

# *Towamencin Mennonite Church*

*Sunday, August 30, 2009*

*“Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we are called to extend God’s healing, hope and forgiveness to all.”*

## **We Praise God**

Worship in Song & Praise

Aaron Leatherman

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Song “Come Home Running”

Children’s Time

## **We Hear God’s Word**

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 18: 1-12

Kyle Millner

Reading “At the Potter’s House”

Lowell Bergey

Sermon: “Shaped By the Potter’s Hand”

Pastor Mike

## **We Respond**

Song of Response “The Potter’s Hand”

Preparation for Baptism

Entering into the Water for Baptism

Donna Millner Wall

Song “Amazing Grace”

## **We Are Sent**

Closing Announcements

Benediction

*Following the service, everyone is invited to the fellowship meal.*

*as we trip time and again, silently hoping that one day we will freely choose to come to Him and begin a conversation, a one-on-one relationship. I understand how Jesus IS GOD AND HOW JESUS IS HIS SON! And I want everyone to know - I want to SHOUT IT--I CHOOSE GOD! He's everywhere-- the world is so full of Him in everything we see and feel and do. I know this because now I "talk" to God every day. And I especially thank Him for THIS day: August 30, 2009. He saved it for me! Today I choose to go into the living water like Jesus did and let go of my sin and be born again into the promise of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

### ***Favorite Verses:***

*James 1: 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*

*James 1: 12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

### ***Faith Partner: Wanda Schirmer***

#### ***Favorite Songs:***

*The Potter's Hand  
Mighty To Save*

*was bitter and guilt-ridden. My parents threatened that I would not be welcome in their home if I chose to become any other faith than the one I already was. I tried to tell them: I felt no faith. I tried to tell them I was looking for it. That conversation always ended badly - with me back in front of a priest confessing my lack of faith.*

*Finally I was a "grown-up." I moved to Philadelphia for more school. I did start going to churches; a lot of them. Mostly I was enticed because they were beautiful works of art and architecture, but after one or two services at each, I was left cold and did not return. I stopped "talking" to Jesus. I made poor choices. I felt unworthy. I thought that God was punishing me for my sins. But isn't God a God who forgives?.*

*Then I had a son, and I was a parent. Faced with the awesome responsibility of nurturing a new soul, I knew one thing: I was NOT going to take my son's choice away. Instead, I was going to introduce him to Jesus as best as I could and encourage him to be kind and we would do these things together. I moved to Bucks County and resumed my search for a church family to belong to. We went to Deep Run Mennonite a few times but then moved to Souderton and went to Grace Bible where Kyle attended nursery school. We said prayers for others every night (I'd never done this before). Each summer Kyle went to vacation Bible school, sometimes even twice. I loved seeing him joyfully learning about the Lord. When Kyle was four, I had to make the most difficult decision I'd ever been faced with. For the safety of both of us, I broke my marriage vow and divorced Kyle's father. Again, I trust that God does not punish, He forgives.*

*After a rough two years spent back with my parents, Kyle and I found our way back to Souderton. Rob Wall, a wonderful, honest and good man, completed us and made us his family in 2006. I know God set him in my path for the sake of my son. I met the Hagens through Kyle and Hailey's friendship at school. Then Melanie invited me to church and I finally accepted. Something happened when I walked into Towamencin Mennonite. It was powerful as only God can be. I was home and I KNEW IT!*

*This year I turned 40 - one of my favorite numbers! Now I can absolutely say that I understand the key to my salvation. God gave us all free will; the ability to choose. But, as our Father, our good parent, He does not take back that gift by ordering, insisting that we choose Him. Instead, He leads us along, teaching us the wonders of His love, catching us*

# Prayer Points

*-Continue to pray for Lowell Ehst and Harold Miller as they recover from recent surgeries. Pray for God's swift and complete healing to be upon them.*

*-Pray for our upcoming weekend (September 12 & 13) of celebrating the work that God has done through our building program. Pray that our celebration would be a time of joy and unity and that as we reflect on God's goodness to us, we would be inspired in new ways to reach out to our community.*

*-Please keep Mike Bergey in your prayers as he continues on his long journey of recovery and rehabilitation from stroke.*

*-Pray for those among us who are going through vocational struggles or transitions. Pray that God would guide and direct them to gainful employment and that God would grant them a spirit of hope and encouragement during the difficult times.*

