



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

September 2021

Vol. 181

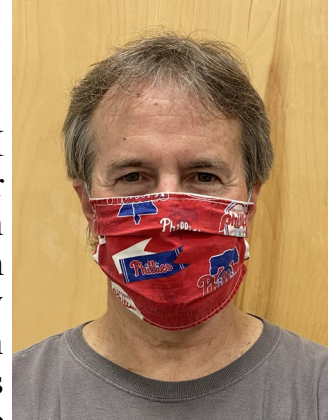
A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace.

I'm writing this edition of *the Chat* early in August, the week before I embark on my biannual two-week trip to the west, this time to hike Glacier National Park and raft the pristine waters of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River (pics and sermon illustrations to follow!). Now given how the condition of the world changes almost hourly, who knows what will await me upon my return. Will the pandemic be on the wane or resurgent? Will there once again be horrific numbers of wild-fires, tornados, and hurricanes? Will the Phillies hold on to first place in the NL East? (*Sorry Mets fans!*) Rather than waste space speculating on the early days of September, I thought I'd relate to you a little story...



Last week I was back in my hometown of Quinton, New Jersey, having been asked to officiate at the funeral service of a beloved pillar of the community, Carl Howell Sr., a great guy I knew growing up, easy-going, kind, and funny, whose kids were good friends who had prowled the town, played the sports, and fished the same ponds and creeks as my brothers and me.

The day before the service I was to meet with the Howell family at the home they had always lived in on Main Street in the middle of town. Problem is there's no parking on Main so I pulled my Prius onto Lake Avenue and parked it in front of my Aunt Rae and Uncle Ed's old house (they passed years ago). From there it would be an easy two-minute walk down Lake and a turn west on Main to the second house on the right. But as I exited my vehicle I had the sudden urge to bypass the street route and instead take a short-cut across their neighbor's backyard to arrive at the Howell's back door, the same back door I had entered countless times before as a kid. To this day hardly anyone in Quinton uses the front door to enter and exit.

Throughout my growing-up years my Mom's side of the family- uncles, aunts, and cousins-owned not only the house next to the Howell's but four other houses on Lake Ave including the one whose back yard I was about to cut across. Now I had no idea who the current owner is, but as I took that first step onto their lawn I was just hoping they weren't looking out of their back window wondering why a 63 year-old stranger holding a notepad and a Bible was trespassing on their property!

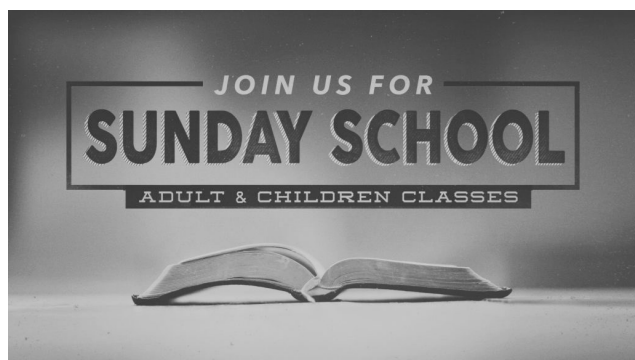
Well, I made it to the Howell's back door without incident, but the experience brought me back to a time in my childhood when I and the other kids in town had free rein. Short-cutting across backyards to get where we wanted to go was something we never thought much about, chiefly because just about everybody in town knew everybody else! My family lived on Jericho Road, "the suburbs" of Quinton, a half-mile walk or bike-ride out. Our Mom, even though she's a notorious worrier, didn't fret *that much* about my brothers and me when we were in town because she knew that the adults in town, like Carl, Sr., were always looking out for us. If one of us got into trouble of any kind, Mom was just a phone call away!

I took that warm feeling back north with me after the service that day. Even though we kids in town took it for granted, looking back it was comforting to have someone keeping watch over us. And Saints, isn't this something we are called on to do as a community of faith? So many times over my five-plus years at New Dover I've received a call, text, or email letting me know that someone was in trouble, that a loved one or neighbor was in the hospital or was simply having a rough time. Throughout the 18 months of the Covid outbreak God's call on us to watch over one another has been more important than ever since visitation has been restricted for obvious safety reasons.

Unfortunately, unlike my trek across a stranger's backyard, it appears there's no shortcut through this pandemic; we're just going to have to "keep our eyes on the prize" and do all we can to follow the recommendations of the experts, realizing that how we respond to safety measures, no matter how inconvenient, tells us a great deal about the lengths we go to love our neighbors. Keeping watch is one of the ways we do just that.

Have a blessed September!

