



May 1, 2011

Chancel Choir Presented:

Cantata BWV 106: Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit

(God's Time is the Best Time) by Johann Sebastian Bach

on Sunday April 3, 2011 at 10:30 am worship service



Chancel Choir Performing



Preparing for Performance



*Musican Anne Petersone,
Violone*



Instrumentalists Lewis Baratz and Rainer Beckman, recorders



Pastor's Pen

Since September the Session has been reading and reflecting on the book *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* by Joan S. Gray a former moderator of the General Assembly. In it she asks, "Are you a rowboat or a sailboat church?" and then goes on to explain:

. . . The key difference between these two ways of being church is often not apparent on the surface. . . . The basic difference between them has nothing to do with the circumstances of a congregation; rather, the difference is in the attitude of the leadership and members.

The bedrock reality of life in the rowboat church is that God has given the church a basic agenda (for example, to make the world a better place, save souls, help the poor, spread Christian truth, etc.) and then left it up to the church to get on with it. . . . The church's progress depends on circumstances like the amount of money in the bank, the number of volunteers available, the charisma and skill of its leaders, and the demographics of its community. . . . The presence or absence of resources largely determines what can be done. When these things are favorable, rowboat churches may go fast and far. But success depends on the resources it has in hand, the circumstances around them, and how hard its people are willing to row to get the job done.

In contrast, the dominant attitude in a sailboat church is that "God can do more than we can ask or imagine." Its leaders know what they have or lack in the way of human and material resources is not the decisive factor in what they can accomplish as a church. Rather, they look on church as a continuing adventure with a God who leads and empowers them to do more than they ever could have dreamed. . . . They are willing to spend considerable time and energy on discerning where God is moving and where God is inviting them to invest themselves in God's work. They take this approach because they believe that the God who calls is also the God who provides, and that if they are invested in doing what God wants the church to do, God will provide the resources.

What about us? Is MPC a rowboat church, or a sailboat church? As I've pondered the question, I've come to the conclusion that we are a mix of both, tending cautiously and sometimes even anxiously, toward being a rowboat church. If that's true, then what would it mean for us to become more of a sailboat church? Are we willing to set the sails and to wait expectantly for the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow us in the direction that God would have us go? Are we ready to trust more in God's promise to provide than in our own present resources and abilities? Let's hope so, together.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Ron Rosenau, Pastor



Our Church Family

90+ Birthdays

Marion Koose, 92
on May 6, 2011
Helen Borden, 91
on May 13, 2011
Margery Brakebill, 92
on May 13, 2011

Condolences

Our condolences to Kathy Junkins on the death of her father, Harold W. Thompson, on March 27, 2011 and to Marilyn Shenenberger on the death of her mother, Anne Whitmire, on March 31, 2011.

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated on June 19, 2011 at the 10:30 am worship service. Parents who wish to present their child for Baptism are asked to call the church office by May 19, 2011. Pre-baptism instruction is June 12, 2011.

Call for Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the congregation has been called for May 1, 2011, following the 10:30 am worship service to elect elders, deacons, trustees and at-large members of the Church Nominating Committee.

Dear Friends at MPC,

Hello, things are going well this semester. It has been extremely busy though. I am taking four classes (Theology II, Hebrew II, Pastoral Care, and Theory for Education in Religion) and it has resulted in a lot of work and reading. The classes are really interesting though and my professors are wonderful. I joined the choir this semester, which has been a lot of fun. Each week we have a large chapel service on Wednesday's and so that is where the choir sings. It has been really nice to have music in my life again in a more structured way.

This past weekend I was on a retreat for the leadership team for the internship that I have for the summer. I am going to be working on campus with the school's youth ministry initiative, Project Burning Bush. Each summer, 12-15 high schoolers come to campus for about 2 weeks for a discernment/vocational planning time. These students have expressed some interest in pursuing some form of ministry in their future. Alumni from the program have gone on to work in all sorts of fields from becoming



pastors, doing music ministry, working at camps, and more. In the time up until the kids arrive, we will be working on planning all of the details of the week and preparing workshops for the students. I will be teaching one on leadership development.

Other exciting news is that I was recently accepted into the Dual Degree program. This adds an extra year onto my time, but means that I will graduate with two Masters, a Masters of Divinity and a Masters of Arts in Christian Education. I'm very excited about doing this, it means that I can take a wider variety of classes and that I will be able to pursue a greater variety of interests.

I have been working at a local church's nursery a couple of Sunday's a month and it has been both interesting and fun. The kids are anywhere from 10 months to 3/4 year olds, so it has been interesting coming up with things that will keep all of them occupied and interested for the full time. This position led me to be asked to speak at one of their Wednesday night Lenten services; I'm both excited and a little nervous for that!

Hope all is well!

Shannon Waite

New Members

We welcome the following new members who, having met with the Session, were received into Church Membership.

