



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

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

Spiritual Formation Response...

There are many times in our lives when we are profoundly and spiritually impacted by the things we experience. Often, these are times of joy and delight, but they can also be times of brokenness and grief, or moments that bring introspection and a desire to change.

As I read a recent Doulos article by Rachel Pease, I greatly appreciated her desire to be an intentional disciple, to experience change, and for all of us to grow spiritually together as a church. This is something that needs to be both deeply personal and done in community. We need to be real with ourselves and cultivate authentic relationships with one another in order to genuinely grow. Strangely enough, a Spiritual Formation Workshop that I attended in June of 1999 was one of those impactful times when my heart was deeply imprinted. For over 25 years, some things said there have continued to resonate in my heart. I journaled the following shortly afterward and have kept it in my Bible as part of my ongoing spiritual journey. Both Richard Averbeck's and Dallas Willard's words and thoughts are reflected in what is described as "principles" and "wills." So, I open it up, give you a glimpse—just a page—and share it with you:

June 1999

Since I know that God has already given me a new nature, placed me positionally "in Christ," and indwelt me with the Holy Spirit, it is my desire to complete my part in the sanctification process by following these principles:

Repentance – *Not just for salvation but as a way of life. Remembering that repentance is the chief characteristic of all revivals, I must always be repenting to remain continually revived.*

Faith – *In daily living, "walking by faith and not by sight."
Obedience and Surrender – Saying, "Yes, Lord."*

Seeking God – *May I love God more than the "good things" He has put in my life. May I be motivated by a hunger for God, seeking Him through the means of grace—disciplines.*

Relying on God's resources – *His calling, His blessing, His work, His people, His Word, His Spirit.*

Cooperating with the Holy Spirit – *Cultivating sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and "spying" His work.*

Allowing brokenness into my life – *May I be willing to receive what God brings and deems necessary.*

Putting off and putting on – *May I seek to have God change my character (fruit of the Spirit), mind (worldview), and emotions (delight and joy in Him).*

As I look at this "wonderful list," it makes me smile. There is so much there—too much! Yet, if I were to encapsulate it all, I guess I would say: Lord, change me. I don't want to be disciplined and growing just to know more; I want to be renewed and changed at the heart level to the point where my actions and attitudes are truly different—truly reflective of the character and grace of Jesus Christ.

If spiritual formation is the "imparting of character to the will," I do not want my will to be an "impulsive will"—what I desire—but a will that is "reflective"—reflective of the character of Christ. More importantly, may Christ's character become an "embodied will"—His ways and deeds not just reflected but flowing automatically from my heart as I take on His good character.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17)

Lord, make me a sanctuary, tried and true, worthy of the dwelling of Your person.

As for me, the journey goes on. Even after 25 years, I still have much to both learn and implement in my own life. Let's be intentional and choose to continue to grow together as the body of Christ here at DBIC. Let's be personally ready to grow through our leadership.



Celebrating the ordination of Pastor Naomi Smith

December 29, 2024



Photos courtesy of Joe Bennett



DILLSBURG BIC STAFF



ROB JEFF NAOMI ESTHER



JULIE COLIN KATHY

Rob Douglass
Senior Pastor
rob.douglass@dillsburgbic.org

Jeff Conrady
Associate Pastor
jeff.conrady@dillsburgbic.org

Naomi Smith
Associate Pastor
naomi@dillsburgbic.org

Kathy Bennett
Administrative Assistant
office@dillsburgbic.org

Esther Spurrier
Pastor of Congregational Care
espurrier49@gmail.com

Julie Lerew
Worship Coordinator
julie.lerew@dillsburgbic.org

Colin Patterson
Youth Pastor
colin@dillsburgbic.org

THE DOULOS NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editors: Kathy Bennett, Anne-Marie Brandt
Layout and Design: Anne-Marie Brandt
Editor Emeritus: Carolyn Kimmel

