



Focus on District Service Opportunities with your District Executive Minister . . .

The district's \$65,000 Habitat House sponsorship commitment has been fulfilled through a last generous personal gift. Through the sacrificial generosity of congregations and members around the district the Anderson family – Waynisha and her eight yearold son and four yearold daughter, now has a place to call home and to put down roots in the community. 20+ congregations and around the same number of individuals contributed financially and/or in-kind toward the sponsorship. Other persons around the district provided time and labor. Thanks to each of you for your gifts and ministry. I want to say a special thank you to the Outreach and Service Ministry Team that met regularly to facilitate the effort along with members also contributing construction knowledge and skills, time, and materials. The specific committee was Howard Stevens from First, Baltimore; Denny Rowe and Marvin Weigle from Johnsontown; Dave Klein from Locust Grove; and Chair, Glenn Young from Hagerstown. Habitat Director Joyce Heptner; Habitat Construction Supervisor Joe Aaron; and Habitat Administrative Assistant Jessica Scott met with us regularly as well. The house wouldn't have gone up without each of these folks. Special thanks to Glenn whose vision for this ministry and leadership, commitment, and perseverance guided us to the point of seeing a house we can be proud of standing at 103 N. Cleveland Ave., Hagerstown, MD.

Laura Pfeiffer and Dave Klein have been serving as Mid-Atlantic Co-Disaster Response Liaison's. Laura has been serving in her position for the past five years, and we are looking for an individual to orient with her as she transitions out of the position. The liaisons help connect congregations and individuals who would be willing to volunteer and work at disaster sites with Brethren Disaster Ministries projects. Dave has been the "face" of Mid-Atlantic response, staffing an information table at the Disaster Auction and District Conference; Laura has been doing the email-communications side of the work. So, we're looking for someone (or a few people) who want to help others through service, and for someone who is internet-email comfortable and willing to work at helping congregations become aware of and get connected with opportunities for service. You'll have support from the BDM side through a contact and training. It may be helpful to have gone on projects, and to have some familiarity with the district, but these are not prerequisites. The district, through proceeds from the Disaster Auction, has funds available – currently almost \$50K, to support volunteers traveling to and working at disaster projects. If you're willing to consider this opportunity to serve please be in touch with either Laura Pfeiffer rlsmpfeiffer@yahoo.com or Dave Klein dualimages3d@yahoo.com.

Finally, one of the very best things we do together as a district is to work together to raise funds for Church of the Brethren Disaster Response Ministries. We do that through support of the Disaster Response Auction Booklet, the Benefit Dinner, and the Auction itself. Your church office should have and be publicizing information about all of these. The booklet raises about \$14K, the Dinner around \$4K, and the Auction around \$40K. Last year the district forwarded \$60K to Brethren Disaster Ministries for disaster response, an amount which is pretty usual. But, it's getting harder. We need the support and participation of our congregations and members with purchasing ads for the booklet, and with attending the dinner (always a delicious meal, along with some news and entertainment), and supporting the auction. Some of that auction support can be congregations sponsoring booths, individuals contributing materials in good shape or services to be auctioned, spreading the word and inviting neighbors and friends to share in an enjoyable day, and attending yourself, and spreading around a little green. Here are dates and times:

April 7, 2018, 6:00 pm – Benefit Dinner – Bush Creek COB – Baked goods donations welcome

May 4, 2018, 9:00 am – Auction setup at Carroll County Ag Center; auction items start arriving at 12:00 noon – Setup help needed all day – Come and help for as long as you can.

May 5, 2018, 7:00 am – Auction – Carroll County Ag Center

Jeff McKee of the Union Bridge congregation is the outstanding Chair and leader of a great and hardworking Disaster Auction Team. They're looking for people who would be willing to serve on that Team and contribute toward continuing this crucial ministry which extends the love and care of Jesus Christ and the Church to people at a terribly difficult time in their lives. If you're interested in finding out what would be involved and how you might get involved, Jeff invites you to contact him at jamckee26@msn.com.

