



"At Conley's,  
we are emphasizing  
God's call to God's  
people to get involved  
in God's ministry.  
God gives us gifts  
and calls us to  
use them."

### Visit Our Website



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# CONLEY'S CONNECTION

In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity.

## GOD'S CALL TO GOD'S PEOPLE

*A Message from Pastor Bill Davis*

*"Just as our body has many parts, and these parts do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and each part belongs to all the others. All of us have different gifts to share according to the grace given to each of us. If prophesying, prophesy in proportion to your faith; if serving others, serve; if teaching, teach; if encouraging, encourage; if giving, give generously; if leading, lead diligently; if showing mercy, do it cheerfully."*

*Romans 12:4-8*

Fall has arrived, accompanied by the usual signs of the season - kids are back in school, the leaves are changing, and cooler temps prompt a changing of the wardrobe. Another sure sign of fall has arrived as well: football. I am not as big a fan as I once was, but I remember the excitement I felt as a child at the start of a new season. And any Washington fan would agree that the most hated team in the league is the Dallas Cowboys. While I have vivid memories of heroes like John Riggins, Art Monk, and Darrell Green, my memories of villains like Tony Dorsett and Troy Aikman are equally clear. One who especially stands out—literally as well as figuratively—is Ed “Too Tall” Jones. I recently watched a tribute show that related his impressive stats: he made over a thousand tackles, recovered 19 fumbles, made three interceptions, and blocked 86 passes—a stunning number for a defensive lineman. It also noted that in his entire, dominating, 15-year career, Too Tall Jones never scored a single touchdown.

The touchdown is the centerpiece of football. The entire game revolves around the quest to score touchdowns. Yet the world recognizes the greatness of a player who never once achieved that feat. Why? Because he had a position to play on his team, and he played it to the best of his ability. Not everyone on the team gets the opportunity to carry the ball into the end zone. But everyone on the team has a role to play, and every role contributes to the success of the team.

In the passage above, Paul applied this principle to the body of Christ, the church. God gives gifts to everyone...and that means every one of us has something to contribute to the ministry of the church. At Conley's, we are emphasizing God's call to God's people to get involved in God's ministry. God gives us gifts and calls us to use them. The “Ministry Menu” that was distributed at our recent potluck fellowship is available in our narthex; I encourage everyone to look it over and prayerfully consider the opportunities Conley's provides to answer God's call. Let's pray together that God will inspire us anew to be a light in our community. May God refresh us and lead us to successful ministry for the kingdom of God.

*- Pastor Bill Davis*



**AND REVIVAL COMMITTEE**

## Praying for Our Church

WE ALL NEED PRAYERS – Prayer points for Conley’s church.

Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 5:12-23) gives us specific prayer points for our church.

Verse 12 encourages us to “acknowledge those who work hard among us, giving spiritual guidance. Hold them in highest regard.”

Verse 13 tells us to “live in peace.”

Verse 14 says to “encourage the disheartened and help the weak. Be patient with everyone.”

Verse 15 admonishes us to “do good to each other and all people.”

Verse 16 reminds us, “Always be joyful.”

Verse 17 declares, “Never stop praying.”

Verse 18 says to “be thankful in all things for this is God’s will for you.”

Verse 19 states, “Do not quench the Holy Spirit.”

Verse 22 encourages us to “reject every kind of evil.”

When we join together and pray these passages, individually for one another and in unison for our church, “Our God of peace will sanctify us through and through” and make us the church we are called to be. God is faithful, and He will do it.

**God of peace, thank you for our spiritual leaders. Guide us to hold them in the highest regard. Lead us to live in peace and encourage each other with patience. May we always be joyful, doing good to one another and all people. Give us the gift of never-ending prayer with joy and thanksgiving, seeking your will for ourselves and Conley’s Church. May we seek and glorify the Holy Spirit and be strengthened to reject all kinds of evil. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER IN THE SANCTUARY ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021 AT 6:30 PM.**

## CONLEY’S THRIFT SHOP

Have you started your Christmas Shopping yet??? The Christmas Shed is loaded with Christmas decorating items, and we have many more tubs of items to unload. Connie Kline and her helpers are doing a wonderful job with decorating the shed and keeping the shelves stocked. The clothing rooms are loaded with fantastic selections of things that would make great Christmas gifts at very reasonable prices.