Please send submissions for the next issue to:
newsletter@dillsburgbic.org

Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Church
18 East Harrisburg, Street | Dillsburg, PA 717.432.3847
www.DillsburgBIC.org | fb.com/dillsburgbic



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/

January 8

- Chicken Rice Taco Bowls
- Fruit Salad
- Brownies

January 22

- Meatball Subs
- Chips
- Veggies
- Cookies

A Christmas Reflection

By Carissa Sneddon

It has been such a blessing to participate in the worship team at DBIC. I had never felt comfortable participating in a worship team at previous churches or while in school. There was a pressure to be the most talented musician, to know the theory of music better than anyone else, and to make no mistakes. Whether or not I put that pressure and expectation on myself is a topic for a different day! The very first Sunday we came to DBIC, I was immediately moved by the way that the worship was real. People were really there to lead worship, not perform. It wasn't a production, and yet it was beautiful and moving and worshipful. It felt like what I had always been looking for.

So often, the Christmas Eve service carries with it the same pressure. With the expectation of new visitors and the full sanctuary, there is a pressure to perform. There always seems to be an unspoken expectation that those leading the service are to play the best music, to share the most insightful wisdom, to read scripture without stumbling. I went into the Christmas Eve service this year with slight trepidation, despite having lead worship a dozen times at church. Leading worship for such an anticipated service is intimidating, no matter how many times I've sung in front of people. The "cozy" idea of a Christmas Eve service was new to me. I was also coming to the service from a stressful and exhausting day of work at the hospital. My mindset was not one of worship. I was focused on getting through the set without screwing anything up so I wasn't a hindrance to the beautiful service that people were expecting.

Yet as we sang together as a congregation, the Lord was softening my heart. I was struck by just how sweet it is to worship with the people in this church- people who don't care if I start singing at the wrong time, people who don't care if I am flat on a harmony, people who really just want to worship Jesus together. As I walked home from the service with Eben, we discussed how the service actually felt worshipful. It felt tender and genuine, meaningful and authentic. Honestly, it was the first Christmas Eve service I ever left feeling like I had really celebrated the birth of our Savior and not just dressed up for a nice family photo and to sing Silent Night by candlelight.

It is so refreshing to have a church family who so readily accepts what I have to offer... the good and the bad and the real. Being surrounded by a church family who feels safe is a GIFT. Sitting in the pew on Christmas Eve, I was overcome by the way that I saw Jesus in the congregation. As I listened to Rob describe the ways that Jesus shows up around us and how we need to look to see him in the people we encounter everyday, I realized that it was happening in that moment. I was moved by watching the Smith family read scripture in their cozy PJs. I was moved by the way that I could hear sweet babies crying throughout the service. I was moved by the way that Tim and I got to chat about things that matter to him before the service started. This congregation is filled with incredibly dear people. It is such a privilege to grow in this church. I am blessed by the ways that people have poured into me and how people send emails and texts to check on us and tell us they are praying for us. Listening to the acapella 4 part harmonies during our Christmas Eve service, I was struck by how much this place and these people feel like a piece of heaven amidst the really scary darkness. This place feels like a reprieve from the heaviness. This place feels like home. Thank you. I praise Jesus that we decided to stroll into this church two years ago on one random September morning. It has been the sweetest gift and such an answered prayer.





Learning About Refugees

*Compiled by John and Esther Spurrier,
DBIC Global Outreach Commission*

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. Vicky Landis from Brethren in Christ Missions will be with us on Sunday, January 5, during the Sunday school hour to show a video and talk to us about MINISTRY TO REFUGEES.

But first, here are some facts from the UN High Commission for Refugees.

By May 2024, more than 120 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations.

