

Thoughts from Rev. Mary

...Do you love Me?...Shepherd My sheep. John 21:16

...“Follow Me!” John 21:19

Because God specifically chose Mary and Peter for prominent roles in His plan of salvation, and their responses of devotion and leadership, both are never far from my thoughts. How do I personally, and how do we corporately, apply their examples to our daily lives? A complete picture of Christian maturity emerges when we meditate on Mary’s deep spirituality and Peter’s very human journey to boldly proclaim the gospel and humbly lead the new church.

We must be both leader, follower and discerner of the Spirit’s leading as we serve Christ. When we travelled to Italy, a tour of the Colosseum took an unexpected turn. So many people thronged the corridors that I could not see the flag of our petite tour guide. So, I followed where I guessed she was leading. Richard found me and led me back to the group. But, I admit, not without some resistance. “I AM going the right way!” I said.

Looking back, like following the Lord, my simple experience had three different attitudes: recognizing I was lost, submitting to leadership, and enduring my embarrassment at losing my way. [Would the group accept me back graciously or consider me an old lady who couldn’t keep up?] When I considered the alternative, the danger of being VERY lost, with no one to follow plus facing an Italian- speaking cab driver, I became overjoyed at being found and led.

The Lord appointed Peter as a shepherd of the new flock of believers. Like Peter, the new pastor and elders, shoulder the responsibility of spiritually directing the church and *coordinating* the ministry of other groups. Following their leadership takes humility and a different kind of responsibility: that of following gratefully.

Following and leading on Peter’s part, involved the courage to face crowds, facing death, persecution and imprisonment. Peter led through giving up his prejudices and even welcoming Paul, a very vocal newcomer into the inner circle of disciples [Acts 15]. To follow the Holy Spirit’s leading, he had to be content to share the ministry with Paul, and at times be rebuked by him [Galatians 2:11-21]. He led by graciously trusting Paul’s teaching and encouraging others to follow them even if they were “difficult and hard to understand” [[2 Peter 3:14-16]. Peter, a humble pastor, knew when to lead and when to follow.

As Richard and I change from a course of leadership to following another pastor, we repeatedly remind ourselves: "Now is the time to follow." It's difficult to change.

Mary's example has been my guide. She loved unconditionally. Years ago, we tried to match- make: our single Indian brother in Christ with our friend Diane. When we asked if he'd like to meet her, his reply made a lasting impression on me: "No, that's not necessary." "Why?" I asked. "Because, if we decided to marry, her looks and personality would not matter. *I would choose* to love her." he said.

Mary simply chose to love Jesus despite her lack of understanding. She trusted His judgment and timing at the miracle of changing water into wine. And, she remained at the foot of Jesus' cross regardless of her own suffering and grief. She followed Him to the end and still believed when the leaders mocked Jesus, and Peter and others deserted Him.

We find Mary *chose* to trust Peter and forgive his desertion, because Jesus Himself had restored Peter, and given him the role of leadership [John 21:15-19]. I'm touched that Mary chose to pray with Peter and the others as they waited together for the coming Holy Spirit [Acts 1:13-14]. Our challenge? Pray *with* the pastor and session [Acts 12:5,12; 20:36-38]. Whatever their decisions or the outcomes in the church, we need to leave behind opinions, hurts and anxiety over the future. They gradually melt away when we pray together. Prayer makes us honest and humble for we all stand on level ground before the Savior when we pray.

As Richard and I leave Middle Octorara, we thank you for your loving trust and prayer during our time of leadership.

Now, we choose to love the coming pastor unconditionally: sight unseen, faults and all. I look forward to praying with you and him with thankful joy at the front of the sanctuary!

Whatever role God calls us to take... follower or Shepherd...may He give us all the courage and humility of Mary and Peter.

