As I sit here writing this article, it is gray and cloudy outside, and the mist is rising from the grubby melting snow—a grim sight, but a good sign that warmer days are easing their way toward us.

We are, I trust, long past the “midwinter spring” T. S. Eliot speaks about in the opening to his famous poem. Easter is just around the corner, for goodness’ sake! (I now shamelessly make a plug here, asking you to join us for our Easter morning worship—and, of course, culinary festivities—on April 5, with a sunrise service at 6:30 AM, breakfast at approximately 7:15 AM, and the Easter service in the sanctuary at our usual time of 9:30 AM.)

And yet, despite the arrival of Daylight Savings Time and the relentlessly hopeful creep of longer days; despite the fact that the spring-cleaning impulse is beginning to inspire bizarrely creative (or creatively bizarre) bursts of activity for some of us (myself definitely included); despite the peek of greening sod; despite the fact that the ladybugs are beginning to wake from their hibernation and fly around the house windows again; it can seem as though winter will never, ever end.

This winter is both literal and figurative. The cold and flu seasons linger; this year people have been sicker for longer than many doctors, nurses, PAs, NPs, and other health professionals have seen in recent memory. The world is in an uproar on multiple political and social fronts (though, to be fair, that has probably been the case since humans entered the existential arena). People are suffering, here in our community and elsewhere. It exhausts the soul to contemplate. Winter is a season of both exterior nature and interior soul.

Still, the Spirit is on the move, and the stubbornly austere angles of physical and spiritual winter sharpen its beauty. “Glow more intense than blaze of branch, or brazier, stirs the dumb spirit: no wind, but Pentecostal fire in the dark time of the year,” says Eliot. God’s passion for us is our life. We have no choice but to acknowledge our own fragility. When life dims within us, when the wick of our internal lamp sputters—these are the moments in which we can do nothing but wait for our Lord God in silence, because we have neither the energy nor the inclination for words.

(continued on the next page)
And this silence, this dumbness, is a great gift in itself. “In silence,” says Henri Nouwen, “we can listen to the voice of him who spoke to us before we could speak a word, who healed us before we could make any gesture to help, who set us free long before we could free others, and who loved us long before we could give love to anyone. In solitude, we discover...that we are worth more than the result of our efforts...that our life is not a possession to be defended, but a gift to be shared” (Out of Solitude, 1974/2004, p. 26). Silence and lack open room within us for mercy, for sweetness.

Praise God for the silences that make space in our hearts. I wish for you enough of that silence that your soul can soul bloom and your spirit blossom—and I also wish for you laughter and joy to leaven your life. It is a tricky balance. Fortunately, our Lord loves us not only from afar but also from within, and he walks this road with us. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Rev. Leah Grace Goodwin

A Note on Membership and the Walk with Christ

Are you considering membership or baptism? Would you like to explore the next step in your spiritual journey and discipleship with Jesus Christ? Do you have questions that you’d like to “bounce off” of someone? Rev. Goodwin is always honored to walk with you as you discern God’s unique call in your life. Contact her at pastor@harrisena.org or 792-1902.

In addition, if you have returned to the church after an absence and would like to re-affirm your membership in the congregation, we are delighted to welcome you home! Rev. Goodwin would be pleased to speak with you about formally renewing your active membership status and/or observing that renewal during worship.

Fellowship Committee

The next project will be a chili/soup meal before the Maundy Thursday Service on April 2nd. We will be working on that as a committee. There will be cornbread, and both vegetarian and regular chili.

Before we know it, it will be April 5, which is Easter this year. Please join us for a delicious breakfast of eggs, sweet rolls, juice, and other treats at about 7:15 on Easter morning, just after our sunrise service ends and in preparation for our 9:30 service! We’ll see you there to celebrate the Resurrection.

The Fellowship Committee: Nancy Wilder, Lynda Scurlock, Shelley Durkee, Judy Sullivan, and Hal Payne

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee announces the availability of scholarships for the 2015 academic year. Students graduating from high school, as well as those presently enrolled in college are invited to apply.

Scholarships are reserved for Harrisena Church members and their children (you may re-apply even if you have received a scholarship in the past.) Completed applications must be received by Friday, May 29, at 5 PM. Applications can be found on our website, www.harrisena.org; or a hard copy can be requested from the church office (792-1902).