This includes:

- 43.4 million refugees (forced to leave their country)
- 63.3 million internally displaced people (forced to go to a different part of their country)
- 6.9 million asylum seekers
- 5.8 million people in need of international protection, a majority from Venezuela
- Since 1975, the U.S. has welcomed more than three million refugees from all over the world, and these refugees have built new lives for their families in all 50 states.
- Refugees and their families have woven themselves into the fabric of American society. They are our neighbors, our friends and our colleagues. They are teachers, business owners and contribute positively to communities across the country.
- 29,000 refugees resettled into the US in 2022, double the previous year.
- BICUS World Missions has sent short term teams to Greece to work with refugees. There are also two missionary families in the Middle East that have significant relationship with refugees, especially from Syria.

At this Christmas season, we remember that Jesus and his parents became refugees when they heeded the warning from the angel to flee into Egypt to escape the murderous intentions of King Herod. May we see Jesus when we look into the faces of refugees in our communities.



STOP TRAFFIC

By Marj Strayer



Christmas can be a challenging time for the women of Peace Promise. While many of us celebrate joyfully, these women often face painful memories and struggles. For many, Christmas growing up was marked by instability and hardship, not the hope and love of Jesus' birth. Abuse and neglect overshadowed the season, leaving them to view Christmas from afar.

This year, however, was different. Thanks to the compassionate efforts of Peace Promise's volunteers and staff, these women experienced the transformative love of Jesus in profound and personal ways.

One young woman stands out in particular. Her mother, one of the first women supported by Peace Promise, was tragically murdered three years ago by an ex-boyfriend. This month, after sharing a heart-wrenching testimony, she and her younger brother finally found closure with the sentencing of their mother's killer. While the healing process is ongoing, the support of prayers, counseling, and loving hands at Peace Promise is helping her grow into the leader her mother was.

Please join us in prayer for all the women of Peace Promise. May they continue to feel the love of Jesus through the many hands and hearts reaching out to them. Let us give thanks and praise to our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, who brings restoration and hope.

Excerpts from the Peace Promise December Newsletter...

Update from our Executive Director of Client Services, Patty Seaman:

This month our main life skill was showing up for each other. So what does that look like?

The last week of October, many of our team showed up in a courtroom where we would all sit for four full days to see justice delivered for our friend Erika. We showed up to see our brave Myra, her daughter, as she sat on the stand, being harshly questioned about the most traumatic moment of her life. We showed up as she heard her own voice in the form of a frantic 911 call where she told the 911 operator that her mother was gone.

But we also showed up to watch Myra rise up with the strength that her mother instilled in her to speak confidently.

Each of our survivors took turns showing up at the courthouse so there was never a moment that Myra was not surrounded by love. We sat as a family that would never make sense to the world but is exactly what our survivors need. And we all let out a breath when the verdict was read: guilty on all counts. We finally have justice for Erika, Myra and Antjuan.

Sometimes showing up is hard but it's also what families do for one another. We changed our groups this month to

allow a space for grief, love and laughter. We came together over food (a lot of food) and friendship. In the grief, it was beautiful to see our survivors love and support one another.

There were also other things that kept us occupied this month. We had a campfire and s'mores in the middle of the city. Our survivors also attempted to camp out until they heard noises and decided to surrender (and we don't blame them!).

Volunteer Evvie joined us to share important information with our survivors about what happens during a sexual assault exam, so they are equipped if they ever need to support a friend through the process.

We also ended the month by being gifted a spa night at Behind the Sugar, just what we needed to de-stress after walking through the trials of the month!

It was a month of grief and also a month of hope as our survivors learned what it looks like to show up, even when it's hard, and they were also reminded that they have a community who will always show up for them.





Thank you for all your prayers, visits, cards, math puzzle books, and Giant gift card for gas as Paul recovers from back surgery! We can now say he is getting better—less pain & medication, more independent—warming up meals for himself, and can stay at home by himself without a safety issue! He still has a long way to go before being completely independent, but he is moving in the right direction. It's wonderful being a part of a community who cares!