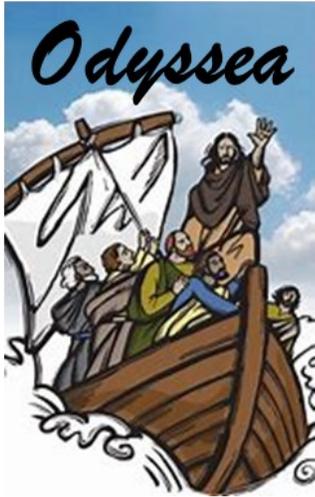
Sally and I are so thankful for our great volunteers. You guys and gals keep us open and in business. We continue to ask for new volunteers. If you can spare three hours one day a week, give us a call at the shop. It’s a great place to make new friends. We especially need someone to volunteer on Saturdays to help unload cars with their donations and to roam around asking if people need any assistance.

Donations continue to be plentiful and really great quality items. Today things were selling from the back of our truck as soon as we were unloading. Thanks to our community for their continued support.

We are having the exterior of our main building painted and freshened up. Be sure to take a look next time you are in our area. It’s really going to look great when completed.

Please keep us in your prayers.

*- Pat Vogt*



## ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

### A Season of Drought—The Decision

By Art Schmidt

*“Faith is the hand of a beggar reaching out to accept the gifts from the King.”  
- Corrie ten Boom*

We are sturdy beings, but when serious illness hits we suddenly become weak and fragile. One of the hardest parts of serious illness is being in-between—the painful and empty time between being the healthy person we were and the recovered healthy person we want to be. Feelings of grief, fear, apprehension, and anxiety about what’s ahead plague us when we’re in-between. We may feel lost and alone as we attempt to navigate the jagged and unfamiliar path. We try to see the purpose of the difficult part of our journey and search for God in our midst—our faith can easily begin to buckle.

In August 2005, I was diagnosed with a large cell, non-Hodgkin’s, lymphoma tumor in my right hip and started a 12-week chemotherapy treatment plan. After the second treatment, I developed a neutropenic fever, a common side-effect of chemotherapy, and was admitted to John’s Hopkins. I weighed 128 pounds and felt too weak to even get out of bed. I was released a week later and was glad to be home, but my homecoming was cut very short by a severe pain in my leg. The next day I went to the ER at Northwest Hospital and was diagnosed with a blood clot. I was admitted and hospitalized for another week, which delayed my third chemo. After I got home, I had reached a fork in the road, not knowing whether I wanted to continue the chemotherapy or give up. I was done with hospitals, doctors, scans, and feeling horrible. I felt overwhelmed in dealing with my illness, fearing I’d lose my right leg, and also caring for my mother who had started living with me after being diagnosed with dementia and suffering a stroke. When I saw myself in the mirror, I was horrified over how gray and withered I looked. I asked God, “Lord, how can I believe that I’m going to get well when I already look like I’m dead?” God’s reply came to me in a whisper, “Your mother needs you, so be strong and keep going.”

I used a wheelchair to get around Johns Hopkins when I was there for the chemo treatments. The waiting room was too depressing, so I’d hang out in the coffeeshop or cafeteria. When I arrived for the third treatment, I was depressed and still trying to decide which road to take. It was a beautiful morning, so I wheeled myself outside through the main entrance—my spirits lifted right away just from being in the sunshine. I positioned myself in the best vantage point to watch all that was going on around me—food truck vendors setting up for lunchtime, delivery trucks arriving and unloading, staff, patients, and visitors streaming in and out of the building—all oblivious to me watching them. I felt like I was invisible—then it struck me: I wasn’t among the living. I was alive, but fighting for my life instead of living it. That was the revelation moment—when I decided to continue the fight and get well so I could be among the living again. I wanted to go back to work, spend the weekends at my beach house, serve and worship at my church, and be with my family and friends. I decided that I wanted to live! My attitude changed, my spirits were uplifted, and I thanked God for the nudge I needed to make the right decision.

After the third chemo treatment I felt empowered to get well and go on living my life with God’s blessing. After the fourth chemo, the scans indicated that the tumor was gone, but my oncologist convinced me to complete the six-round treatment plan for the best long-term results. I had the last treatment in November 2005 and have been cancer-free ever since. The chemo took a heavy toll on me, and it was a year before I was fully recovered and could walk without a cane. The experience gave me a greater appreciation for my blessings and good health. Now, when I’m faced with a difficult situation, I remember that morning at the cancer center—perched high above the street in the wheelchair—and am reminded of God’s mercy and the decision He gave me the strength to make.

On our journey in this life, sometimes we are faced with a season of drought when we find ourselves feeling lost and abandoned, thirsting for answers, and looking for God. But in last month’s issue of the “Connection,” Pastor Bill reminded us, even during the most difficult of times, “God is still present.”