Pastor Richard

As we come to the end of our time here at Middle Octorara, we are so grateful for the opportunity to serve with you through this vital time of transition of the church. As we have worked on, taught on and discussed the nature of the church and its outreach and growth, we have begun to hear a little bit of “When we get the right pastor, then we can grow again.” Now understand, there is some truth to this.... After all, good leadership is vital to congregational life. But as we look deeper, we discover that a) Sometimes churches have grown even without the greatest of pastors and b) Some churches don’t grow even with fabulous pastors. So, I would like to take time to express what I believe are 4 absolutely fundamental elements to the growth of the church.

1. **The clear proclamation of the gospel, both by the pastor and the congregation.**

People no longer come to church because it is the thing “to do”, but rather because they are looking for meaning and purpose, which only Christ can give through his forgiveness and grace. Our mission field is **out in the community**, and this congregation will grow as it becomes an **inviting, witnessing** church and a congregation that finds ways to touch the needs of people with the transforming gospel of Jesus, our Savior, who died for us, rose for us, and one day will come again for us. “Knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men....” (2 Corinthians 5:11)

Several weeks ago, **I asked the Sunday School class** how many of those in attendance were **actively farming**.... I knew the answer.... None! What a radical shift over the last 50 years! We can no longer depend on being the lovely church in the farming community that will attract people because we are there...Our mission field will no longer be the people who live in the farms surrounding the church, but rather men and women and children with whom we have connected and introduced to Jesus! So, talk about the church, but more importantly talk about Jesus to your friends and family and coworkers. They will come if we are alive in Christ!

2. **Prayer, individual and corporate.** Ministry is hard these days, as we seek to bear witness in a culture that is often hostile to the Scripture and its teaching. But God is greater, and we must call upon Him to work that we would see Him changing lives of people to whom we go with our witness. We cannot expect spiritual results without using the spiritual tools God has given us!

Praying for your new pastor is not an option, but rather a necessity. Praying before the service for God’s blessing is this congregation saying “we will trust God to work” beyond our expectations. Praying after service in response to what God has been saying ensures we “nail down” God’s message to us. Many of you prefer to pray alone.... Such prayer is vital to our life together! But there is ample New Testament teaching and precedent for praying together! (Matthew

18:19, Acts 1:14; Acts 4:24-31; Acts 12:12; Acts 13:3). I want to challenge this congregation to be known for its prayer, which is surely the fuel of all revival, which is exactly what Middle Octorara is longing for. Jesus said, “if you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” (Luke 11:12). If we are longing for New Testament results, let’s apply New Testament practices!

3. **Become students of the Word of God.** Not only was the early church (which was growing quickly!) engaged in study of the Scripture from the very beginning, but Paul says that one of the prerequisites for us as men and women of God **to become mature** is to become students of the Word! (2 Timothy 3:16, 17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped [or mature] for every good work.”) Let’s get after it! Remember, the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two –edged sword, (Hebrews 4:12)
4. **Become excellent at loving each other.** Here we are really good at loving those with whom we have had long-term connections. We are not quite as good at loving the person across the sanctuary whose name I forget, or the person who has not showed up for a month or more. We have a little more trouble connecting with and loving those who are brand new. Love expressed in hospitality is too often a forgotten art in our busy day and age. What would happen if this congregation were known for inviting over for dinner newcomers to the church and finding ways to welcome “newbies” into your home and family? What would happen if every three months, each of you made a special goal to get to know someone you have never really connected with before. Look again at the end of Acts 2 after the day of Pentecost.... Rich fellowship was an expression of the work of God in their midst.... This congregation is excellent at showing love... **let’s become excellent again at inviting new and different people into our lives.** Isolation is an unfortunate disease of the digital age.... let’s show the world there is a different way: shared love in community!
- 5.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CELEBRATION OF MOTHERS

Our Celebration of Mothers Banquet, May 11, was a fun evening. Sixty-eight ladies were treated to a meal which was cooked and served by the men. Thank you, guys! It was greatly appreciated. Elva Hurst, chalk artist drew a wonderful picture in 22 minutes, then donated it to the church. She also spoke of her faith journey, describing how she grew up in the Old Order Amish tradition and learned to love the beauty of God's creation on the farm.