Chuck



CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 9:00 AM. DROP THE CHILDREN OFF AT THEIR CLASS AND THEN JOIN REV. CHUCK IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL. COFFEE AND SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE.



CHURCH PICNIC IS OCTOBER 10TH AT MERRILL PARK IN COLONIA FROM 12-5PM.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SIGN UP SHEETS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL DURING SEPTEMBER.

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz
Pat & Brian
Emma
Family of Susan Mikels
Marianne & Eugene
Jane Bell
Bernard Miller & family
Family of Doug Rowe
June Ebbets

Jim Mitchell
Families left homeless in
Carteret
Shakahanna & Bill
June Person
Lulu Kamenas & family
Darryl's mom Jane
Erin, Kenley, Quentin
Herbert Fray

Nick Castlegrant
Dave Chesney
Tami Pino & Family
Robert Engel, Sr.
Paul Fazzioli
Service men & women
Veterans
Homeless, unemployed
& uninsured

Pray for all those affected by Natural Disasters, those suffering with addictions, those suffering from depression, Victims of terrorism & violence, all national leaders, and all those serving at New Dover UMC.

All doctors, nurses, EMT, teachers, grocery store workers, janitors, and all other frontline workers. Thank you and God Bless.

If you wish to add anyone to the 2021 permanent prayer list, please contact Karen Rowland at krowland648@yahoo.com

FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

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"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. There is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

Martin Luther King

Blessing, peace and be well, Pat.



SERMON OF THE MONTH

"The Wanderlust of God"

Preached June 27, 2021

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Mark 10:32a

So in this passage from II Samuel we find King David sitting in his magnificent, newly constructed home in a rather reflective mood. *"Hmmm. What to do today? What to do today?"* He's feeling really blessed and his thoughts turn to all that God did that led up to this triumphant moment in Israel's history. He thinks all the way back to the promise to Abraham, the Exodus from slavery in Egypt, the covenant on the heights of Mount Sinai, the 40 year trek through the wilderness, finally deliverance into the Promised Land, and overcoming the Canaanites and other enemies to establish Israel as a sovereign nation.

And David's also reflecting on what God has done for him personally. God calling on a lowly shepherd to defeat Goliath, his defeat of King Saul, who had turned from God, the uniting of all the tribes, north and south, east and west, under his leadership, and finally the stately home he now occupied made of skillfully crafted masonry and the finest Lebanon cedar beams and planks. But sitting there that day amidst all that beauty, comfort and security, David got to thinking that there was something off here.

After centuries of struggle, the new King of Israel lived in the finest of houses, while Yahweh, whose presence was symbolized in the Ark of the Covenant, Yahweh, the one who called Israel forth, the one who was Israel's strength, without whom none of this would have been possible, that Yahweh, was still living out of a tent, they called the Tabernacle. It didn't seem right to David, and so he pondered- what could he do to show his, and Israel's debt of gratitude to the God who has blessed them beyond measure. How should he respond to God's amazing grace?

And Saints, ought we not be pondering the very same thing? And if we're not, shouldn't we be? There's not a person sitting here this morning or watching online who cannot look back and see how blessed your life has been, and not just your own, but the lives of all those parents and grandparents and ancestors whose stories have proceeded our own. And just as David did for Israel, as a nation we can look back to the faithfulness of a God who exodus-like brought us here from many lands, who has delivered us from wars, times of hardship, and even pandemics, to find ourselves here in this place in time. And so, like David, we too ask, what can we do to show our thanks to God?

David considered these things and upon realizing how great it felt, after so many years of marching from one battlefield to another, to finally settle down, he came up with an idea, that made more and more sense the more he thought about it. *"I've got it!"* he shouted as he jumped from his throne, *"I'm gonna build God a house!"* What a great idea, right?! Even that cantankerous old prophet Nathan approved: *"Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."* Sounds like a great plan to do something honorable for God. But was it?

You know, Saints, sometimes, like David we get an idea that just seems to make sense every which way we look at it. Heck, we all seek ways to thank God for all the blessings we have received as individuals and as a church, to let God know how much we appreciate God's abundant grace in our lives. Over the centuries, one of the ways human beings have traditionally responded is through the building of a Temple, or a Church, or a Cathedral. And it seemed like a good idea at the time; one that God would heartily approve. But what we learn from this morning's Hebrew scripture lesson might make us think again!

