

The COMMUNITY MESSENGER

A Message from Pastor Allen

How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

I grew up listening to hymns sung by people who lived a hard-scrabble existence both prior to and during the Great Depression. The title above is of one of those hymns. Like many of those songs it ponders the joys and comforts that await believers when the trials of this life are done. One stanza speaks of life without fear:

The children were playing without sadness
The women will dance without fear
The men will walk tall with honor
Only light, peace, and love will be there
How beautiful heaven must be
Sweet home of the happy and free
Fair haven of rest for the weary
How beautiful heaven must be

This week, I listened to a podcast on "Focus On the Family". Pastor John Burke, author of Imagine Heaven, shared stories of people who had what some call an "out of body experience". He interviewed several people who had experienced this to see what similarities of description they shared. One person shared an intriguing concept. He said that trying to describe what he saw was hard because what he saw defied human language. "It was like going from a 2-dimensional flat plain such as a picture, into a multidimensional reality." I like that!

We all suffer loss as we pass through life here on this plain. But there is a wonderful promise in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "*For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*"

I crave to know Heaven's secret joys now, but like a child anticipating Christmas morning I must wait until my faith becomes sight. Until then, I'll keep on singing.

— Pastor Allen



October 13



*And I will give you
pastors according to mine
heart, which shall feed you
with knowledge and
understanding.*

- Jeremiah 3:15

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Faith, Food, Fellowship



FELLOWSHIP
LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 1st





ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

A Christian World View

By Art Schmidt

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” - Theodore Roosevelt

The “What Would Jesus Do” movement spread worldwide in the 1990’s and was marketed into a multi-million-dollar industry selling merchandise with the “WWJD” acronym. Instead of asking “What would Jesus do?”, shouldn’t we ask “what would Jesus want me to do” as an individual and “us to do” as a community of faith? That way, we are guided to do our part in God’s will for our life, the life of our church, and the life of our community.

We often allow network news and social media to impact our thinking and affect the way we react. We see what’s going on in our world—what outrages us makes us angry, what we care most about makes us concerned, and what we can’t change frustrates us. Instead of looking to Jesus and allowing our faith to direct us, we sometimes allow the secular world and news media to direct us. In his August 18 sermon, Pastor Allen spoke about the “Christian World View” versus the “Secular World View” and how secularism is a way of life that resists religion. We can allow “things” of this world to affect and direct us even though we know that things of this world can be misleading. As Christians, we know better than to get sucked in, manipulated, and guided by things and events of the world. We need to choose where and who we get our guidance from. Yes, we are shocked and appalled by the terrible things happening in the world, but we have to remind ourselves that God is in control, and everything that happens must first go through the Father’s hands. There’s no such thing as coincidence or chaos, everything happens according to God’s plan and His will.

Secular rhetoric overpowers the truth. The information we are given on mainstream news and social media is filtered, slanted, and deliberately altered to steer our thinking and actions in the direction that the source intends. As Christians, we are always cautious of the information we see and read so we aren’t misled. Wouldn’t this be a much better world if people were more concerned about their own actions and less concerned about what others are doing? It’s easier to point a finger than it is to face the mirror.

There’s so much evil in our world and with that comes darkness, but God is the light that overpowers the darkness. He brings goodness into our life and guides us to avoid the darkness. God gives us the strength and compassion to continue on our journey without being sucked in by secularism. As Christians, we don’t look back or down, we look up to God instead and then we look ahead and use our time and talents to plant seeds for a better tomorrow where we are. We don’t dwell on the past because we know our journey helped to bring us to who and where we are today according to God’s plan for our life. We are everything we are because God loves us.

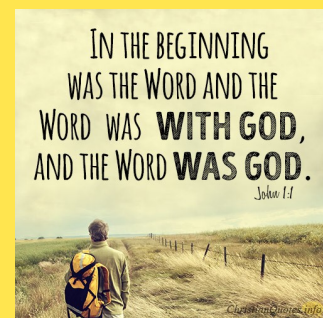
GOD IS IN CONTROL ✠

God has empowered us to bear witness.