LOOKING AHEAD

Clothing Give-away in August. Of special need, as always, is clothing for babies and children. This event is held a few weeks before the children go back to school, so that moms may come and find some new 'threads' for the family. After the give-away is over, nothing is wasted. MOPW staff finds a home for every piece of good, used clothing. For example, the unsold shoes are given to someone who sends them to dog shelters so they have a brand new chew toy. If you plan to give some clothing items, please label the bags or boxes as to gender and size. This will be very helpful to the volunteers. LOTS OF HELP will be needed the week before the give-away. It takes a LOT of time to sort through and organize all the clothes. The actual date of the Give-Away will be announced in July.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

We are so thankful for all the ladies who are willing to help when there is a need for a funeral luncheon, either by hands-on in the kitchen or by providing a cake or jello salad. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Shirley Miller. Shirley does not want to exclude anyone who wishes to help, but cannot always know who is available. If you know of an upcoming funeral luncheon and would like to help, please contact Shirley and volunteer. Do not wait to be asked. She will always welcome your help. 717-786-3690.

SILVER SISTERS

The Silver Sisters had a great day last week. Eleven of us went to the Bird In Hand Restaurant for lunch and the show "Stolen". The show is adapted from a book by Wanda Brunstetter. We discussed going to the show "Ovation" that is currently at the American Music Theatre. Watch the bulletin for making reservations once we choose a date.

SUMMER MUSIC

I (Rose) am behind schedule getting the Summer Music. I have made many calls and texts, left many messages, but am not getting return calls. Or they are checking their schedule, and not being very prompt at getting back to me. Every year gets more difficult. So bear with me, I am working on it.

June 9 is our own Joan Probst, June 23 is Jesse Spangler - cello, and June 30 is Chetty Earhart. But I will get them filled!! If you have suggestions, give me a name and number to call.

TRUSTEES

We now have air conditioning in the sanctuary. There are 3 wall units, like those in the welcome center. They will be quieter than the window units that we have been using. They can also be used to supplement the heat in cold weather. But the best thing about this is the fact that they are being paid for by a very generous donor. You will still see it on the treasurer's report, as money coming in and going out, but it's not money that YOU donated. We certainly are appreciative of the wonderful gift.

VBS

We are very excited about this year's VBS at MO. Folks from Georgetown Methodist will be helping as teachers and notifying the students who usually attend their Bible School to come to MO this year.

ROAR – this year's theme . VBS at MO is scheduled for June 16-20, 6-8:30 PM. The Biblical Faith lesson will be GOD IS GOOD. Our 5 animal friends from the African plains will be helping to teach us as we sing songs, do crafts and activities.

There will be classes for children ages Pre-K through grade 5. In addition, there will be a class for folks with various abilities and disabilities – all ages. Tami Shaub is bringing participants from the A-Team and hopes to see some new faces.

And, this year we are holding a class for adults. It is titled 'Life Principles' – based on a book by Charles Stanley. So, parents can bring their children to VBS and stay for a teaching of their own. Pre-registration is encouraged. You may find a registration form at church or go onto our church Website to register.

Those in charge of décor for VBS are asking all to help by providing what you can from the list below.. Thank you so much. Whatever supplies we can glean from our congregation lessens the need for us to purchase them.

Here is a list of items we could use. When items are brought to the church for VBS décor, please place them on a table in the social hall. All items that you want returned to you should be labeled with your name.