Special Dates in April and May

Thurs., April 2: Maundy Thursday Supper (6 PM) and Tenebrae Service (7 PM, Sanctuary)
Fri., April 3: Good Friday Stations of the Cross, 12 noon, First Pres. Glens Falls
Sun., April 5: Easter 6:30 AM Sunrise Service
7:15 AM Breakfast
9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Service
Thurs., April 9: Time Out for Women (noon)
Tues., April 14: Committee (6:30) and Council (7:30) meetings
Sat., April 18: Victorian Tea, Robinson Hall, 2 PM
Sun., May 3, 9:30: Installation of Rev. Goodwin as Pastor; Rev. Dr. Everett Goodwin preaching
Christian Education

Enough of this cold weather already! On March 14, Harrisena warmed things up in Robinson Hall by celebrating the coming of spring with a Hawaiian Luau. Our children were treated to rousing games of coconut bowling, hula hooping, a pineapple ring toss, face painting, and crafts. We were so lucky to have teens Blake McComsey, Danielle Brown, Kaylee Frank, Katie Culliton, Stephanie Carte, and Michael Miller supervising our games and photo opportunities. Immediately following the fun, we feasted on a delicious buffet of Hawaiian specialty foods including a pork roast, Asian coleslaw, and stir-fry, courtesy of Debbie Barthold and a stalwart and gifted kitchen team. The desserts were incredible, too! Attempts to learn the hula dance ourselves were a sight to behold—our thanks to Melissa Ferrie-Healy for leading us. Kudos to Brenda and Al Ferrie for transforming the hall into a paradise. Mahalo to all those who worked to make this evening a success. You would be amazed how many people worked behind the scenes for this event! Hugs to you all!

Do you have new or gently used children’s books that are no longer being read by your children? Please send them in to Sunday school and give them to your teacher. This spring, Christian Ed will team up with the Missions committee to contribute to the Red Bookshelves Program. Picture books are the most needed, but all books will be accepted as long as they are in good condition. The goal of the program is to circulate children’s books into the community, where they will be made available to families, for free. It is designed to increase book ownership in families in hopes of fostering a lifelong passion in children for reading.

Summer will eventually arrive—and VBS will be offered again this year on July 6–10 from 9 AM to 12 noon each day. The theme is Mount Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Powers. Please mark your calendars. It will be free and open to all children in the community. Registration will begin in May. Preparations are already underway. However, we are still in need of someone to organize and facilitate the committees working to present this outstanding program. It is not absolutely necessary for you to be present during the week of the program, but please consider helping us out. Contact Rev. Goodwin or Gigi Barrett if you are interested or would like to learn more.

Another important date to remember is June 7, our designated day for Children’s Sunday! The children and the Christian Ed staff work very hard to put this service together. Our theme is “Making a Difference”; we will explore how children positively impact their environment.

Blessings to you all on Easter. There will be no classes on Easter Sunday, so that the Christian Ed staff can enjoy the day with their families. Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

Gigi Barrett and your Christian Ed Staff

Missions Committee

Your Missions Committee has renewed our support of the Red Bookshelf program, a collaboration of the Tri-County United Way, Adirondack Rural Health Network, and Glens Falls National Bank. This program circulates new and “gently used” children’s books into the community, where they are made available FREE to low income families. Books that we collect will be distributed by Family Services. They especially need picture books for young children. Please look for the red box in Robinson Hall to donate your books.

Locally, Missions gave another donation to Open Door’s Code Blue Shelter. Globally, we sent our financial support to the Haitian Mission School and “To the Himalayas with Love” program. Both have local ties.

Thank you for your generous support.

Phyllis Straut, Lynn Gauger, Marian Philo, Deanna Payne, Linda Hudon
Worship Committee: Lent and Easter Update

We hope you will consider joining us for the following special services:

April 2, Maundy Thursday: A simple Lenten supper of soup and bread will be served at 6 PM, followed by a beautiful Tenebrae Service at 7 PM, including a ceremony of candles, seasonal readings, communion and the music of our organist, Melissa Ferrie-Healy; our choir director, Daniel Donovan; and our chancel choir.

April 5, Easter: A Sunrise Service outdoors ☀️ at 6:30 AM
Fellowship Breakfast at approximately 7 AM
Easter Worship (nursery provided, but no church school; children are welcome at worship!) at 9:30 AM.

Chuck Ogden, Phil Nadig, Carol Webster, Marilyn Somerville, Jane Badger, & Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Harrisena Youth Fellowship

Congratulations to basketball player Dylan Smith and his team on the Lake George High School victory during the basketball tournament in March! Because of the game’s scheduling, our youth retreat has been rescheduled for June at Crystal Spring House in Big Indian, New York, in the Catskills. We are excited about this new, cozy, farmhouse venue! Our theme for this year is “What Shapes Me”—including media, faith, friends, role models, and other factors.