Paul and Linda Cossaboon

Paul and Linda Cossaboon celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in January. They live in Bordentown NJ and have two children who are both married. They have one grandson, Parker who is 2 ½ and is the joy of their lives. Previous to joining MPC they



were members of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Trenton where both served on many committees over the years and were both Deacons and Elders. Linda has worked at St. Frances Medical Center in Trenton for the last 24 years. Paul is an electrical engineer with Lockheed Martin Space Systems. They learned about MPC through friends and the website. They were influenced to join MPC from the sound scripture based messages from the pulpit each Sunday and the professions of faith made in each service.

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Tim and Allyson Yost

Tim and Allyson moved to Yardley six years ago from Phoenix, Arizona. They are parents to Henry, 9 years old and in the 3rd grade at Makefield Elementary School. Tim is the director of Financial reporting



for StoneMor Partners in Bristol, PA . Allyson is a homemaker. Tim and Allyson have been visitors to MPC and were influenced to join because they felt comfortable and enjoyed the services.

Kelly Fine and Henry (Hank) Thomas

Kelly and Henry learned about MPC through friends who were married here. Their wedding will be on June 4 at MPC. Hank coaches baseball and attends multiple sporting events for their 4 active children. Hank grew up in Levittown and graduated from Pennsbury High School and the University of Pittsburgh. He is Assistant Vice President for Loss Mitigation with PHH Mortgage.

May is Mission Month at MPC!

MPC supports a number of local ministries and mission agencies through our Benevolence budget (supported by your offerings) as well as from the proceeds of our Clothing Center.

We send more than money – we also send volunteers!

In May, we will highlight three of our local mission partners – hearing stories from those who have participated as volunteers and inviting you to join the effort!

Volunteers from the Outreach Council will be available on Sundays, May 8, 15 and 22 to answer your questions, and help you get connected with opportunities to serve with one of our outstanding local mission partners:

- **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)**
www.trentonsoupkitchen.org
- **Red Cross Homeless Shelter of Lower Bucks County**
www.redcrosslbcc.org
- **Habitat for Humanity of Trenton**
www.habitatta.org

Ivins Outreach Center 8th Dinner and Auction Held April 2, 2011



Sam Snipes encouraging bidders

The Yardley Country Club was full of fun and activity on Saturday, April 2nd when the Ivins Outreach Center pulled in for its' 8th Annual Dinner/Auction. The morning saw the group take over the upstairs and transform it into an auction wonderland with lots of goodies awaiting the crowd. As evening arrived so did the guests and they had a wonderful time bidding on the silent auction items, buying tickets for the raffle auction and catching up with friends. Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick stopped by to say hello to the guests and encourage them to up their bids to help support the group.



BucksCountyCommissioner Diane Marseglia presents award to Bill Farrell

Before dinner the Ivins Outreach Center honored its' volunteer of the year, Mr. Bill Farrell. Bill is a loyal and constant volunteer for Faith-in-Action logging many hours transporting people. He is always willing to help out even when it's not his "week" and is particularly good about helping those who need multiple visits to cancer treatment centers for chemo. Bucks County Commissioner Diane Marseglia stopped in to present Mr. Farrell with a proclamation from the Commissioners honoring him for his efforts. The emcee for the evening, Ron Workman, read another that was sent from Lt. Governor Jim Cawley. We were happy to honor Bill, it is people like him who make the programs at the Ivins Outreach Center work.

Dinner was a delicious buffet and was followed



Guests appraising auction items

by the live auction. Bill Pruner was our auctioneer and bidding was fast and furious for wonderful items like an afternoon with Sam Snipes, a fun Guinness Beer Sign, Days in Washington DC with Mike Fitzpatrick and Pat Toomey and a covered bridge tour offered by Steve Waite and Mike Kinaszczuk. Afterwards, bidding on the silent auctions got serious as tables began closing and everyone scrambled to try and win their favorite item , especially all the delicious baked goods that were donated.

The evening was very successful for the Ivins Outreach Center with net proceeds to be well over \$20,000 once everything is accounted for.

Special thanks goes out to everyone who helped with the preparation for the dinner/auction, for all those who donated items and or funds, and to everyone who attended to make the evening so successful. Because of your generosity the Ivins Outreach Center can continue its work supporting those in need in the greater Morrisville Community.



Bill Farrell, Award Recipient, Darletta Berry-Johnson, Director Ivins Outreach Center, Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick and Clark Martin, President of the Board of Ivins Outreach Center

July 10-14 , 2011

6:00-8:00 p.m.

“One of the best weeks on the planet”



Are you between the ages of 18 - 68?

Are you available for five evenings in a row?

You don't have to plan or teach, you just have to show up and LOVE! We need YOU to be an adult shepherd for our 4½ year old to 4th grade VBS campers.

Other adults are still needed for games and crafts (coordinators needed). And it's not VBS without our teen helpers! Children will be learning feasts and festivals of the Old and New Testaments. Dads and men of the church are especially needed.

All volunteers must be able to participate in Orientation after on Saturday, July 9. Contact Elder Jeannie Alexander or DCE Katy Yates Brungraber for more information.

VBS Registration Forms are available in the Communication Racks. Children are welcome to share a registration form with a friend from their neighborhood or school. “VBS Sunday” will be June 27 – Mark your calendar!