*-Pray for those families and individuals in our congregation who are experiencing the difficulties of aging. Pray for God's direction in guiding them in the decisions that need to be made as well as God's touch of comfort and peace.*

*-Continue to keep the Van Wingerten family in your prayers as they deal with the loss of their daughter Ashley. Pray especially for her parents, Jake and Wendy, as well as the grandparents, Glenn and Linda, and great grandparents, Curt and Ann Stoudt. Pray for God's peace and comfort to be upon them.*

## TODAY

Greeters: Brent & Diane Knechel Family  
 Nursery: Tiffany Knechel, Ashley Bergey  
 Sound: Lowell Bergey

## THIS WEEK

~~Continue to pray for Lowell Ehst and Harold Miller as they recover from recent surgeries. Pray for God's swift and complete healing to be upon them.~~  
 Tuesday, 7 p.m. Awake Prayer Gathering  
 Wednesday, 7 p.m. Elders' Meeting at Fly's  
 Thursday, 7 p.m. Women's Water Aerobics at Greaser's pool

~~-Pray for our upcoming weekend of celebrating the work that God has done through our building program. Pray that our celebration would be a time of joy and unity and that as we reflect on God's goodness to us, we would be inspired in new ways to reach out to our community.~~

## NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Shirley Groff, Russ & Ev Detweiler  
 Nursery: Nadya Parmer, Ghelsia Leatherman  
 SS Nursery: Jolene Weaver  
 Library: Natasha Bergey  
 Please keep Mike Bergey in your prayers as he continues on his long journey of recovery and rehabilitation from stroke.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Next Sunday: "The Holy Calling of Work" - I Peter 1: 13-16  
 Sept. (Wed) Meeting for Worship Team members 7 p.m.  
 September 12 (Saturday) Church Raising Jubilee 6-15 p.m.  
 September 13 (Sunday) Building Dedication  
 October 10 (Saturday) Annual Fall Yard Sale, 8 am-2 pm  
 October 23-25 (Fri-Sun) Women's Retreat

## MYF

Sept 25-27 (Fri-Sun) Work weekend at Seaside Home

<u>Last Week's Numbers</u>		
Offerings		Attendance
Budget	\$ 3,795.70	Worship 136
Sunday School	\$ 3.00	(incl. 20 youth on retreat)
Building Fund	\$ 1,937.73	SS 96
<b>Grand Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 5,736.43</b>	

## ***Faith Journey Of Donna Millner Wall***

*When I was born, my parents chose to baptize me into the Catholic Church. I was not given a choice as I grew up in a family where attending church in fancy clothes and having fussy parties to celebrate sacraments were as “Christian” as could be. I always felt fearful of God as I was often dragged (literally) in front of a priest to confess my sins. Jesus, however, I “talked to” since He seemed kinder. He and I had in common our strict parents and most of our “conversations” revolved around my sympathizing with Him over our struggles to please. I had a Bible, but it was only for catechism class where we learned how to look up a verse, but not really to discuss it. My family only went to church together if nothing else was on the calendar. Many times my family was broken for church; my Dad grumbling the whole way there, sleeping through the homily and rushing my sister and I out directly after communion while my Mom traveled away to dog shows. This left both my sister and I confused.*

*When I was a junior in high school, I was invited to church with a good friend who belonged to the Church of Christ. I was allowed only if I first got up and went to 6 a.m. mass at our parish. So I rode my bike, sat, kneeled and stood through mass and then went to church again. This church was warm and friendly! People seemed genuinely happy to be there. They stood up and talked about how God had touched their lives that week. They asked, right out loud, for very personal and specific prayers from everyone else there on a microphone...sound familiar? I was in awe. Three hours flew by and I didn't feel ready to leave! I began to go through my early morning “obligation” every Sunday so I could then go learn about God - oh, did I forget to mention they had Sunday School? After about a year, I really wanted to get re-baptized. I “talked” to Jesus about it - we had an understanding: He was ready when I was. My parents were NOT ready. Not only was I not allowed to be “born again,” I was no longer allowed even to go to church with my friends. I went back to sitting through mass as required with my family. My ears were more open to hearing a message, but I couldn't seem to find one.*

*Then I went to Rhode Island for college. While there, I took a series of elective writing courses in Bible Theory. We were asked to compare the Old and New Testaments. I wanted to understand how the God of the Old Testament could possibly be the Jesus of the New. I read the Bible three times during those two years and yet I did not seek out the guidance of a church. I still went to “holiday” church when I was on breaks at home. I*