What do we do in a world that is filled with difficult times?

*Let us not be those who maintain the status quo,
or make excuses for evil,*

*Let us be the ones who stand up with the voice of God, empowered
by the Holy Spirit, and speak His word to those in need.*





What does leadership in the church look like and why is it important?

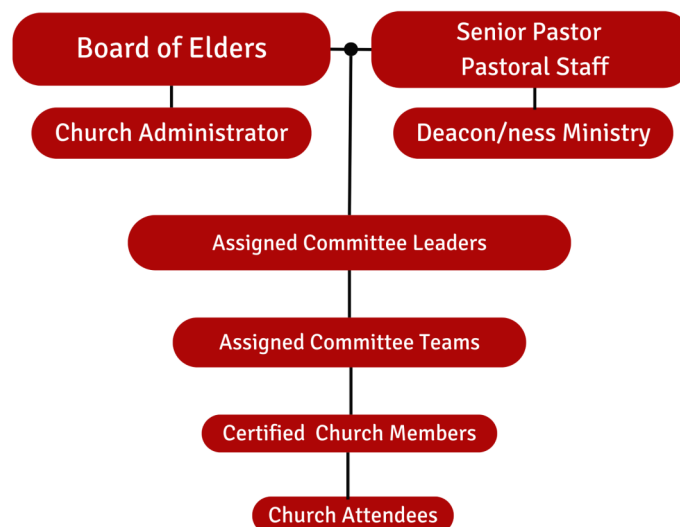
God has established offices for the oversight of His church. The Bible calls for pastors, elders and deacons.

Pastors, together with the elders are charged with the spiritual oversight and well-being of the church, no small task! The qualifications of the pastor/elder are given in Titus 1:5-9 as well as 1 Timothy 3:1-6. Both are called overseers, responsible for sound teaching and all aspects of church life.

This year the elders in our church have been following through on a much-needed review of these offices for the church. We have established specific areas of oversight for each elder to increase productivity and lighten the load of responsibility beyond the pastoral staff and administrator. In that respect, soon we will begin work on establishing Deacons and Deaconess who will be charged with the hands-on needs of the congregation as the early church did in Acts 6:1-6. This is part of a continuing effort to create an atmosphere of growth. We ask you to be in prayer for us to be faithful in following the Lord's leading in this work.

Here is the refined church leadership structure for the Community Church of Orchard and on the next page you will find the breakdown of elder responsibilities. These diagrams should help all those in the church, those new and seasoned attenders, understand who is responsible for certain duties and where to seek guidance if needed. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the pastors or elders for clarification.

Church Leadership Structure



Elder Responsibilities

-oversee all areas of the **church's functions** and report on assigned advocate positions monthly in partnership with overseeing pastor.

<i>Church's Functions</i>	<i>Overseeing Pastor</i>	<i>Pastor Allen</i>	<i>Pastor Allen</i>	<i>Pastor Allen</i>	<i>Pastor Ed</i>	<i>Pastor Ed</i>
	Current Elder Advocate		Dave Hammer	Kurt Hepler		Mike Koly
Pastoral Duties	Church Administration	Church Family Care	Property Maintenance	Adult Education & Programs	Childrens Education & Programs	Community Evangelism
<u>Manage</u>	<u>Manage</u>	-Home Care	-Repairs	-Sunday	-Sunday Jr.	-Visitor/
<u>Spiritual Needs</u>	<u>Day-to-day</u>	Ministry	-Church upkeep	Elective	church classes	attendee
<u>of Church</u>	<u>Operations</u>	-visitation	-Grounds	-Men's Ministry	-Nursery	engagement
-Sermons	-Answer Phone	-meeting the	upkeep	-Women's	-Peewee	-Community
-Worship	Line	needs of our	-Preventative	Ministry	-Jr. Church	engagement &
-Weddings	-Answer emails	unwell, isolated	Maintenance	-Small Group	-Teens	advertising
-Funerals	-Financial	or homebound	Schedule	Studies	-Youth Group	campaigns
-Sacraments	Management &				-Youth	
-Baptism	Reporting				Outreach	
-Biblical	-Board Secretary					
Counseling	-Record keeping					
-Members	-Calendar					
engagement	Management					
	-Event					
	Management					
	-Order supplies					
	-Oversee the					
	production &					
	distribution of					
	paper & digital					
	content					
	-Assist Pastors					
	and Elders in					
	positions					

