

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, August 7, 2022 Issue No. 117

August 7, 2022 – Ninth Sunday In Pentecost

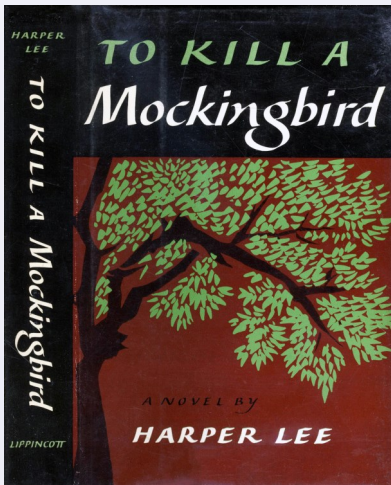
Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with
one another in love.
~ Ephesians 4:1-2



Unhardened Hearts

Kate Hutton — Falls Church, Virginia— April 10, 2022

I often joke with my students that the course I teach—English 10—should be re-titled “Doom and Gloom Literature.” We read some pretty heavy texts over the course of the year. We discuss the potential for evil within all of us in Golding’s *Lord of the Flies* and the dangers of silence in the face of evil as we read Elie Wiesel’s *Night*.



Each year, when we begin Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, about an African-American man who has been accused of a crime he did not commit, we inevitably have a class-wide discussion about things like prejudice and stereotypes in our culture, and where we draw the line between harmless and harmful beliefs. These

statements always lead to a fascinating discussion, but this year, the discussion took on a markedly different tone.

This year, my mostly African-American and Hispanic 10th graders began reading the book the day after a grand jury decided not to indict white New York City police officer Daniel Panataleo in the death of Eric Garner, an African-American man who was placed in a chokehold and died while resisting arrest. One week earlier, another grand jury had decided not to indict white police officer Darren Wilson, who shot and killed Michael Brown, an un-armed African-American teenager in Ferguson, Missouri.

Where in previous years, it had taken a bit of time for my students to get to a discussion of race, this year, it came up immediately.

In one class, two of my African-American students brought up Michael Brown and Eric Garner instantly and passionately shared their frustration with both grand jury decisions. As one boy explained to the class what had happened in both cases, my normally squirrely students became quiet and pensive.

One of them asked if anyone remembered what had happened to Trayvon Martin in 2012. In another period, a shy girl gave an impassioned, extemporaneous speech about the existence and prevalence of racism in our country that I can only compare to Linus’ speech about the true meaning of Christmas in the *Charlie Brown Christmas* movie.



When my students reach me, they’re young enough that they still believe that the world is neatly divided into “good” and “bad,” or “right” and “wrong.” They’re teetering at the edge of innocence and experience as they’re starting to realize that sometimes, good people make awful choices, and sometimes, seemingly hopeless and hard individuals are capable of kindness. Throughout the year, I try to teach my students to always strive to do the right thing in spite of how ugly our world sometimes seems.

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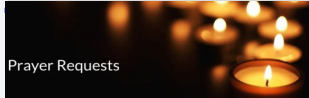
Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



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Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests will be added each week by your requests, and will run for two weeks unless a request to continue is received.



God's healing presence:

For Janet Newell, Eleanor Hathaway & Carol Shore's brother Dean Eckert
For Fritz & Jean Wainwright, Jean Miller, and Jim & Fran Kraft's daughter, Janice
For Dave Hammell & Joe Celkupa
For Ginny Heal's cousin Isabell
For Ginny's nephew David
For Maritza Chambers' sister Elba and her brother Angel
For Aiden Witte & Brittany Zier
For Polly Grobelny, her son in law, Donald & her daughter Ava
For Nancy Wyatt and Marleigh
For Jack's cousin Larry and his family

God's comfort:

For those who serve as caregivers
For Maritza Chambers undergoing testing
For Alyson Keegan & her family caring for her father
For the People of Ukraine

For God's traveling mercies:

For the Slaney & Kroh families

In Thanks and Praise to God:

For good shepherds in our pulpit
For Verity Cheslo securing a new apartment in NYC

For continued prayers for the PNC as they carry on their mission.