One Room Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed

Please call Heidi Dous at 215.736.2130 by May 15 to say YES!

There's nothing like reading a Bible story to a young child. Educational Ministry Council is looking for people who can help ONE Sunday this summer to share a Bible story with Kindergarten to 2nd graders during the sermon. Curriculum provided.



Children return to worship for Sacrament, the offering, and the closing hymn, so your time in the classroom is 15-20 minutes or so. Pick up the phone now to say YES, I can help!

- May 29 • June 5, 12, 19, 26 • July 10, 24, 31
- August 7, 14, 21, 28 • September 4

Children's Sunday – May 15



Children who are 2 years old, and in Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 5th grade will receive Bibles. Letters have gone out to families. Please contact the church office if you want your child to receive a Bible.

Our focus on the 15th will be celebrating diversity in God's creation. No matter if you are 6 or 96, you are a child of God, and you are loved. Come and worship!

Do You Have the Gift of TEACHING?



The Educational Ministry Council Volunteer Wall has disappeared, but there are still many areas of service where someone with YOUR gifts and talents is needed. Where will you find your joy?

New members and anyone looking for just the right place to share their gifts are encouraged to call DCE Katy Yates Brungraber, or speak with EMC Chair, Paul Clough.

- Working behind the scenes or serving on the council? (2 men and 1 woman needed)
- Teaching Preschoolers? (1 man and 1 woman needed)
- Teaching an Adult Ed Classes? (4 men and 4 women needed)

Adult Education Classes Continue through May 22

Adult Education Classes are GREAT! But they're missing one thing: YOU! Don't wait until the fall – take advantage of quality classes now. Trent Hancock is leading Heaven Or... and Carol Carpenter and Drew Hunger are leading the Commandments for a Blessed Life. Make a decision, come!

The last morning of Education Hour is Sunday, May 22.

The Educational Ministry Council wishes to express their gratitude for the 34 teachers who shared their love for God's Word with the children, youth, and adults of MPC each Sunday.

Boomers and Beyond . . .

by Linda Seaman



Make mine a “club sandwich”! Apparently this is the term for three or more generations under one roof. My roof is currently sheltering 4 generations ranging in age from 85 to 3½ years. The good

news is that my son in law, Mike, is safe and back in the USA from his tour of active duty in Afghanistan. More good news . . . Lori and Mike sold their home recently. Since they have yet to find another abode . . . you guessed it . . . we are all living together.

In 1940 it was mostly a given that elderly parents and relatives lived with family members with only 7% residing in institutions. With prosperity and a sharp increase in the number working women, the big shift away from multi-generational cohabitation occurred. Interestingly the U.S. has seen a jump reflecting 16% of current households now containing at least 2 generations. The sagging economy and steep unemployment and foreclosure stats have contributed to “sandwich generation” squeezes.

Frankly, I have to tout the attributes of my particular club sandwich. This morning Lori cooked my breakfast and helped to take out the trash. Allie is a hoot and keeps me hopping – free exercise plan! Mike is young, strong, and quite the practical joker (he once continually called me from his cell phone concealed on his lap). I kept getting up from the dinner table to answer the phone in the kitchen – nobody was on the other end. Very funny! Never know with that boy! Did I mention that Lori is a great cook and takes charge of supper? Mom is my accountant and laundress, Dad supervises the yard. Do you sense a theme? Imagine how quiet and boring it will be when the Mc Shane’s find their new house! (hope Dad will be able to readjust when I’m doing the cooking again!)

MPC Older Adult day trips ~ To be announced ~ stay tuned to the Bulletin and FYI.

Church Picnic



All-Church Picnic

June 12

Following 10:30 am

Worship Service

**Sign-up in the Communications Center,
 May 22, May 29 and June 5**

**Suggested donation \$2 and bring a
 salad or side dish to share.**

Sponsored by Children & Family Council

Plan to join us on Pentecost to celebrate!

MPC Community Garden Update

While we had hoped to launch the MPC Community Garden this April, we have decided (reluctantly) to put plans on hold for this year due to lack of participation.

If you are looking for a place to garden this summer – consider checking out Snipes Farm just down the road. If you already garden at home – consider sharing some of your first fruits with the Food Center.

**National Letter Carriers’
 Food Drive**

We need your help on Saturday, May 14th to sort and move large quantities of food! Volunteer opportunities are available in 2 hour time blocks between Noon and 7 pm. Extra help is especially needed at 6 pm at the church to unload. Please sign up in the Communication Center. Many hands make light work! For more information, please contact Carol Romano, cromano65@verizon.net.



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Please submit articles for the June 5, 2011 Currents by May 16th, 2011. Thank you.



Looking Ahead

- May 15** Children's Sunday
- May 22** Baptism
Reception of New Members
- May 29** One Room Summer Sunday School Starts
- June 12** Pentecost, Confirmation, Communion
All Church Picnic
- June 19** Baptism
Ordination and Installation of Officers
- July 11-15** Vacation Bible School
- July 17-23** Youth-In-Mission Trip to Pipestem, West Virginia
- July 17** Communion