As always, in HYF we believe that confidentiality is different from secrecy. We are always happy to discuss the topics we cover with parents and other church members!

We welcome anyone age 13 to graduation to join us on Sundays at 6 PM.

Heather “H” Van Dyke, Chris Bolio, Rev. Leah Goodwin, and Kevin Baxter

Fundraising Committee

Tickets are on sale for a Queen-Size (90”x90”) Quilt made and donated by Susan Bayer for a Harrisena Fund raiser. The quilt is on display on Sunday mornings in Robinson Hall and a picture is also printed on each ticket. The tickets are $5 each and are also on sale on Sunday mornings.

Minnie Bidwell’s Historical Harrisena Notes

In the fall of 1947, it was voted to install a new oil burning furnace to make the building usable all year long. The church bought the materials, but the labor was donated under the leadership of W. Douglas Webster, whose vocation was heating and plumbing. The old furnace was dismantled, and Charlie Chamberlain, Doug Webster, and Donald Stark installed the new furnace. John Kubricky drilled through the wall to run the pipe through.

The next year, the men decided to build a kitchen under the chancel. To do this, a space about 6 x 8 was drilled through the back wall of the basement. All the dirt was taken out by wheelbarrow and carts. Remember, the stairs were nearly 8 feet wide and went directly outside. Planks were laid to form a ramp in the center of the stairs. Ropes were fastened to the wheelbarrows, the other end to a car, which would pull the loads up the ramp to be dumped by a crew of men. Cement was poured around
the walls. A cement floor was laid under which a drainage pit was built to take care of the cleaning and dish water. A wooden shelf was built along the east and south sides.

Patricia Payne, who was chairman of Social Service, bought a small used gas range. John Kubricky again drilled through the thick wall so the gas could be installed—and we had a kitchen.

Our ever-busy women made aprons to sell, tied quilts, and collected articles for our new kitchen.

In the spring of 1948, the Larger Parish women were invited to join the Troy Presbytery as an independent group. Evelyn Chamberlain was the president and as such was to make the acceptance speech. When the day came she was so sick that Minnie Bidwell, our vice president, made the speech for us. After lunch at the Presbytery, we all came home. So now we had our own quota of work and missions to accomplish—plus the ever present job of keeping the building clean and meeting each emergency as it arose.

The Sunday school had no budget of its own, so our materials were bought with the children’s offerings. Occasionally the Women’s Aid helped with funds. We would have a special giving project for which the children either gave out of their allowance, or gave the money they would have spent on ice cream.

After renting the parsonage for a few years, Mr. McCullough decided he wanted to sell. A man at Glens Falls Presbyterian offered to buy it and hold the mortgage if the Larger Parish could make the $1,000 down payment. This meant $250 which Harrisena did not have at the time. Edna Allen loaned the church the money, to be paid back to her as we could. The other churches met their part so the Larger Parish owned the parsonage.

During those years, Bessie Branch and Isabel Harris alternated as organists for Harrisena.

In the fall of 1948, Mr. Chamberlain resigned as our pastor to accept a parish in Leadville, Colorado. Pastors were supplied by the Ladies’ Aid until June 1950, when Rev. Elwood Case became the Parish pastor. Mr. Case held a Master’s Degree in English and taught schools in the Rochester area. He left there to serve in the army; and when discharged he went to Union Theological Seminary, graduating with a BD degree.

Rev. Case was unmarried, so his mother, Ruth Case, came to live with him. Mrs. Case was a teacher in the Kattskill Bay School. “Woody” would take her to school in the morning and pick her up in the afternoons. In 1951, Rev. Case married Jean Goodman of Fort Ann. (Ruth retired from teaching and rented an apartment in Glens Falls.)

After learning of the coming wedding, the Harrisena Ladies’ Aid got busy and pieced and quilted a spread for our gift to Jean. We met two or three evenings a week and many were able to come for afternoon hours as well. Jean, who was a Home Economics teacher, was very pleased by our gift!

In October 1952, the Presbyterian Church, feeling that the Larger Parish could now be independent, withdrew its support.

Rev. Case accepted a call to the Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Lake George.

After many meeting of the Larger Parish, it seemed almost impossible to find a pastor that everyone could agree on.