Before we draw up the plans, buy the permits, and commence the fundraising we should always try to peer beyond our enthusiasm, no matter how good our intentions, and do our best to seek out the will and nature of God. Because, obviously, if what we attempt is not in accordance with God's will, than we will have allowed our unfocused desire to please God to overrule God's call upon our ministry. Turns out before David began to actually build the temple, the prophet Nathan had a change of opinion! In a dream God told Nathan that the building of a temple would not be appropriate for a God such as Yahweh.

Last week we talked about how God has called on each of us be transients, sojourners and wanderers on the face of the earth as we seek opportunities to serve God by loving our neighbors, near and far. This week we discover that the God we serve is every bit as much a wanderer as we are called to be! Think about all you've read in scripture and you'll realize that the God of the Judeo-Christian faith has always been a God on the move, from the first chapters of the Old Testament right on through the gospels and the missions of the apostles. God has been a transient from the start, always showing up on the doorstep for the ones who have called upon him in need, and scripture bears this out beginning with Genesis.

God came to Abraham and Sarai beneath the oaks of Mamre in the form of three wanderers seeking bread and water, and there promised Abe and Sarai an heir, despite their old age. And when Hagar and her young child Ishmael, banished to the wilderness by Sarah, lay dying of thirst beneath the scorching sun, the Lord came to her and made appear to her a well of water where she and the child would quench their thirst. After four centuries, God through Moses freed the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and proceeded them through the Red Sea and into the wilderness to Mount Sinai where God delivered to Moses two tablets upon which were written the Ten Commandments- the covenant between God and the people of Israel. The people were then instructed to build a chest to contain the tablets called the Ark of the Covenant. And they were also to construct a tent or tabernacle, which would be set up wherever they made camp, and struck whenever they would leave, so that wherever their journey took them, the presence of God went ahead, symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant and the Tent of meeting. And so once they finally left the wilderness and crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, the Ark was carried from battlefield to battlefield, a talisman, to inspire their soldiers and demoralize the enemy.

Through thick and thin, wherever they found themselves, wherever they fell upon need, wherever they called upon him, the transient God was ever present for the Hebrew people. Remember how Elijah fled from the wrath of Queen Jezebel and found himself hold up in a cave on Mount Sinai, God came to him in a still small voice, granting him badly needed reassurance. How, even when the Jews were conquered and taken into Babylonian exile, Ezekiel witnessed God's presence rising from Jerusalem and soaring over the desert to be with them. And when they eventually returned to Jerusalem following the exile, God's spirit returned with them. You get the picture: wherever the people of Israel wandered the spirit of the Lord made the same journey in order to be there for them in their time of need.

Saints, this moving about, this wanderlust of God, so prevalent in the Old Testament, is, if anything, even more keenly revealed in the gospels. Jesus of Nazareth, the same God in human flesh, was from birth perpetually on the move. He was born not in a home, but in a stable to a family traveling to pay their taxes. Early in life he was forced to flee to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod. This life lived on the road was perpetuated in his ministry, for it was out there on the road where he addressed the needs of the people head on. It was out on the road that he proclaimed the love of his heavenly Father, taught about the Kingdom of God. It was where he fed the hungry, healed the sick and lame, and cast out demons from the possessed. Jesus was keenly aware that a live a life of discipleship was to be spent out there on the road, once telling a would be follower, *"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."*

So you see, it is clear why God had no desire for David to build him a house; for God prefers a life on the road, meeting the needs of his children wherever they are. Now God wasn't angry with

David for what he was proposing, after all David's intentions were good. Sitting in his cozy new home, David realized how good it felt and he desired to render the same pleasure to God. But God's reply was *"Thanks for the offer, Dave but truth is, I'd rather not."*

So Saints, a question- if God has no desire to be placed in a temple or a sanctuary or a cathedral for that matter, where might God be found? Yes- the answer has to be in the same place God could always be found: out among the people who need God the most. In the classic novel of the Depression, The Grapes of Wrath, the hero, Tom Joad, has to leave his mother and family because he was a wanted man. He knows his mom will never see him again, but he assures her that in a way he'll never be that far away saying,

" I'll be all around in the dark. I'll be everywhere. Wherever you can look— wherever there's a fight so hungry people can eat, I'll be there. Wherever there's a cop beatin' up a guy, I'll be there. I'll be in the way guys yell when they're mad. I'll be in the way kids laugh when they're hungry and they know supper's ready, and when the people are eatin' the stuff they raise and livin' in the houses they build, I'll be there, too.

Saints, that is our God as well. Wherever there are people who are starving, or shivering in the cold, or lonely, or suffering from illness or grief. Look, and there you will find God. Search the streets and alleyways of our cities and there you find him. God is there in drought plagued deserts, or in flood ravaged towns. Look into the doorways of rehabs and nursing homes, or upon the beds of a emergency room, and you will find him.

King David sat in his fine home, and pondered what he would do for God; when we gather next month for our Vision Retreat, we too should ponder what we, the disciples of New Dover United Methodist Church, might do for God. David offered to build God a house, a temple, so that God wouldn't be homeless anymore; his offer was rejected, but that does not mean that God doesn't desire to come home. I believe we need to make God the same offer, we need to offer God a home, but because of Jesus Christ we know that saying that doesn't mean we want to build him a temple, because God does desire that kind of a house. The way to bring God home is not to erect a cathedral, it is to go out into the street and find God there in the eyes of a unemployed man, or a lonely woman, or a hungry child. Building a temple or adorning a sanctuary, is a noble gesture of praise to God, but it is *not* our greatest priority. Our highest priority is not accomplished here in this sanctuary. It is to be found *"out there."* Out there, where we meet God face to face, doing what God has always done: bringing love and hope to those who need it most.

Saints, it's time we stop thinking of a church as a place to find God and instead see what church is for a God perpetually on the move! Think of our church as a command post on the front lines. Think of it as a check-point on the border between the physical world and the Kingdom of God. Heck, of all the churches in the nation we ought to know the truth in that by now! Why? Because God has gone ahead of us in every one of our mission projects! God has gone ahead of us to Elizabeth and Plainfield and wherever hungry mouths have been fed. God has gone ahead of us to the Dominican Republic where supplies were delivered and houses are being built. God has gone ahead of us to hurricane ravaged regions where flood buckets are put into use. And God has gone ahead of us to Vellore India where an ICU is being equipped to save lives that otherwise would be lost.

Saints, we are transients serving a transient God, foot soldiers marching in the very footsteps of Jesus, in the wake of the Ark of the Covenant, into battle against the evil and oppressive forces that oppose the love of God at every turn, and reaching out to the most vulnerable we run into along the road with deeds of compassion and mercy.

WHY ARE WE BACK TO MASKS? PLEASE READ THIS!

Saints, the following was posted on Facebook (thanks Janice Wilson!), and I believe it provides the clearest answers yet to questions so many of us have about why it's important to practice safe behavior. Here is the slightly edited article written by "One Vaxxed Nurse:"

Why are vaccinated people still testing positive for Covid but not getting as sick? It's All about the type of immunoglobulin produced from vaccination. IgG is a type of immunoglobulin (antibody) that is plentiful in our blood serum. These are the immune cells that our Covid vaccine is really good at producing. IgA is a type of immunoglobulin that is plentiful in our mucous membranes, like the respiratory tract (nose and throat). Unfortunately, our injected vaccines are NOT very good at creating a lasting army of this type of antibody. SARS-Cov-2 (virus) that causes the disease Covid-19 is a respiratory virus- meaning, that it enters the body through the respiratory mucosa. It sets up shop in the area of the back of the throat where the nasal passage meets, called the nasopharynx. While it's there, it enters those cells and reproduces. Once it reproduces in high enough numbers, it moves its way down the respiratory tract and attacks lung cells. From there, it enters the whole body and attacks almost every organ system. When you are vaccinated, your mucous membranes in the back of your throat are still relatively unprotected, because they lack the IgA antibody response at the mucous membrane level.

This is why a vaccinated person is still showing high viral loads in their nasopharynx area when swabbed. However, once the virus tries to move down into the lungs, the very good vaccine induced IgGs that are circulating in a vaccinated person's blood serum, quickly identify the virus and begin destroying it. The body then says, hold on...where'd these guys come from? The antibodies see the open door at the nasopharynx and then move the troops to destroy.

This is the reason that vaccinated people are not getting as sick, even though they are getting technically infected and why vaccinated people are contagious for less time than unvaccinated people are. Our defense is delayed, at the upper respiratory tract, but we eventually have a neutralizing response.

This is why it became important for even vaccinated people to begin wearing masks. We still have several days of the virus successfully replicating in the backs of our throats, which means that when we cough, sing, laugh, talk loudly....we can pass those viruses to other people.

This is new with the delta variant because it is better at unlocking those respiratory cells than other variants were. This is what changed. The previous variants were not as good, and it took them longer to unlock cells and replicate so our vaccine induced serum antibodies used to have more time to recognize and respond than they do now.

So what you're seeing with vaccinated infected people is: sudden onset sore throat, dry cough from nasopharynx irritation, eventually a fever as the virus tries to make it down the respiratory pathway and your immune system activates, but then a marked reduction in symptoms that suggest that the virus has been unsuccessful at invading any other organ systems. This is your reduction in hospitalizations and deaths. The lungs never get so sick that the person requires oxygen.