*Oh Lord, when our journey’s path brings us to places filled with jagged rocks and steep cliffs where navigation is difficult, thank you for being our spiritual GPS to guide us along our way and for giving us the strength to keep going even when we can’t see what lies ahead. Help us to understand that we are being moved forward even when we’re in-between, empty, and waiting for you to fill us. Remind us that we are not alone. God is always present. Amen.*





## Missionary Spotlight: Finda Quiwa

Conley's Mission Team is happy to have this opportunity to share the work of the missionaries who receive support from Conley's.

This month's spotlight is on Finda Quiwa from Sierra Leone, Africa.

Serving in her home country of Sierra Leone, Finda Quiwa is a Regional Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Based in Freetown, she serves as coordinator for the Global Justice Volunteer, Africa Pilot Program. Finda also works through the United Methodist Church with youth and young adult programs in Africa. Finda is married and has one son and two adopted children.

Finda was delighted to hear that Conley's has chosen to support her mission work, stating that it was good to hear from us and "to know that together we will continue to reach out to God's people. I am thankful!" She explained that she is currently "working with women, children, and young people. We are together focused on economic empowerment."

The struggle of her early years helped Finda form her spiritual life and grow in her faith. She also looked at other people's lives and "charged myself to take up the challenge in helping other people who were in the same struggle."

Spending two months in Hong Kong working with migrant workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, Finda saw how vulnerable the workers are to all forms of injustice and inhuman treatment. Working with women enabled her to see how women are suffering in that part of the world, "all in the name of survival. I returned home with the conviction and commitment to do my best in making sure women and children get a better place in Africa."

Finda asked that we keep her, her family, and her colleagues in our prayers:  
"Your support through the UMW mission giving will be awesome."

- Cheryl Conway, Missions Secretary



# 5 QUESTIONS FOR-

**Sandy Shipe  
Conley's Treasurer**



◆ **Where did you grow up, and what's your favorite memory from your childhood?**

I grew up in Laurel, Delaware. My parents were young and could not afford their own house, so we rotated between my mother's parents and my father's mother. Both were on farms, so lots of space to run around in, lots of animals to play with, and lots of trees to climb. Once, when I was a toddler, friends were over helping my grandfather replace his roof. No one was paying attention to me, and when they started looking for me, I had climbed the ladder and was up on the roof. My God has protected me all during my life; His angels have been very busy. During times that my mother was ill for long periods, and my father still had to work, the three of us were divided between relatives. I was blessed to be the one with my mother's parents. They were two of the most wonderful people---honest, hardworking, loved God, their church, and their family.

◆ **When did you first come to Conley's, and what brought you here?**

I first came to Conley's sometime after I moved to Lewes (around 1991). My daughter came here first because she liked Randy Booth (he had been the pastor of a former church in Laurel). I was going to Midway Assembly of God, and she and I wanted to go Christmas shopping. Conley's service was earlier, so I went with her, and during the passing of the peace, Karen Cannon (choir director at the time) came running over asking me to join the choir. I've been loving it here ever since.

◆ **What was your career before retirement?**

What is that? I like working, keeps my brain functioning properly. Most of the jobs I have had have been in the office, accounting fields. I was the office manager at WGMD radio station from 1982 until 1998, then part time from 1998 until about 2003; secretary/treasurer at Top of the Line Janitorial from 1998 to current, and treasurer at Conley's since 2000.

◆ **Tell us about your family (husband, children, grands).**

I have been married to Bob Shipe for 31 years. We met at WGMD. He was hired to clean the office, but it was maybe five to six years before the time was right for both of us to begin dating. He had three children from his previous marriage, and I had one. We have a child in heaven together whom we will meet some day. We have four grandchildren: ages 18, 16, 13, and 5. We also have two great nieces who are more like grandchildren, ages 24 and 20.

◆ **What's your favorite way to relax?**

It depends on how much time I have. It's very relaxing to soak in my walk-in tub with the jets running. I love going to a restaurant that has a view of the water—fountains and waterfalls also “speak” to me; listening to music is very relaxing, and God speaks to me often through music. I also watch TV and play games on my phone.

## WORSHIPPING DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Worship with us on  
Sundays at 10:00 AM  
in person or online.

Our sanctuary is  
cleaned and sanitized  
every Monday in  
accordance with  
guidelines.

We live-stream  
the service on Vimeo,  
Facebook, and YouTube.  
Links on our website.

Produced by:



You can make a  
donation or tithe using  
the online portal on  
our website:  
**conleysumc.org**

Thank you  
for supporting our  
mission and for your  
faithfulness in giving!

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT CONLEY'S?

### ◆ Wednesday Bible Study Group

"The Faithful: Heroes of the Old Testament" study group meets on Wednesdays via Zoom only at 6:30 pm. To register, please send an email to [conleys.classes@gmail.com](mailto:conleys.classes@gmail.com).

### ◆ Women's Encouragement Group

Our resident pastoral counselor, Richelle Marvel, is leading a group to encourage and support women. The group will meet on Monday, **November 8** at 6:30 pm in the library. To register, 302-841-9794 or [livewellbenefit59@gmail.com](mailto:livewellbenefit59@gmail.com).

### ◆ UMW Meeting

The UMW will be meeting on Tuesday, **November 9** at 6:00 pm in the Missions Room.

### ◆ Church Council Meeting

The council will be meeting on Thursday, **November 18** at 6:30 pm in the library.

### ◆ New Member Class

Pastor Bill will be conducting a new member class on Saturday, **November 20** at 9:00 am in the library. If you're not a member and want to join our church or if you've initiated a transfer to Conley's, please call/email the church office to register by November 18: 302-945-1881; [conleysumc@gmail.com](mailto:conleysumc@gmail.com).

### ◆ Prayer Service

Our monthly prayer service provides a contemplative time to lift up prayers of praise, repentance, petition, and thanks. All are invited to come seek healing, direction, and peace in the presence of our God who hears the prayers of God's people. This month's service will be held on Wednesday, **November 24** at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.





When I tell people I am a retired pastor, with 37 years of active ministry, they remark: **“Is a pastor ever *really* retired?”** Here’s what I am doing...

When a pastor is needed to perform a funeral, I am called upon by Parsell Funeral Home in Lewes, Watson Funeral Home in Millsboro, and Bishop-Hastings Funeral Home in Selbyville. I average four or five funerals a month.

I preach at Conley’s Church in Pastor Bill’s absence. On Christmas Eve, I will lead the 10 pm service at Conley’s Chapel.

The weekly Sunday morning 8:30 Bible study is led by me. We are studying the Gospel of John, and all are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall.

I sing in Conley’s choir. Marie and I took Diane Jones to Atlantic City on New Year’s Eve and watched her perform onstage with singing sensation Taylor Dayne in front of an audience of 2,500.

Barrett’s Chapel in Frederica—the cradle of Methodism—uses me as a docent.

On Tuesday mornings, I am a cashier at Conley’s Thrift Shop.

Working with the American Legion, I perform the blessing of the animals, the 9/11 memorial service, the Kairos prison ministry concert, and I was the taste judge at their Cupcake Wars!

I dedicated the Blue Star Memorial at Plantation Lakes and another community’s brand-new lending library.

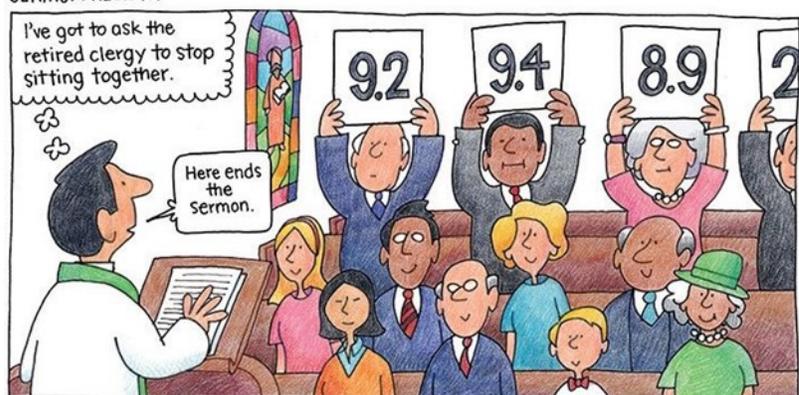
During the COVID crisis, I had a weekly podcast through Conley’s called “Pastor Jim’s God Pod.” Now I write a monthly church newsletter article: “Ponderings by Pastor Jim.”

I love to golf and get out on the course three times a week (or more)!

My brother John and sister-in-law Nancy have moved from California to King’s Creek—Rehoboth Beach.

My final resting place will be in Conley’s Chapel Cemetery.

#### SERMON REVIEWS



CONLEY'S CHURCH  
33106 Jolyns Way  
Lewes, DE 19958

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E-mail: conleysumc@gmail.com  
Website: conleysumc.org  
Phone: 302-945-1881

Worship with us:  
Sunday at 10:00 AM  
(Details provided on page 6.)

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December Issue Deadline:  
November 24

Thanksgiving  
blessings  Gatherings

GRATEFUL *Give Thanks* Family

Prayers  Blessed 



*Let us come before Him  
with Thanksgiving*

*Psalms 95:2*

Conley's United Methodist Church  
33106 Jolyn's Way  
Lewes, Delaware 19958

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

CONLEY'S