At a meeting of just the Harrisena congregation, it was decided that one church, alone, would have a better chance to find a minister willing to serve just one church—perhaps a retired man. A vote to withdraw from the Larger Parish was taken and passed by the majority.

This proved to be the best for us in the long run.

(More next month!)
April Birthdays


Harrisena Births

On Thursday, March 12, twin girls, Ashley & Lily, were born to Gabrielle and Douglas Higgins. Proud grandparents are Kim & Charles Meade.
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Long-Term Prayer Requests, April 2015

Please remember the following members and friends who need our prayers of love and encouragement.

In Facilities
Marjorie Bardin – The Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton
Grace Clough – Seacoast Nursing Center, MA
Claire Fraser – Fort Hudson Nursing Home
Esther Frederick – The Stanton
Ann Healy – Fort Hudson Nursing Home
Ed Hooker – The Terrace, Queensbury
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Maddison McCane – Rehabilitation at Albany Medical Center
Elizabeth Moore – Nursing Home
Dave Thrun – Veterans Home

At Home
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Christine Burke – Member of Harrisena
Paul Butler – Friend of Jeanette Hunt
Lee Ann Clark – Daughter of Murial Clark
Diane DeMass – Friend of Suzanne Cartier
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Ingrid Engelhard – Friend of Debbie Shahay
Adam Frontera – Friend of Diane Matthews
Douglas Hughes – Friend of Cathers family
Fabiola Jabaut – Mother of Steve Jabaut
Howard Krantz – Friend of Diane Matthews
Carmen LeFebvre – Friend of Peg McArthur
Joshua Louk – Nephew of Diane Matthews
Nicole MacDermid – Member of Harrisena
Rachael & Tim McCane – Grandchildren of Bob & Phyllis Straut
Larry Norton – Friend of Kathy Allen
Oscar Olson – Great-nephew of Kathy Allen
Michael Scheidegger – Friend of Eric Goe
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Betsy Sweeney – Friend of Phil & Cindy Farbaniec
John Walker – Member of Harrisena

Deaths in the Harrisena Family:

Our condolences go out to the families & friends of:
Howard Mattison, husband of Linda Mattison; Art Havens, brother of Jim Havens;
Frances Divizzo, Cousin of Linda Havens; Betty Winchell, aunt of Linda Havens;
Sharon Davies, member and mother of Dan Davies, Janie Davies Fitzgerald, and Rachel Davies-Hohman;
Benjamin Bardin, long-time member, husband of Marjorie and father of Susan & Chuck Ogden;
and Mimi Reid, friend of Kathleen Hanna.
Members and Friends in the Military

Please also remember the veterans from previous wars
who continue to suffer from PTSD and other injuries of mind and body.

Ryan Barrett (Pilot), nephew of Gigi Barrett—Afghanistan
Alexis Best (Army), stateside
Andrew Bigelow (Army), son of Karen Bigelow—serving stateside
Aaron Clark (Army/Spcl Forces)—serving in Afghanistan
Chelsea Craig—serving in Iraq & Afghanistan
Derek Dumas—stateside
Gary Hogan (USAF)
Walter Howard (USMC) – serving stateside
Joseph Hubbard (Army) – stateside
Christopher Maille (AFRES), son of Peter Christian- serving in Spain
Maxwell Marshall (Army) - serving in Afghanistan.
Wes McQueen, nephew of Dodi/Rev. Robinson- serving stateside
Tony Mitchell (USAF) - serving in Afghanistan.
Chris Moore (USN), friend of Beck family- serving stateside
James Pearson (USAF)
Phillip Riccio (Army), son of Phyllis Riccio, stateside
Steven Shepski, relative of Sue/Peter Cartier—serving in the Middle East
Dominick Simione II (Army), friend of Russ Smith- serving in Afghanistan
Russell Smith (USNG)
Kelly Thompson (US Health Svc)
Daniel Urband (USAF), grandson of Alice Urband—serving stateside
Mark Wilson (Army Spcl Forces/Reserves), husband of Andrea—serving stateside
James Zito (USNG), friend of Beck family—serving stateside

Please update the status of anyone you know on this list as soon as information is available.
The HARBINGER
Harrisena Community Church
1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804
www.harrisena.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
9:30 AM - Fall & Winter
Nursery & Church School at 9:30 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

email: harrisenachurch@gmail.com

Office Hours: 8:30 AM-12:30 PM (M-F)
Office Phone (518) 792-1902
Office FAX # (518) 743-0453

Rev. Leah G. Goodwin
Pastor’s Phone # (518) 792-2965

HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH