

Pastor Nathan's Corner

A primary conviction of Mennonites is that faith is meaningless unless it leads to action. James, the brother of Jesus and an early leader in the Jerusalem church says, "...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 that what separates the righteous from the wicked is that the righteous feed the hungry, provide water for the thirsty, invite homeless strangers to spend the night, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and prisoners. John Horsch says of Menno Simons that the chief concern of his life was "that people be brought to a knowledge of evangelical (meaning biblical) truth, accepting the gospel of Jesus and carrying it out in life and practice." Menno Simons himself wrote, "True evangelical faith is of such a nature that it cannot lie dormant, but manifests itself in all righteousness and works of love; it dies to the flesh and blood; it destroys all forbidden lusts and desires; it seeks and serves and fears God; it clothes the naked; it feeds the hungry; it comforts the sorrowful; it shelters the destitute; it aids and consoles the sad; it returns good for evil; it serves those that harm it; it prays for those that persecute it; teaches, admonishes, and reproves with the Word of the Lord; it seeks that which is lost; it binds up that which is wounded; it heals that which is diseased and it saves that which is sound; it has become all things to all people. All those who have such a faith, a faith that yearns to walk in the commandments of the Lord, to do the will of the Lord; these press on to all righteousness, love, and obedience."

It is because of this belief, that true faith in Jesus cannot lie dormant, cannot stay asleep without any real affect in our lives, that every year we as members of Swamp Mennonite Church reaffirm a covenant with common understandings for how we will live as members of Christ's body. We agree together what it means to follow Jesus in faith.

In our understanding here at Swamp Mennonite Church, true faith leads to:

1. Active participation in regular times of worship, nurture, service and membership meetings
2. Careful exercising of a simple life of stewardship in use of money, time, talents and gifts
3. Diligent cultivation of a personal relationship with God through Bible study, prayer, meditation, worship and obedience
4. Winsome sharing of our life and faith in Jesus through service, witness and example of life
5. Daily practice and growth in love, peace and humility expressed in forgiveness, non-retaliation, good works, and acceptance toward all persons
6. Constant striving for moral purity and wholeness in all relationships
7. Compassionate exercising of mutual care for one another in word and deed

May God increase our faith where it is weak. May we continue to grow in the grace of God and the power for life available to us through the Spirit of Jesus. May we not take our commitment to God and one another lightly. May we continue in our faith, established and firm, not moving

from the hope held out in the gospel, so that God might present us holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation (Colossians 1:23-24). To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 1:24-25)



Dinner and Youth Auction Saturday, June 2



*Come out and
support our youth!*

**Dinner at 5:30
Auction at 7:00**



August 6th - 10th
9:00 am - 12 noon

VBS 2018

Join us in Babylon, where we'll explore what life was like for Daniel and his friends, captives in a strange land. You'll craft cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-times games, visit with Daniel, and eat some interesting food. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

VBS will be held here at Swamp the week of August 6 through 10 from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Registration sheets are now available on the table in the foyer or online using Swamp's website.

Volunteers are also needed to help with this exciting program. Just complete a green slip located on the table and place in Krista Geissing's mailbox.

For more information see Krista Geissing, Laura Rush or Fawnia Celone.



Worship
Gathering
 Sunday, June 3
 6:30 pm **HERE!**

A multi-congregation event
 sponsored by:

**Christ Community
 Bible Church**

**Deep Run West
 Mennonite Church**

**Living Stone
 Baptist Church**

**Palisades Community Bible
 Church**

**Souderton
 Mennonite Church**

**Swamp
 Mennonite Church**

**Towamencin
 Mennonite Church**

Summer
Youth Group
Wednesday
Meetings
June 6 & 20
July 11 & 25
August 8 & 22
6:30 PM