The Crafty Ladies will be taking orders for water bottles and mugs. The order sheets will be in the back of the church. You can have your bottle or mug personalized with your own saying and name or use the sayings we have. \$5.00 for either the water bottle or mug.

Colors of plastic bottles: green, blue, white and pink. The smaller bottle comes only in purple and mugs in white.

Please leave your completed order form in the back of the church or you can give them to Carol Shore or Marie Celkupa.





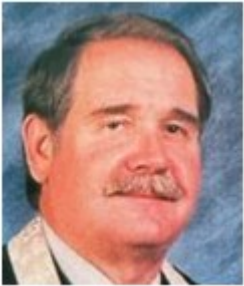
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The Past, Present and Future of our Historical Country Church “The Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton”

Part 1 The Past Barb Hammell
~ Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton



Rev. Ivo Meilands – Retired from the Providence Presbyterian Church of Bustleton in 2017 after serving 19 years as our minister; he now resides in Palmyra, Pennsylvania with his wife Pam. Ivo and his wife have 2 girls; in fact Pam is an Associate Pastor for Youth and Families at the Derry Presbyterian Church, Hershey Pennsylvania. It was at that church that Rev. Ivo held a series of adult Christian education classes on the Bible in 2021 in person and on You Tube. He also serves as pulpit supply now and then to those churches that may call upon him. He loves to golf, where you can find him socializing and enjoying nature.

During his years here at the Providence Church, our church steeple was restored in 2004, in 2011 the CE building got its chair lift, and in 2014 the church got painted and the boiler was replaced at the manse.

Ivo was very active with his congregation and outside the congregation. He participated in all the activities and events that were held by our church.

He loved holding Bible study class with the adults. His pep talks to the youngsters during church service held their attention and the jokes he told at the beginning of each service made the adults laugh. How he can remember all those jokes bewilders me. He was great around kids and made them feel very comfortable. In 2003 Ivo went with the kids to Camp Johnsonburg for several days. The Meilands always had open house at Christmas time where we gathered for good talks and laughs along with good food. They did not live at the manse with their family.

We were a booming church with about 135 members. We held two church services and had a nursery in which volunteer watched over and taught the youngsters while the parents attended church service. Once a month after church service, coffee and donuts were served over at the CE building. It was really a social gathering where we all got together to chat. We had a choir at our second church service every Sunday.

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Vacation Bible School was held every year. Volunteers organized and ran the school for one week. Thank goodness for volunteers! The people of our church provided to the Azalea house residents every Christmas a visit from Santa Claus with presents and a Christmas luncheon. If you could have only seen the faces of those men, it would warm your heart. We provided the Sisterhood in Burlington with leftover food from Wawa and supported the Food Bank of Roebing. Held yearly was our pasta fest and roast beef dinner which everyone attended and enjoyed. It was a great fund raiser for the missions and local organizations for the needy.

Every spring before Easter we had clean-up day where those who could would come and help clean up the church grounds. After our hard work was done we stood back and looked at our church and the historical look and beauty of it took our breath away. We all thought to ourselves, "such a lovely little county church we have!" Our yearly church picnic was held for many years on the church grounds but later moved by invitation to Chuck and Ginny Heals' house. Good time, lots of food (which each family would bring a dish) and a pool to cool off it. Could not ask for anything better! Craft sales were held along with yard sales, Halloween parties, and Christmas plays put on by the children, movie night, game night, and trips.

The staff that worked with Rev. Ivo's was: Ginny Heal – office administrator 2008-2017 (retired after Ivo left) she replaced Betty Clark (deceased 2008)), Alice Garman -choir director, Marjorie Hull - organist and Kenneth Poole - sexton.