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 kurthepler@yahoo.com
 Elder Mike Koly: 610-350-8025
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 Elder Steve Miller: 302-258-7499
 are_all_the_good_ids_taken@yahoo.com

Learn about the Holy Spirit

By Sandie Wysocki

The Holy Spirit, probably the most mysterious person of the Trinity.

Don't try to understand how he can comfort, teach, intercede, and strengthen you. Just know that he can. Jesus made sure when He ascended into heaven that we would not be left alone. That He would be with us throughout our life. But there is one requirement to experience this amazing relationship—you must come into a relationship with Jesus, our Savior.

***“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.” Romans 10:9 NIV***

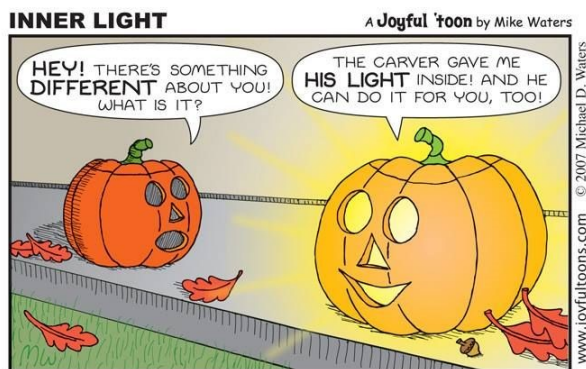
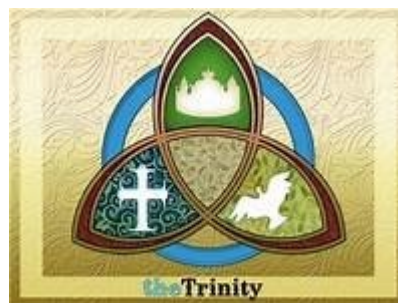
Then the Holy Spirit will come into your life and dwell within you forever. You have a part in coming to know and trust him. Listen closely to your heart as it gently and softly speaks to you to guide and help you. It's that small, soft voice within you. You will wonder where the thoughts of help, comfort, and peace are coming from—this is the Holy Spirit.

Open your heart to this mystery. You will be blessed every day of your life.

***“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.
He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears,
and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13 NIV***

Note from the writer:

I wrote this piece on August 22 as my husband Lenny was having his first chemotherapy treatment. The Holy Spirit seems to have a lot to say to me in a flash.



For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 KJV

CONTAGIOUS FAITH

The Sunday elective classes have been going extremely well! We have completed two series to this point.

Our first elective was CONTAGIOUS FAITH. One of my favorite subjects! It was a very moving time for those who participated! I know that lives outside the elective are experiencing the benefits of our people who are putting what they learned into action. Praise God!

That leads me to elective number two. We have completed the study of the book of James. This elective has also gone very well. More and more people have been experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit speaking through them in word and action as they share how faith with action can change the world! Tears of joy have been flowing in the class. God is a God of action, and the book of James is a great source that directs us in how we should live and what we should do.

Thank you to all who have attended the elective series. For those of you who have not, I encourage you to consider our next elective series” we will start by attending a movie called “The Forge.” It is a very good movie to be followed by an elective on discipleship. There will be more information to follow.

God is on the move! Please join us!

In Christ,

Pastor Ed



Every day of our lives, we need to be *intentional* and *prepared* for the opportunity to share about the love of Jesus. With practice and time it will become second nature to be able to do this. You will grow in *intimacy with Jesus* and with those around us!

In Christ, Ed Vidzicki



Kenya GO Trip 2024

Hello, for those of you who do not know me, my name is Dillon. I'm the son of Charles Williams and the brother of Kayla McDonald. I had the privilege of being part of a 10-person team that went on a mission trip to Kenya for about two and a half weeks from mid-July to early August. I'd like to share a little bit of my experience during that trip, but first, I want to thank all of you for your contributions; not just the financial contributions, but your prayers as well.

