have your picture taken. If you would like to buy any photos, you may, but there will be no pressure to do so. The Universal photographer will allow you to include a well-mannered pet in a photo if you desire. You also may include your entire family in a photo, but this photo will not appear in the directory. It will be a separate fee.

Additionally, we invite anyone – even if they are not Covenant members – to have a professional photo taken. Just pick up one of the coupons in the Gathering Area or call the church. We hope to have the new publication in house before the holidays. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jenny Engle at 717 203-6685.

Sidelights

NOTES OF THANKS

Dick Galen offers his thanks to Georgie Galen's United Methodist Women's secret prayer partner for remembering him and faithfully sending cards. He appreciates your prayers and kind words.

90+ BIRTHDAYS October & November

Gloria Horner – 10/01
James Patton – 10/01
Robert King – 10/07
Marguerite Walz – 10/09
Raymond Goshkey – 10/19
Dolly Kepner – 10/21
William Fisher – 11/7
Mildred Dyer – 11/13
Robert Hess – 11/18
Betty Balabanow – 11/18

MOOS UPDATE

MOOS (Mornings on Orange Street), a before-school program for students from Fulton Elementary school, is planning on starting again October 4th and needs volunteers from 6:45 - 8:00 a.m. any weekday. If you are interested please contact the new program director, Elizabeth Morales, at 717 - 344-9795 or send an email to themoosdirector@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this special opportunity to help families in our immediate neighborhood.

Sidelights

GIFTS RECEIVED

In memory of **Georgi Galen**, gifts to the Noah Fund have been received from:

Cynthia Purdy Grace Fisher
Carole Hom Jennifer Engle
Joan Miller Sandra Leonard
Kegel's Produce Lois Neidermyer
Nancy Groff Jean Rarig
Catherine Cieslinski Betty Farkas
Virginia & Douglas Landis
Janice & Michael Anderson
James & Doris Work
Thomas & Sharron Gilbert
Alvin & Emily Johnson
Barbara Petro & Cynthia Purdy
Bonnie Henson Communications
Sally & Bruce Ott and Carol Zesotarski
Bob & Cindy Hean

In memory of **Aileen Longenecker**, gifts have been received from:

James & Doris Work
Lois Neidermyer (Dolly Kepner Fund)
Rev. Sally & Bruce Ott

In memory of **Don Bransby**, a gift to the Dolly Kepner Fund from Lois Neidermyer.

In memory of **Mary Jane Leighty**, a gift from Lois Neidermyer.

In honor of **Kathy Smith's** 75th birthday, gifts to Outreach from:

Ron & Chris Kimmich
Bob & Cindy Hean
Cindy Smith

In memory of **Doris Coxey**, a gift to Outreach from Joan Miller.

In memory of **George & Mary Schaeffer**, a gift to Outreach from Joan Miller.

In memory of **Randy Dippary**, a gift from Sandy Leonard.

Donations to **Red Bird Mission** have been received from Bob & Cindy Hean and Cindy Smith.



Covenant Members in Business

Aunt Sandy's Attic

Sandy Leonard
Antiques, Collectibles, Books, Art, etc.
545 W. Market Street, Marietta, PA 17547
717-426-5091

Dale Building Designs

Donald A. Dale, 872.4263
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc., 17603
www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groffs Family Funeral

& Cremation Services, Inc.
Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300
528 W. Orange St.

Interiors by Kristen

Kristen Stemmer, 875.4014
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc. 17603

JM Services

Jeff McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
717.330.9616 or jcmcgary@comcast.net

Kresge Computer Consultation

Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or
rkresge123@comcast.net

Miller Optical

Glenn & Maryanne Miller, 393.2020
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams
Lancaster & Willow Street

Richard B. MacDonald

Attorney at Law
312 W. Orange St., Lancaster
717.394.1508

Willard Hypnosis Center

Roger J. Willard
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA 17516
717.872.7561 or willardhypnosis.com

Here's to Good Health!

IT'S FLU SEASON AGAIN!

I know I am going to sound like a broken record, BUT I need to remind you about some important facts regarding the flu vaccine.

The flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu season. If you get the flu vaccine, you are 60 % less likely to need treatment for the flu by a health care provider. It can also offer other benefits like reducing the need for antibiotics, reducing lost time from work, and reducing hospitalization and even death.

Getting the flu is a known risk factor for having cardiovascular events such as heart attack and stroke. The flu can also worsen heart failure or other conditions that can stress the cardiovascular system, such as diabetes or asthma.

In this time of the Covid-19 pandemic it is more important than ever to get your flu vaccine. The flu vaccine does not prevent Covid-19 and the Covid-19 vaccine does not prevent the flu. However, both vaccines are safe and effective especially in preventing severe illness and death,

So, get your flu vaccine and if you haven't gotten the Covid-19 vaccine, please get that too.

Some other reminders—Wear your mask in large groups indoors where many unvaccinated people could be gathered. When you have been out and about and get home wash your hands. If you are not feeling well stay home.

Have a safe and healthy month!

Cindy Smith
Wellness Coach

Covenant Hosts Bible2School

Covenant Church is hosting Fulton Elementary School students for Bible2School this school year in line with the national released time law for religious education. While the program was initiated for Fulton Elementary last year, it was delivered virtually via Zoom along with students from Washington Elementary School. This year children will come to the churches. Santa Jenkins oversees the program for these two schools as part of the endeavor to have B2S in all elementary schools within the School District of Lancaster. A number of school districts within the county have embraced this program, which is free for students. Registration is open throughout the school year.

Students in second, third, and fourth grades are invited to be part of the program, which is held during the school's lunch and recess time. Children are walked from the school to the church and back again. The Bible study program focuses on the Old Testament for second graders, the New Testament for third graders, and discipleship for fourth graders. Children gather by grade level for a Bible study presentation as they eat their lunch, and then they divide into smaller groups for discussion, crafts, and prayer. Many children within the B2S program have no church affiliation, and so the church goes to the children with the message of the Gospel.

Volunteer teachers and aides along with generous donations from supporters help to make this program thrive. More volunteers are needed for Covenant's outreach through B2S. Please contact Santa Jenkins at 717-992-7879 if you can give two hours of time to help on a Thursday or Friday.

Sidelights

GROCERY CARDS

You can continue to support the Mission Outreach of Covenant by purchasing your grocery store gift cards through the mail. Please mail your check to Covenant UMC at 110 N Mulberry St 17603 with a note. We have \$50 Stauffer's cards; \$25 and \$50 Giant cards.

Please make your checks out to Covenant UMC. After receiving your check, we will mail your grocery store cards to your home.

KEEP YOURSELF IN THE "LOOP"

If you don't already receive the weekly "News to Go" via email, and if you don't receive Calling Post phone messages from Oklahoma City (It's really Pastor Quentin!), give your contact information to the church office.

FLOWERS

If you want to place a centerpiece or vase in memory or in honor of a loved one, the cost is \$28. Please contact the church office Monday-Friday, 8:30-2 at 717-393-1561.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Church is seeking volunteers who are willing to assist with transporting individuals to medical appointments. The individual would need to give us 48-hour notice of the appointment. Call the Church office to be placed on the volunteer list.

Spread God's Love Everywhere You Go!

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE 2022

Yes, the COVID saga continues! And, yes, because of increasing numbers of cases, the CDC recommends that during indoor gatherings folks wear masks, whether vaccinated or not. And (for many) a bigger yes, Costco is once again limiting toilet paper and water purchases because of hoarding practices by its customers. And, yes, October begins our Stewardship Campaign!

We can choose to be angry and frustrated by any or all of these situations. Or we can move forward with hope and love in our hearts, continuing the race which God has put before us and serving as role models for others in our congregation and community. This is not always easy, but with faith and prayer, we can do it!

Our relationships (with God, Covenant, family, friends, colleagues, and the community) play especially important roles during the pandemic, and we need to prioritize them. We all know isolation and government mandates can bring out the worst in us. But, if we have solid relationships with our Father and our church, we've made the battle so much easier.

None of what is happening is a surprise to God. He has not changed! We may have, but remember "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31).

