

December 2016



*Together on the Journey with your
District Executive Minister.....*

From Thanksgiving until now I've been dealing with a health challenge. While tempted to feel depressed and angry, the silver lining is that I'm taking it as a wakeup call to make some significant life style changes. We're in Advent, a season which reminds us of the importance of preparation and patience.

My problem was diverticulitis with a perforation, which hospitalized me for four days with intense pain and on the verge of undergoing emergency surgery, which thankfully was averted. I'm still recovering. I have no doubt that being on the road through too many meal times, late night eating and unhealthy ways of coping with stress contributed to my problem. I'm committed to making changes for the healthier, but how much better it would have been to have addressed this a long time ago, and prepared for a healthier future. The twisted adage, "Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow" is an unhealthy way to live. I'm wondering if many of us in this season of preparation need to take more seriously that "our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 6:19), which among all the things that may mean, at the least means that we need to take better care of ourselves.

Preparation and patience go together. Through my recovery I'm being reminded of the virtue of patience. I'm a little better each day, the emphasis on *a little*. I'm often reminded of a throwaway comment a past professor of mine made to our class which was questioning him because we felt exams hadn't been promptly returned. He said, "Isn't patience the mark of a mature person?" That was a transformative remark that has inspired me over the years to be more patient, not that I'm not still learning patience, but I try to embrace

opportunities to exercise patience and become more mature. Patience gives time and space for growth and good things to be manifest; impatience stifles and aborts that.

So I pray you an Advent that deepens your commitment to preparation along with exercises in patience. I'm not in a rush to get to Christmas. I'm content to wait here in Advent, to give time and attention to the good things that God would bring to life in us and for us, as we prepare and be patient.

Gene

NOAC 2017

Consider using the Mid-Atlantic bus to travel to NOAC, a one day trip with cost not to exceed \$135 per person for a round trip. The 2017 NOAC is September 4-8 at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

More information to follow in January.

Become A Shepherd's Spring Volunteer

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Shepherd's Spring Volunteer. At Shepherd's Spring, we recognize the importance of our local churches, their commitment and their passion to use their individual gifts in service to Christ. We continue to need your support in order to provide our campers and clients with the source of renewal found in the evidence of His handiwork on display in our outdoor space and retreat center.

Our goal is to build relationships with and involve as many congregations as possible, so that together, we can share the gospel of Christ while providing for the physical needs of people who are sharing our space and participating in our summer camp, Heifer Global Village, Road Scholar and retreat center programs. This only happens through a partnership with people like you.

We are looking for people from our district's COB churches to volunteer. These are men and women

who regularly attend their church, have a heart for our mission and are willing to commit to our programming. The time commitment for this will vary based upon your preferred area of interest.

Our volunteer opportunities include –

- • Kitchen/food service assistance;
- • Housekeeping assistance;
- • Hosting of retreat groups;
- • Facility/maintenance assistance;
- • Summer camp program assistance;
- • Heifer Global Village assistance;
- • Road Scholar assistance;
- • Board of Directors (one board position and the Treasurer position are currently vacant);
- • Special committees including the 2017 Golf Tournament and 5K Run planning committees as well as our ongoing board committees for finance, development, personnel policies, and program

If you would like more information on the duties and responsibilities of a volunteer, please see our Volunteer Policy, Guidelines, and Position Descriptions available on our website.

To apply for one or more of our volunteer opportunities, contact Robin Haywood, HR & Volunteer Coordinator at rkhaywood@aol.com or at 301-733-6665.

Thank you for praying for Shepherd's Spring and asking God to encourage our current and future volunteers who support us with gifts of time and talent that they may be blessed with enthusiasm for our continued ministry.

Habitat House

The Outreach and Service Ministry Team chair Glenn Young is looking for congregations that maybe interested in helping or giving to the Mustard Seed II Habitat House in Washington County, Maryland. Glenn would like to visit your congregation to present plans, schedule and what you can do to contribute to the completing this project. If there is any Mid-Atlantic District

congregation that would like Glenn to present the program to them, please contact him at 301-331-8010.

PLACEMENT UPDATE

Broadfording	Forming Search Committee
Easton	Searching
Frederick	Preparing profile
Friendship	Searching
Ridgeley	Seaching
Woodbridge	Negotiating

Directory Update

Please let the District office know of any changes in your mailing address or your phone number.

The 2017 Directory will be coming out in March, please let the District office know of any changes in address, phone number and emails.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

December

Dec 23- Jan 2 District Office Closed

January

7	Britnee Harbaugh Ordination Service Brownsville CoB, 3 pm
11	P&A, 6 pm at the District Office LCT, 7:30 pm at the District Office
14	LT, 8:30 am -3 pm, at the District Office
15	Angela Finet Ordination Service Nokesville CoB
21-27	CODE meeting in Coco Beach, Fla.
29	LT, 8:30 am - 3 pm (Snow Date)

2017 Annual Conference

June 28-July 2, 2016

Grand Rapids, MI

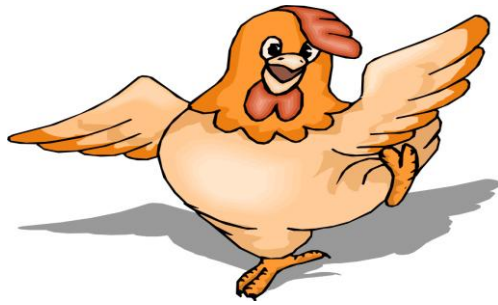
Moderator Carol Scheppard

2017 Mid-Atlantic District Conference

October 13-14, 2017

Frederick, MD

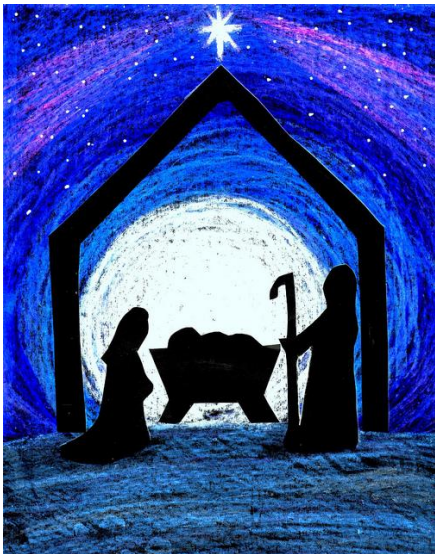
Moderator Brian Bachman



**Meat Canning Project
April 17, 18, 19, 20, 24 & 25, 2017**

**Processed at:
Christian Aid Ministries**

Contact the District Office to sign up today!



Happy Holidays !

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