This trip was facilitated through a group called FCA—Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The FCAs vision is “To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes,” and that vision is exactly what we were trying to do on this trip. One of our missions on this trip was to spread the game of lacrosse in Kenya. Lacrosse is a very new sport in Kenya, with many areas and schools having never seen or heard of the game before. With lacrosse officially becoming an Olympic game in 2028 we really want to see Kenya put together a team to compete in the 2028 Olympics. But more importantly, as the FCA does, we wanted to use this passion of sports to fulfill the great commission, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations. So, a major part of our trip was visiting different schools, introducing lacrosse, and using that as an opportunity to speak about Jesus.

During the first few days of the trip, our 10-person team split into three groups, so that we could cover more ground. For the first 3 days, my mini group got placed at a school called Shibale, which the Kenyans called a *slum school*. This was around a high school level school. This school was the cheapest around, and unlike many schools in the area, it did not provide boarding. Throughout the three days at this school, we had a lot of fun, made some connections, and got to speak to the kids about God's love and our Savior Jesus.

We had a wonderful time at this school and left with a lot of takeaways. First, everyone at the school, from the teachers to the students, were very hospitable. Some of the kids would even come up to us, introduce themselves and ask our names, and then tell us we were welcome there. We did not have your typical American fields to play on. There was just a grassy area in between different classrooms on a slight hill, very small, and there was a small outhouse type building in the way. But these kids never complained once, they were just so full of joy and grateful for what they had. Another thing I noticed was how strong their academics were. When looking through the classrooms, I noticed there were some equations that I do not remember learning in school, and they were even learning accounting principles in one class. Most of these students spoke three languages, English, Swahili which was the national language, and a tribal language depending on their family. In speaking with some of the kids, I found out that they wanted to be doctors, engineers, and more. To get to the point, these kids were very bright, and this was at what was considered the lowest quality of high school there.

After my mini group's time at the Shibale school, our full group joined back together as we had a lot more left to do. During our trip we visited about ten schools and universities spread out over hours of traveling. Pretty much every time we visited a school, we would meet with the school leaders, speak with them about our mission, and get to pray with and for them. We hosted day camps for kids to learn and improve their lacrosse skills. Again, giving us an opportunity to not only teach these kids about lacrosse, but also to teach and show them about God's love.

Wherever we went, and whatever we did, the kids and people in general were so joyful. This trip was an amazing experience, not just because of what we were able to do on the trip, but also because of how we were all changed as well.

—Dillon Newport

Arrived Nairobi airport; met by host Fred Osore and 3 FCA leaders.



Taking a break with FCA leaders who were helping us at the at the Shibale school.



Geared-up for our team USA vs Kenya game.



My mini-group with the lacrosse sticks we provided at the Shibale school (known as a slum school)



Our group at the hotel with Fred Osore and 3 FCA leaders.



Our group at a school we visited.



Our group being introduced our first Sunday in Kenya.



Praying & singing worship songs at a small church.

COMMUNITY DAY!



Bringing
Christ
to the
COMMUNITY





September 7

SANCTUARY UPDATE



BEFORE





PHASE 3



Wow!
AFTER

**New
Carpeting!**





GOD of All My Days

I came to You, with my heart in pieces
And found the God, with healing in His hands
I turned to You, put everything behind me
And found the God, who makes all things new

I look to You, drowning in my questions
And found the God, who holds all wisdom
I trusted You, and stepped out on the ocean
You caught my hand among the waves

'cause You are the God of all my days
Each step I take, You make a way
I will give You all my praise
My sins exchanged, You stay the same
You are the God of all my days

I ran from You, and wandered in the shadows
And found the God, who relentlessly pursues
I hid from You, haunted by my failures
And found the God, whose grace still covers me

I fell on You, when I was at my weakest
And found the God, the lifter of my head
I've worshipped You, and felt You right beside me
You're the reason that I sing