While there have been some changes in our relationship with Covenant during the past two years, our church remains a strong community presence and is continuing God's work each and every day. Our staff cheerfully remains hard at work; our volunteers carry on with their varied and numerous duties; the daycare provides heartfelt care, education, and inspiration to all the little folk attending; NA members thankfully gather each week; the heat, AC, electricity, water, sewer, taxes, repairs, upgrades, and expenses continue to be paid; and an active prayer community makes our family stronger.

Although COVID may present some barriers, it cannot stop our Covenant spirit! We must keep moving forward with love, have generous hearts and minds, and be open to new ideas.

I ask you to pray for Covenant and how our gifts of time, talents, and monies can help spread God's love in new and exciting ways in 2022.

Jenny Engle, Stewardship Chair

Eastern PA Welcomes Bishop Schol

The Eastern PA Conference officially welcomed Bishop John Schol as its new episcopal leader on Saturday, September 18, in a worship service at the UM Church of West Chester, a church which he had pastored at one time. He now serves as bishop of our conference along with the Greater New Jersey Conference, which he has led since 2012.

In her greetings to the bishop, Eastern PA's Director of Connectional Ministries the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm said, "We welcome you home to the state of the best sports teams and to the historic roots of both Methodism and our rich EUB tradition." She went on to emphasize the new partnership and gifts that both conferences now share.

The Saturday morning service climaxed with the bishop's sermon that highlighted his three primary hopes for the conference's laity, clergy and congregations. He first expressed a hope for laity. "Today, my hope for laity...is that every one of you hears the calling of God.... God's got a calling for every lay person in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. And it's my hope that all of our pastors will continue to preach about everybody's calling, and nurture people into ministry."

He then encouraged clergy with his desire for them to "be yourself, not what somebody else is trying to make you, not what you're trying to make yourself into, but the person God has called you to be to lead in congregations and ministry, all across Eastern Pennsylvania and around the world."

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You are invited to start your Sunday morning by participating in a Sunday School class at 9:00 A.M. before the 10:30 A.M. worship service. Three adult classes offer Bible study, application of Bible teachings to the Christian walk, prayer support, and Christian fellowship.

The Ages and Stages Class meets in the Jesus Room downstairs and is currently studying *Short Stories By Jesus* by Amy-

Jill Levine. Through a DVD she presents her insights into several parables from her Jewish upbringing and her role as a college professor of New Testament studies. Discussion follows in making application of the parables to today's world. The next study will be *If Trading Your If Only Regrets for God's What If Possibilities* by Mark Batterson, the author of the popular book on prayer *Draw the Circle*. The class teachers rotate turns for presenting the lessons and leading group discussions. Teachers include the Rev. Dr. Guy Carrigan, Carole Horn, and Lois Neidermyer.

The Faith and Fellowship Class continues to meet in the Library/Chapel room. They are presently studying "The Fruit of the Spirit" from the Fisherman Series and will focus on "The Ten Commandments" from the same series for their next set of lessons. Teachers Chris Kimmich, Cindy Smith, and Greg Smith take turns presenting the lesson and leading discussion in the relevance of the Scriptures for today.

The SonShine Class is now meeting in the Crosby Classroom downstairs right next to the elevator. They are currently exploring Philip Yancey's book through his DVD study on *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?* Believing that it does, they spend time in prayer along with discussion of the Biblical references and insights presented by Yancey. Jeannine Spece and Patti Willard share responsibilities for teaching the lessons.

These adult classes always welcome additional members who are interested in learning more about the Bible and its application to our lives today.



COVENANT

United Methodist Church

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Finally, the bishop voiced his key hope for congregations. "My hope for every congregation is that you would get to know the people in your communities and offer them the grace of God," he said. "Not on our terms, but on their terms; not in our language, but in the language that connects with them. Not in the ways we want them to conform, but in the ways that God wants us to become Christ."

While the recent surge in cases of the COVID-19 pandemic limited onsite attendance at the service, nearly 300 viewed it via West Chester's UMC's livestream video. A recording of the live-streamed video can be viewed on the Eastern PA Conference YouTube page.