The Presbytery Women's Group was very active group holding meeting two times a month: bible study classes on the first meeting and a business meeting on the second. Pastor Ivo also joined in on the meetings.

They took donations for the Christmas card, put together cookies for shut-ins,

Flowers for the Communion table, and supported the Presbytery Women of West Jersey. The Men's Breakfast was held once a month at Liberty Dinner.

Rev. Ivo Meilands served our church from 1998 to 2017

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Restoring the church steeple



Camp Johnsonburg



L-R: Chick Dennis, Doris Krieger, Ivo, Ginny Shaver & Jerrie Glass



Alice Garman



**Front row L to R:
Randy & Barbara York,
Leo Forsberg**



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Unhardened Hearts Continued...

At the end of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the protagonist, Scout, learns that doing the right thing isn't necessarily always the easiest thing—but ultimately, it is our duty to think about things from another person's point of view and to stand up for what it is right, even if—especially if—no one else will. During our discussion, my students arrived at that same conclusion.

That day, I wept on my drive home, my heart impossibly heavy. Aren't we supposed to be past these kinds of things as a society? Aren't we supposed to be a society founded on equality, fairness, and justice? How is this still happening?

I became a teacher because I believe in the power of young people to create a better world. I believe that young people possess unhardened hearts; I believe that we must do everything we can as adults to prevent our own hearts from hardening. Why is it that as we grow older, we become complacent? Why do we become indifferent to the unfairness and the injustices we witness on a daily basis? I believe that within all of us is a strong sense of right and wrong, yet oftentimes, we adults are hardened by our experiences, and we lose the empathy that we felt so easily as children.

I fully recognize how easy it is to look at our world and to become cynical and to believe that humans are inherently bad. But I go to work every day, where I work with 15- and 16-year-old young people who are so hopeful about the future. Things haven't quite caught up with them yet, as Dolphus Raymond says in the book. I hope things never will.



Mark your calendars for our Church picnic at Chuck & Ginny Heal's home on Sunday August 21st. We always have a good time and good company!



Start: 2:00 PM Dinner Served 4:00 PM

A–M Please Bring a Dessert to share

N–Z Please bring a Side Dish to share



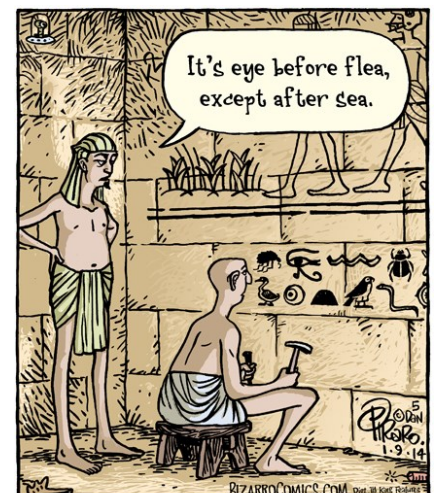
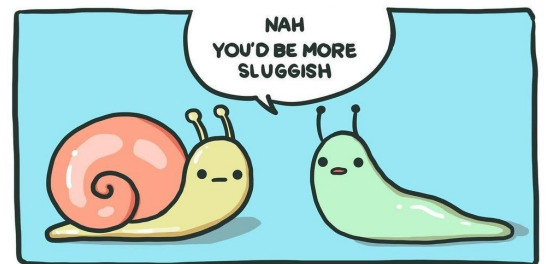
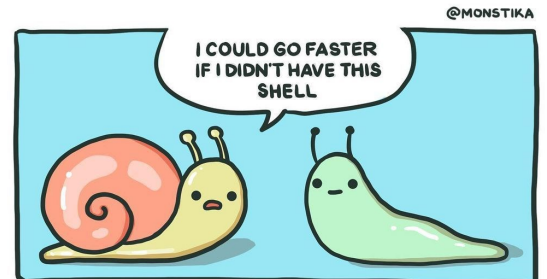


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