~ Kimberly & Paul Tucker

THANK YOU for your ongoing support of the work God is doing through the Collaboratory. I have several great friends from your congregation, including Randy Fish, Tim Van Dyke, and David Vader. I am grateful for their friendship and partnership in this meaningful work. I am especially appreciative of your recent gift to support the ministry of Hope Academy. Be encouraged that this generosity benefits not only the children they are directly trying to reach, but it also supports our students right here at Messiah as they exercise their talents in training to become the next generation of engineers who will make a difference here close to home, and beyond. Thanks for your support!

~ Brian Swartz, Professor of Engineering, Messiah University Collaboratory

Thank you your gracious gift. God is using your faithfulness together with SIM cross-cultural workers and partner churches demonstrate the goodness of Jesus in many places where people otherwise live and die without having a single Christian who will be their friend. We are compelled to keep going so that all may experience the goodness of Jesus in human form. We are grateful to be in ministry with you. Thank you for magnifying the Lord with SIM as we exalt His name together.

~ Matt & Julie Walsh, SIM Missionaries

THANK YOU for supporting Paxton Ministries! Your recent donation is helping our residents find hope and purpose as we build community together. We deeply appreciate your help as well as fulfill our mission to provide affordable housing and support services to adults in need with Christ-like love!

~ Amy Starr, Director of Development, Paxton Ministries

From summer youth camps to back to school programs to food pantries and everything in between, your generous support ensures that every guest has their need met in a given day, in the way they need it most. What a life-changing gift! You bring our mission to life. **Thank you** for partnering with us in this meaningful work as we share help and the hope of Jesus with our neighbors in need!

~ Michelle Zemba, Development Coordinator, New Hope Ministries

THANK YOU for your confidence in the New Horizons Foundations, Inc. Your generous support has enabled the beneficiaries of your gift to continue the work they have been called to do. We appreciate the opportunity to co-labor with you on this important project.

~ Dr. Steven Prensner, President/CEO, New Horizons Foundation

THANK YOU so much for your commitment to helping Family Promise guests! Hosting these families in your building, providing a good meal, and offering your hospitality is vital to helping them regain their stability. Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

~ Stacey, Christine, Susan, Matt—Family Promise Harrisburg Capital Region



New Hope Musings

By Ginny Spurrier

Messages of deepest appreciation come from New Hope for all of your donations throughout 2024! Your especially generous participation in helping to provide food for the Thanksgiving Baskets ensured that no family went hungry. Additionally, your contributions to the Christmas Blessings Express made it possible for those in need to receive and provide essential and/or fun items for themselves and their families. By sharing food and gifts out of your own bounty, you have blessed—and been a blessing to—many individuals you may never know or meet this side of heaven.

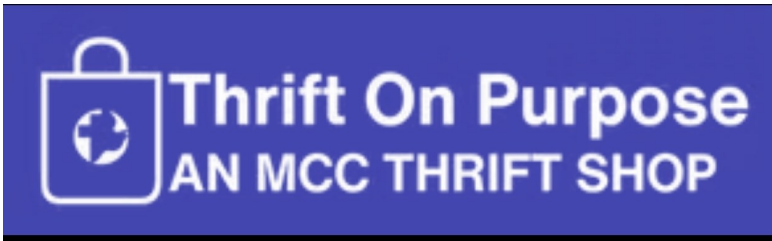
At least 245 families received Thanksgiving baskets, which provided a full meal tailored to their family size. Imagine the widespread blessing that was! The Christmas gifts donated were also incredibly abundant, allowing the Dillsburg Center to share from their surplus with another smaller New Hope facility that did not receive as many donations. Your generosity has likely reached people in need beyond Dillsburg as well!

Betty Markel, the Dillsburg New Hope director, reported that there are now many more teenagers in need as the younger children served in years past are growing up.

Thankfully, donations included bicycles, other high-value gifts, and gift cards. These items will be distributed through regular drawings, in addition to the gifts families were able to select in person during the Blessings Express event at the Dillsburg Center.