'cause You are the God of all my days
Each step I take, You make a way
I will give You all my praise
My sins exchanged, You stayed the same
You are the God of all my days

In my worry, God You are my stillness
In my searching, God You are my answer
In my blindness, God You are my vision
In my bondage, God You are my freedom
In my weakness, God You are my power
You're the reason that I sing

'cause You are the God of all my days
Each step I take, You make a way
I will give You all my praise
My sins exchanged, You stayed the same
You are the God of all my days

In my blindness, God You are my vision
In my bondage, God You are my freedom
All my days

Songwriters: Ben Glover, Danny Gokey, Jeff Sojka, Colby Wedgeworth, Riley Clemmons

Kids Korne



Camden is really looking forward to Halloween this year! He is super pumped about the trunk or treat event at the church. Getting candy is a big deal for him, especially since he loves "peanut butter cups." This year, he's going to dress up as Spiderman because he thinks it's really cool and that Spiderman helps people in need, just like Jesus does. Camden also has a passion for airplanes and boats, and he enjoys spending time with his family. One of his favorite things about kid's church is when Mr. Mike pretends to fly him like an airplane, and he also loves the snacks and saying, "amen."

-Jessica Murray



Camden Murray



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Mille Charnick
- 9 Doug Kring
- 9 Josie Reitnauer
- 18 Debbie Hammond
- 18 Mary Jane Short
- 19 Linda Peiffer
- 19 Ruth Norbeck
- 21 Lisa Haas
- 23 John Lane
- 26 Lynne Brumbaugh
- 28 Terry Timmons
- 29 Tara Somers
- 31 Jim Becker

Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin:



God picks you from the patch and brings you in. (John 15:16)
Then He washes all the dirt off of you. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, fear, hate, and greed. (Romans 6:6)

He carves you a new smiling face. (Psalm 71:23)

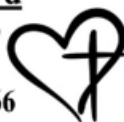
And He puts his light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. (Matthew 5:16)



Community Church of Oak Orchard

Where Friends Become Family!

32615 Oak Orchard Road, Millsboro, DE 19966



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Pastor Ed, Ted Brown
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Use the portal on
our website:
oakorchardchurch.com

Scroll down to the
bottom and click on
the "GIVE" button.

Thank you
for supporting our
mission and for your
faithfulness in giving!

Scan the QR Code below
to visit our website.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10/1 *Church Group Night Out*
6:30pm Yellowfins (Long Neck)
call Kayla to RSVP.

10/5 *Memorial Service*
for Cindy Derstine, Service
12pm, lunch to follow. Sides
needed, contact Marge Hurt.

10/6 *Fellowship Luncheon*
Following the 11am Service.

10/9 *Board Meeting* 3pm

10/11 *Meals 4 Missions*
Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner
4-7pm, \$14.

10/13 *Communion*

10/13 *Pizza Party* 12:30pm at
church for all VBS & Community
Day volunteers.

10/16 *Pumpkin Craft*
6-8pm, all are welcome

10/20 *Discipleship Class*
9:30am, new elective Bible
study class with Pastor Ed.

10/19 *"The Forge"*
Private movie showing.

10/21 *Dinner & Discussion*
5:45pm

10/23 *Praise & Worship Night*
6-9pm, fellowship & treats.

10/31 *Trunk or Treat*
6-8pm, Church Parking Lot

CHURCH BOARD of ELDERS

Pastor Allen Miller
Chair: Ted Brown
V/Chair: Steve Miller
Assoc. Pastor: Ed Vidzicki
Dave Hammer
Kurt Hepler
Mike Koly



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 or 11:00 AM
in person or online.

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Prayer 6:00 PM

Watch our services on:
Facebook—
[@oakorchardchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oakorchardchurch)

YouTube—
[@CCOakOrchard/streams](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOAKOrchardStreams)

BIBLE STUDY
Tuesdays 6:30 PM
Zoom Bible Study

Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM
AGAPE Bible Study

ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM
T.O.P.S. Meeting
(Take off Pounds Sensibly)

Wednesdays 8 PM C.D.A.

Fellowship Luncheon
1st Sunday of the Month
at 12:30