Foam adhesive in spray can; roll of brown craft paper; roll of light grey craft paper; squirt bottle; plastic drop cloths; rolls of plastic table covering (off -white, light blue, black, dark blue, yellow, green), dried grass for grass roofs for huts; baskets of various sizes (prefer taller rather than low ones); paint (various shades of green and yellow-green, and black); magnetic clips; dark blue cellophane; tissue paper (like what you get in a gift package – any color); spotlight lamps; spray cans of grey, brown, black paint; leopard print table covers or fabric; paint sticks; tobacco lath; foam insulation board scraps; small rugs for children to sit on (2' x 3'); any colorful fabric print; masking tape; duct tape; scotch tape; gummy stuff that is used to stick items to wall without damaging paint; markers of all colors; small gauge wire; utility knife.

The Craft Coordinator has asked everyone to save your toilet paper card-board tube, or the tubes from your paper towel rolls. These will be used for one of the crafts for the children. THANK YOU!!!

We will be holding a VBS Decorating Party on Saturday, June 8 beginning at 8 AM. Come and join us – be part of the team which is planning a great week for VBS. How exciting...we are already receiving registrations. Them is ROAR – 'LIFE IS WILD...GOD IS GOOD'

MISSION MUSINGS

We have re-formed the Middle Octorara Mission Committee. We have met several times during the past few months. One item of business is to decide which and how many mission opportunities we should support. We now have a list and will feature one each month in a Minute for Mission during the worship service. We will try to schedule them the first Sunday of the month although we will be flexible depending on what else is scheduled for the first Sunday. The schedule is:

January: Solanco Pastors Fuel Fund
February: MOPW supported Missions
March: Overseas Missions
April: Flowing Oil Cafe
May: Northstar Initiative
June: New Hope Ministry
July: Living Waters International
August: Peru Mission
September: Community Missions
October: Toys for local children, Mother's/ Father's packs
November: Operation Christmas Child
December: Hands Across the Street

Many of these are missions we have supported in the past while some are new. We are open to God's leading as well as suggestions from our church family. Also, if you feel God calling you to serve on the Mission Committee please contact Boni Henry.

Boni and I plan to leave for Tamshiyacua Peru in early July for eight days. We ask for your prayers for a safe, enjoyable and meaningful trip. As always, we are so thankful for our church families support through encouragement, financial support and prayer. We will be joining several folks from 1st Presbyterian Church of Jefferson City again this year. We will be working on construction projects as well as holding a Bible School each afternoon. We will report our adventures via email as often as possible while we are in the Amazon jungle.

Just a reminder that although summer will soon be here our privilege and responsibility to spread the love of Jesus continues. Look for the opportunities God provides to help others in the name of Jesus. Also remember to invite others to join us in worship on Sunday.

2nd Thessalonians 3:13
Dan Henry

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Age and a Timely Reminder

I turned 79 on May 25th, and recently I was reminded that each of those years disconnected me from the experience and memories of a significant part of the people that I see every day.

After telling some stories to a group of friends, I realized that they have lived in a more recent world. I told them that I would never have gotten through college if it were not for the flexible work schedule at Ferguson and Hassler. Also, that I am forever grateful to Thurston (Wink) and George Hassler and Truman Ferguson for helping me when I needed it. For example, in 1961, I was Bob Work's assistant mail carrier for the boro and I had to carry the mail when he went on vacation. Since Shirley and I were married and John was one year old, I wanted to make as much money as I could that summer. So, I took a job with a blacktop gang and just worked at Fergies on Friday nights and all day Saturday. After three weeks doing blacktop, I informed the boss that I would have to take a week off to carry the mail. He fired me. I ended up picking strawberries with a bunch of migrant workers on the Lutz produce farm. The following Friday while packing groceries with "Wink" Hassler I shared my sad tale. "Wink" said that he would talk to "Trumie" (Truman Ferguson) about the situation. They gave me 40 hour weeks for the remainder of the summer.

I also shared a story about my entry into politics in 1970. Having been asked by Democratic Party leaders to run against Marv Miller for the state House seat in the old 97th District, I needed to find out how to run a campaign. John Pittinger represented the 96th District (Lancaster City) in the state House, and Tom Monaghan was Mayor of Lancaster. They both allowed me to sit in during their campaign meetings. I went on to lose the election as most Democrats do in Lancaster County and wrote the whole thing off as an exercise in public service.