Together on the journey, Gene Hagenberger

From the District Conference Moderator...

This year's theme is Spirit, Soul, Body. Salvation is about wholeness, sanctification is about holiness.

Hope everyone has October 12th and 13th, 2018 on your calendar for District Conference.

I'm challenging us to join together in memorizing and living into our scripture

1 Thess 5:23,24: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

As we embed this truth into our soul, we can embody this truth into our living. God's Holy Spirit will do what God has promised.



1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Design by Linda Lambert, Artist Kasia Caputo

What God has done for us through Jesus Christ (salvation), God wants to do in us through the Holy Spirit (sanctification).

I'm available as scheduling allows to preach, listen to concerns and share our joys as the Body of Christ.

I'm hoping to communicate with you as we make plans for Worship, Workshops, and Work at this year's District Conference at the Manassas COB October 12th, 13th 2018.

LOGO INTERPRETATION

Theme: Spirit - Soul - Body

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Flame: Holy Spirit: regenerating power to sanctify through our spirit. 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Dogwood Flower: Soul - Representing 4 dimensions: Mind - Emotion - Social Connection - Credo (Core belief) Matthew 22: 36-40

Leaf: Represents our good organic origin. Genesis 2:7

Oval: Our physical body as a temple. 1 Cor 6: 19-20

Linda Lambert, Moderator

Book Review

SMELLING SALTS FOR THE SOUL

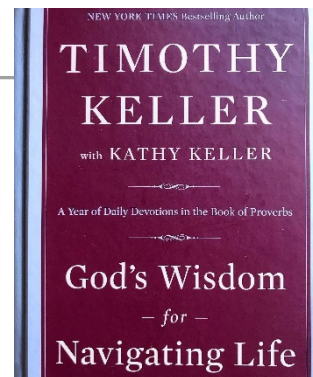
A Review of -- Tim Keller/Kathy Keller. *God's Wisdom For Navigating Life. A Year of Daily Devotions in the Book of Proverbs.* New York: Viking Press, 2017.

by Paul Munday

In every generation, there are incisive writers, who have a gift for conveying penetrating truth. Tim Keller is one of those persons. Like Eugene Peterson, Frederick Buechner, and Rachel Held Evans — Keller 'cuts-through' rationalization, wishful thinking and biblical/theological stereotypes and give us fresh thought, and insights one can't easily ignore.

Tim Keller's latest book does just that, as he and his wife Kathy, guide us through the book of Proverbs, day by day. As a sequel to their popular devotion: *The Songs of Jesus. A Year of Daily Devotionals in the Psalms – God's Wisdom for Navigating Life. A Year of Daily Devotions in the Book of Proverbs* is equally valid, if not more probing -- upending our assumptions and 'Sunday School' answers to the stretching challenges and angst of life. For the Keller's depict the Proverbs as more than inspirational, wise sayings, but "...smelling salts to startle you into alertness...." (p. ix)

In that regard, the Keller's present the Proverbs as a challenge to our entire worldview. In fact, "...one of the main messages of Proverbs is – you've never really thought enough about anything..." (p. ix). And so far from being



Provided by Paul Munday

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a 'syrupy advice column,' Proverbs "...calls us to study, to think, to learn the practical discipline of centering *all* of our thoughts and actions on *God*..." (p. ix, emphasis added).

Though I'm early in my daily trek through Proverbs, and Keller's book, I've found their approach to be both jarring and helpful. Already, I am learning a lot! For example, I have, on occasion, felt disrespected and 'looked down on' – but never knew what to call it the experience, biblically. Well, now I know, from my January 16th devotional with the Keller's, based on Proverbs 3:34 -- that a disrespectful, sneering person is a mocker.