As you step into this New Year, be reassured that God's goodness will follow you every day, crowning your year with His blessings. Be encouraged! You can trust that God's abundance will continue to provide for your needs and bring joy to your life in every season of the year ahead. May you look forward to His goodness in the coming year and embrace opportunities to share His blessings with others in our community.

Our New Hope donation focus for January is any type of **cleaning supplies**.



Shop Hours

Monday-Thursday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday Closed

Donation Hours

Monday-Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Address: 5218 E. Trindle Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Email: info@thriftonpurpose.org

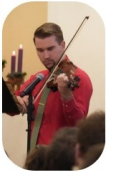
Phone: (717) 795-4384

Scenes from Christmas

Children's Drama



Christmas Music



Scenes from Christmas

Women's Wreath Decorating Event



Christmas Carols in the Square



Decorating the Church



Andi & Krishauna Brubaker



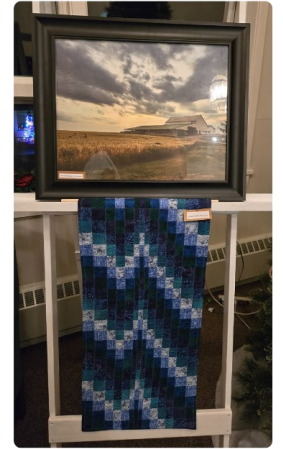
Weave the creativity of a kindergartener, the wise stories of a woman in her nineties, and the skill of dozens of individuals with ages in between, and what do you have?

This year's Advent Art Show!

More than 30 artists worked to create over 50 works of visual and written art, which were displayed in the Narthex throughout the month of December. On Sunday, December 8, we were treated to dozens of delicious works of culinary art, put together by more than 15 different chefs. Looking at these crafts and tasting these treats, we learned about skills people have that many of us did not know about before, and heard stories about how they came to create. These stories often showed how God met them in a life circumstance, or in the creative process.

Special thanks to Kathy Renard for organizing the decoration of both the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex, and to Kenji Kanazawa and Becky Horst— and their families— for their labor of love with the Culinary Arts Event. God is the Creator, and as Pastor Rob reminded us, He made us in His image to create as well.

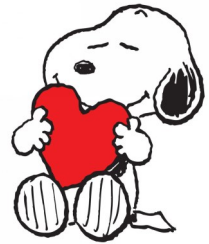
~ submitted by Julie Lerew



Celebrating Life Together!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Cam & Julie Holman January 7




HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Naomi Smith	January 1	Marian Hoover	January 18
Joe Zwally	January 1	Jeremy Rank	January 20
Kyle Leister	January 2	Hannah Hardy	January 20
Sophia Brandt	January 9	Stephanie Walsh	January 23
Seth Miller	January 9	Dave Miller	January 26
Terry Stoudnour	January 9	Steven Miller	January 26
Scott Eyster	January 13	Rachel Miller	January 27
Jeff Conrady	January 14	Charlie Miller	January 28
David Vader	January 15	Sarah Hoover	January 29
Noah Austin	January 17	Art Bert	January 31

January 2025



DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH
 GROWING DEEP REACHING FAR
 18 East Harrisburg St. | Dillsburg, PA | 717.432.3847
 www.DillsburgBIC.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 	6 7:00 pm (Zoom) Ministry Council	7	8 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 5:30 pm Corner Life Meal 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Prayer Time (Sanctuary)	2 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal NO Fresh Hope NO Prayer (Zoom)	3	4
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	13	14	15 Doulos Deadline 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	9 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Human Trafficking mtg (Strayers) 6:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	10 9:00 Local Outreach (201)	11
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	20	21 6:00 pm Ladies' Secret Pal Dinner	22 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	16 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Fresh Hope 7:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	17	18
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	27	28	29 9:00 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm Shine 6:30 pm Thrive 6:30 pm Sharing & Prayer	23 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 6:30 pm Leadership Council (201) 7:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	24	25
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	6	7	8 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	30 5:30 pm Martin Brass rehearsal 7:30 pm Prayer (Zoom)	31	