However, one day at CV I was called out of class to be questioned by two very big men – FBI agents. Tom Monaghan had been charged with corruption and would be tried in Federal Court in Philadelphia. Everyone who attended Monaghan's meetings was being investigated. I tried to convince them that I was a political novice just trying to learn from those with experience, and that I did not know anything that would interest them. It went on and on as they asked me if I ever received any money from Monaghan's secretary or if I ever gave her any money and similar questions about others in the campaign. The trial was coming up, and I knew that I would receive a subpoena. However, Monaghan made a deal (no contest) and there would be no trial. I was relieved, but I have often wondered if the FBI was just being thorough or if someone in the campaign was trying to pin something on me.

By this time my friends were confused and bored. They knew as much about "Wink" Hassler, Tom Monaghan, and Marv Miller as they knew about Socrates and Plato.

P.S. I have very fond memories of my eight years at Fergies. Too bad it ends with what some mistakenly call progress.

THIS- N-THAT

Reverend Dr. Larry Chottiner is to speak at the annual **Reunion of The Donegal Society**-an organization dedicated to preserving the history of our areas Scots-Irish settlers. The meeting is on Thursday afternoon, June 13th, followed by a delicious dinner at Donegal Church outside of Mt. Joy. Dr. Chottiner will be giving a talk entitled, "It Matters: Discerning the Times: - a look at history's impact on our present day but also on the way it impacts the future. Larry Chottiner was senior Minister of the Highland Presbyterian Church, as well as serving many others over the years. He is retired and a member of Donegal Presbytery. The program will also include a soloist and a bagpiper will entertain on the beautiful grounds of the Donegal Presbyterian Church. For more information, and to make dinner reservations please call Theresa at 717-653-1943.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June birthday's

3 – Sandra Shenk
4 – Lloyd Miller
6 – Lorraine Heidinger (1st)
9 – Kathy Keene
11 – LaVera Groff
12 – Andy Keene
13 – Jean Bradford, Theresa Williams
29 – Betty Hughes

June anniversaries

10 – Clint & Aley Frackman
18 - Gene & Shirley Graver
21 – Stu & Jodie Mylin
26 – John & Cheryl Girvin
28 – Virgil & Brenda Roark

July birthday's through 7th

4 – Kay Reinhart, Beth Messick
5 – Stacy Herr

July anniversaries through 7th

1 – Carlton & Allie (Girvin) Armstrong
2 – Ken & Dottie Garver
5 – Ed & Melissa Cannon



TREASURER'S REPORT

**GENERAL FUND
& BENEVOLENCE FINANCES**

May 2019

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

May 5 -	General Fund	1,868.21	Benevolence	145.00
May 12	General Fund	1,385.00	Benevolence	91.00
May 19 -	General Fund	2,485.00	Benevolence	171.00
May 26 -	General Fund	2,079.00	Benevolence	301.00

An additional \$759.14 General Fund money was also received by mail etc.



YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	12,253.20	64,329.30	8,576.35	50,694.10	57,352.66
Benevolence	492.32	2,584.68	708.00	3,592.00	

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5 Romeo club 9:00 a.m.	June 6	June 7	June 8
June 9	June 10	June 11 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	June 12 Romeo club 9:00 a.m.	June 13 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	June 14 	June 15
June 16 Honoring graduates  VBS	June 17 VBS	June 18 VBS	June 19 Romeo club 9:00 a.m. VBS	June 20 VBS	June 21 	June 22
June 23 Brondyke's Party 12:00	June 24	June 25	June 26 Romeo club 9:00 a.m.	June 27	June 28	June 29
June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3 Romeo club 9:00 a.m.	July 4 	July 5	July 6