"The mocker...[has a] talent for cutting insults and invective looks [that appear to be] intellectual sophistication. [But] behind the mask of witticisms...is a vastly inflated confidence in his own opinion and intelligence...[as they offer up] signs, snarky comments, and arched eyebrows..." (p. 16)

Well, you get the gist of their approach. Practical, probing, but, unpredictable.

And so, though I haven't finished *God's Wisdom for Navigating Life. A Year of Daily Devotions in the Book of Proverbs* (I'm moving through it, day by day) – I already know it's a 'good read.'

And so if you are looking for a worthy devotional for the remainder of the year, take a look. But be prepared to be jolted. For Keller's *do* present the Proverbs as truth that confronts, and not just informs -- that provide 'smelling salts' for the soul.

- Paul Munday is an Ordained Church of the Brethren pastor in the Mid-Atlantic District. Currently, he is starting up his ministry of writing and consulting. For more of Paul's insight, check out his weekly blog: www.paulmunday.blogspot.com

MOVIE REVIEW

 By WALT WILTSCHEK

I'll confess up front that I'm a fan of Pixar. I've loved nearly every movie this now-Disney-owned studio has produced. They consistently produce quality movie with good storytelling, stunning animation, intriguing characters, and lots of heart.

That said, Pixar's most recent film, "Coco," may be my favorite of all of them — certainly in the top three. It weaves together a beautiful story about music, relationships, the meaning of family, and the power of memory, all while deeply and respectfully immersing itself in Mexican culture and tradition. It strikes the right chords from beginning to end, literally and figuratively, with the hauntingly beautiful song "Remember Me" a particular standout.

In the movie young Miguel has a passion for playing the guitar, but his family frowns on any sort of music, for reasons that are teased out over the course of the film. Miguel can't give it up, though, and as he reaches desperation he finally makes sense of his life only by spending time among the dead.

The fast-paced film is set around Mexico's colorful Day of the Dead festival, when families set up photos of departed loved ones and various tributes to celebrate and remember those who have gone before. Miguel finds himself transported to the land of the dead via an accident, and there meets a variety of ancestors and others who help him piece together his mysterious family tree and his music — and who can provide the blessing he needs to return to the living.

As one might expect, the film has a happy ending (it has a bit of Disney-esque predictability, after all), with a particularly touching scene featuring Miguel and his great-grandmother, Coco. Like "Finding Nemo," "Up," "Toy

"And in kneeling to wash the feet of others, we are reminded that it's not all about us. It's about our faith and this larger family to which we have been connected."

Story 3,” and others, it pulls at the heartstrings and is as rich emotionally as it is visually.
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Continued from page 3

It occurred to me somewhere in the days after I first saw “Coco” that it resonates rather well with the Brethren experience, too — particularly in our celebration of the love feast. That unique service likewise draws upon the deepest and best parts of our tradition. It weaves music through its movements as a powerful connection to one another. It is an act of memory, recalling the worship of generations of Brethren and the humility and selflessness shown by Jesus Christ at the Last Supper and the events that followed. And it reminds us what it means to be family.

One Cinema Scope reviewer described “Coco” as “a great, lively film defined not only by the joy inherent in music, but by a pervasive love for human beings, imperfections and all.” If that doesn’t say love feast, I don’t know what does.

As with our blood-related family, our spiritual family can sometimes drive us crazy. We wonder how we all ended up under the same roof. Yet in moments such as love feast we find the common cords that bring us together: foundational beliefs and values that continue to shape us, actions of service and simplicity, and our desire to follow and become more like Jesus.

We don’t all like the same music, but some beautiful hymns and other tunes still bring us together in literal and figurative harmony. And in kneeling to wash the feet of others, we are reminded that it’s not all about us. It’s about our faith and this larger family to which we have been connected. That’s why deacons once visited all members to make sure no simmering disagreements or grudges existed between members of the congregation before the love feast service took place.

“Coco” is an homage to music and to culture, but its lingering note is about the ties that bind us. And they are indeed blessed.