Vaccine IgGs are very effective at staying off a massive infection, but not great at stopping the virus from initially replicating in the throat.

Miracles and More Update



Greetings from the Stewardship Committee! I wanted to give everyone an update on our Miracles and More Capital Campaign. Thanks to your donations, the Trustees have been hard at work. All the A/C units in the church have been replaced. The sanctuary has been upgraded with a new Audio/Visual system, the ceiling was repaired, there is a fresh coat of paint everywhere, and new blinds have replaced the sagging shutters. Jeff Rowland, our Trustees President, said they are 70% done with the list they started with. Please thank a Trustee when you see one of them.

Our original "need to do" goal was \$150,000. As of the end of June, we still need \$36,272 to reach our goal. We've almost cut the balance in half from where we started the year, and I firmly believe we can do this. Donations are tax deductible at any time of the year, so don't feel you need to wait until December. Just kidding, kind of. LOL

Thank you for your continued support. We're a month and a half into the last 6 months of this campaign. Let's do what New Dover always does - Let's get this done!



September Birthdays

- 3 *Deborah Ladym*
5 *Rosemary Raju*
7 *Nancy Rock*
11 *Alethea Poornaselvan*
12 *Hemant Raju*
14 *Edward Carney*
15 *Ava Christian*
18 *John Bonner*
21 *Michael Taylor*
23 *Marsha Quackenbush*
24 *Nilesh Katkar*
Donna Sucheski
26 *Sangita Christian*
Declan O'Rourke
27 *Michael Baidowsky*
30 *Jay Dave*
Robbin Roth

September Anniversaries

- 4 *Edward & Deborah Ladym*
7 *Charles & Diana Bennett*
8 *Cesar & Elmira Higoy*
9 *Chang June & Sunhee Yoon*
14 *Edward & Phyllis Carney*
16 *Dan & Danielle Mizak*
24 *Scott & Tonya Burleigh*
25 *Michael & Martha Taylor*
26 *John & Jayne Bonner*
27 *Ted & Juel Nelson*



Finance News

The Finance Committee is continuing to provide financial information. The following provides the income and expenses as of June 2021. The church income includes what is provided to the church in pledge envelopes to current expense and other income sources such as building rentals, flea market and various fundraising activities. Church expenses are shown which include salaries, utilities, conference obligations and other costs to keep the church operating. *\$14,125.04 to ICU India.

New Dover United Methodist Church Operating Fund		
	2021	
	June	Year to Date
Income	\$ 33,108.05 *	\$ 145,019.24
Expenses	\$ 27,828.48	\$ 156,574.95
Difference	\$ 5,259.57	\$ (10,655.71)

UMW News

The UMW held their June meeting by celebrating our “togetherness” once again by holding our annual potluck dinner.

A brief business meeting and election of officers was held. Dianne Petersen (President), Lisa Chesney (Secretary) and Peggy Silva (Treasurer) will serve again in their current positions. We welcome Connie Thomas as our new Vice President.

Our mission projects will remain the same as last year. We will support the Women Veterans at Menlo Park. A list of personal items will be posted in Fellowship Hall and see below. Please continue to save your pop tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch. Drop off is in the church kitchen or the office. Our September meeting has been planned for our “Away” dinner at Manny’s in Clark. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Because of Covid, please watch for any changes that might be necessary. Any questions, please call any UMW officer.

Sincerely,

Dianne Petersen, President

Items for Women Veterans:

Body wash, shampoo, deodorant, bath powder, combs, toothpaste & brushes, chapstick, body lotions, lipsticks, scarves (new), jewelry (all types).

All items should be new (please no “samples”)



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

This month we highlight a poem by one of our members.

What do you see when you look at me?

What do you feel when you see my face smiling?

What do you see in yourself when the sparkle lights my eyes?

What do you hear when the Joy rings in my voice? ...

Do you think I have it made?

I do.

Do you think I am high?

You're right I am

I am full of the Grace that brought me...

I am full of the Grace the bought me...

I am full of the Grace that carried me...

From the sorrow, doubt, pain, grief and regret that this life can bring...

Grace that brings me Peace

Grace that makes me grateful

Grace that makes me want to share...

The Sparkle, The Smile, The Joy that is the bounty of that Grace...

HIS Grace

That takes me a step closer from what I was

To what I can be with Unlimited Love, Unending Peace

And Amazing Grace.

by Stephanie Rademacher



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