Walt Wiltschek is pastor of Easton (Md.) Church of the Brethren and a contributor to MESSENGER.

Correction

In the article **A Dream Come True** in the January 2018 **Journey**, photos were attributed to Glenn Young. They were taken by Dave Klein. Also, Howard Stevens should have been included as a committee member.

FOR RENT

Edgewood congregation has a house for rent that is located on church property, Rt. 31, near New Winsdor.

Totally renovated in 2010.

Downstairs: kitchen, dining room, livingroom, ½ bath, laundry room.

Upstairs: three bedrooms with small room for office or

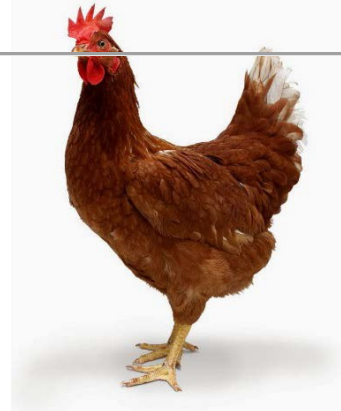
Nursery, full bath.

Full attic and basement, detached garage.

Call Jerry Duble at 410-635-2506

Directory Update

The 2018 Directory will be coming out in March. Please let the District office know of any changes in your address, phone number, and emails by February 20.



Chicken Canning 2018
8 Days

**April 16, 17, 18, 19 and
April 23, 24, 25, 26**

Processed at Christian Aid Ministries

Volunteers are still needed!

Call the District office to sign up today

Placement Update

- **Allensville**—Rich Cooper, Interim.
- **Arlington**—Christy Dowdy, Interim
- **Broadfording**—Eric Henderson, Interim. Searching and interviewing.
- **Columbia**—Gerry Hanberry, Interim. Searching and interviewing.
- **Denton**—Rusty Curling, Interim. Searching and interviewing.
- **Frederick**—Jim Benedict, Interim Acting Lead Pastor. Kevin King begins as Lead Pastor April 1. One or two other positions to follow call of Lead Pastor.
- **Friendship**—Tom Richard begins as Pastor April 14.
- **Meadow Branch**—Open April 14.
- **Midland**—Tim Monn retiring August 31, 2018.
- **Myersville**—Duane and Carol Strickler, Co-Interims
- **Oakton**—Randy Yoder, Interim
- **Sharpsburg**—Jim Peyton retiring April 2, 2018.
- **Thurmont**—Interim team of Bill Caputo, Joanne Gaver, and Linda Lambert.
- **Union Bridge**—Sandi Rogers, Interim. Searching.
- **Woodbridge**—Charlotte Bear, Interim. Considering future direction

Continue to remember in prayer: Paul Dodd and Pete Haynes; both are recovering from surgery.

“When Peace Like a River”

**2018 Lenten Services
Area 5/6 Church of the Brethren**

Congregational Hymn Sing @ 6:45 pm
Worship Service Starts @ 7:00 pm

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Host Church:</u>	<u>Service Agenda:</u>
Feb. 25, 2018	Edgewood COB	Speaker: Rev. Becky Henry, Co-Pastor, Pipe Creek COB
Mar. 4, 2018	Locust Grove COB	Speaker: Rev. Sandi Rogers, Interim Pastor, Union Bridge COB
Mar. 11, 2018	Pipe Creek COB	YOUTH SERVICE (*) Speaker: Dylan Rinehart Pipe Creek COB
Mar. 18, 2018	Westminster COB	Speaker: Rev. Paul Leatherman, Jr. Pastor, Sam’s Creek & Edgewood COB

Child Care will be provided by the Host Church at each service.
Refreshments & Fellowship will follow each service.

(*) Youth and families are to gather at 5:00 pm for practice and a pizza party.
Offerings designated to Shepherd’s Spring Outdoor Ministry Center.

*My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul!*

Come experience God’s love and peace through the cross!



Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Lenten Services

Feb 18 – Armando Deras

(Iglesia De Dios Pentecostal MI,
Martinsburg, WV – Pentecostal
Church of God)

Feb 25 – Rachel Black

(Beaver Creek CoB)

Mar 4 – Talent Night

Mar 11 – Mike Kenney
(Welty CoB)

Mar 18 – EJ Rice
(Baltimore 1st CoB) Covered
dish meal at 4, service
follows



505 Blossom Dr.,
Martinsburg, WV

All service 6 pm except
March 18

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

2018 Disaster Response Auction Booklet



Dear Pastors, Disaster Coordinators, Witness Chairs and Donors

We deeply appreciate and thank you for your past support of the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction Booklet.

If you have not advertised in the booklet previously we invite you to consider doing so this year.

The 38th Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction will be held May 5, 2018, starting at 9:00 am at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland. Your support will enable us to provide even more assistance to more disaster victims this year.

In 2017, \$60,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover from many disasters all around our world.

During 2017 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts and more:

- EYN response to violence in Nigeria
- Hurricane Harvey response in Texas (CWS)
- CDS Hurricane Harvey response in Texas
- Hurricane Irma and Maria response in Puerto Rico
- Hurricane Matthew response in South Carolina
- Hurricane Matthew response in Haiti
- Drought in Kenya (CWS)
- South Sudan Mission
- Flooding rebuild response in West Virginia
- Flooding rebuild response in Missouri
- Flooding and storm rebuilding response in South Carolina
- CDS tornado response in Georgia
- CDS flooding response in Missouri
- Shalom Ministry (displaced families in the DR Congo)
- Disaster Recovery Support Initiative

Your local church is an important part of this effort!

- You can help by placing an ad in the booklet. We are once again offering many size options with photographs and clip art included. Ad sizes and prices are as follows:
 - Full page...\$150
 - Half page...\$75
 - Third Page...\$50
 - Eighth Page...\$25
 - Patron Listing...\$10, \$25, \$35, or more
 - Donations of any amount
- Encourage your members to place business, personal or patron ads and print announcements about the auction in your newsletter and bulletin.
- Please print the enclosed bulletin insert and put it in your bulletin by January 21.
- You can also help by posting the flyer included that is requesting special sale items.

Here are more ways you can help make the auction a success.

- Create craft items
- Donate baked goods
- Donate plants, shrubs and trees
- Assemble gift baskets
- Hold a fundraiser to support the auction
- Donate high quality items to publish in the booklet
- Volunteer to help
- Publicize and attend the Auction!

Please return your advertising space reservation form by Friday, February 23, 2018!

Please call Debbie Noffsinger at 847-714-4482 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support of our Disaster Response Auction!

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Leadership Team – 9 am – 3 pm District Office
4	5 Dunker Service Planning, Noon Hagerstown	6 Outreach and Service Team 7 pm Teleconference	7	8 Gene, Meeting, Noon	9	10 Spirituality and Congregational Life Bush Creek 10 am- Noon
11 Installation Service, Amanda North as Lead Pastor, Manassas	12 Gene, Meeting, GraceWay, Noon	13 Gene, Meeting, Noon	14 Gene, 2 pm Vienna	15 Gene, Meetings, 10am & noon in Hagerstown, 6:30, Meadow Branch EC	16	17
18 Gene, Easton Pastoral Installation Walt Wiltschek	19	20 Gene, Meeting, Noon, Frederick	21	22 C&CMT Meeting 11 am-1 pm District Office	23	24 MITT Meeting, Interviews, 9 am – 1 pm District Office
25	26	27	28 Habitat House Committee			

2018 Disaster Response
BENEFIT DINNER

**Saturday, April 7
6:00 pm
Bush Creek COB**

For Tickets

**Contact Jeff McKee
443-547-5958**

jamckee26@msn.com

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2018 Leadership Team Meeting Dates
February 3, April 7, June 2, August 4, November 17

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