

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

“Do you see what we’ve got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He’s actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won’t quit until it’s all cleansed. God himself is Fire!”

Hebrews 12:28-29 The MESSAGE Bible

This passage in the book of Hebrews, calls us to worship, to be grateful to the one who is eternal, and to the kingdom that will never end.

The book of Hebrews was written to help the people come to terms with the new and better Covenant that God had given through the precious blood of Jesus the Christ. The early Church had found it very difficult to let go of many of their former traditions and rituals. Many in the early Church were still bound to the Law. They did not understand the freedom they had been given through Christ. Jesus had done for them what they could not do for themselves. Ephesians 2:8-9 reveals this truth, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* **It is God’s grace alone!**

Grace alone means that God loves, forgives, and saves us not because of who we are or what we do, but because of the work of Jesus the Christ. We as human beings do not save ourselves. We cannot. But God can and did. We rest assured that when the time comes when the earth will be shaken, the kingdom of God will stand. **It is the unshakable kingdom and God himself is Fire!**

James Baldwin wrote a novel titled, ***The Fire Next Time***. It refers to the end of the age when God has promised, *“Yet once more, I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.”* The terrible fire of God that came upon Mt. Sinai will yet come to all the earth and even the heavens. The people feared the presence of God on Mt. Sinai, but do we fear God now, or will we fear God at the Great Judgment? Now is the time for us to remember that *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”* God is actively cleaning house removing everything that needs to be removed from our hearts, our minds, and this world. God won’t quit until it’s all cleansed! **God is the Fire and the cleansing is and has always been for our sake!**

“When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy of Israel; I am your Savior.”

Isaiah 43:2-3a NIV

The greatest sign and wonder of God’s love is Jesus. Jesus, God in flesh and blood, came to earth with a single mission, to seek and save those who are lost. And yet, the

world did not recognize Jesus! We are, in so many ways, complicit in the rejection, abandonment, denial of Jesus the Christ. But because of God's great love for us, we will not be consumed. Jesus, one who had no sin became sin. Jesus, one who had no shame, became shame. **God himself the fire** will burn sin but not us. **God himself the fire** will consume evil but save the righteous. Now, **do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! God himself is Fire! Thanks be to God!**

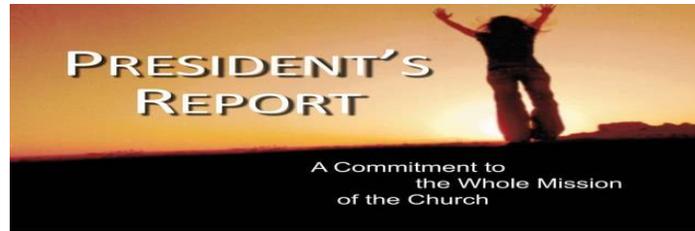
So, let us overflow with worship and thanksgiving!

Now is our time to worship! Now is our time to BE the church! We must join in with God's act of cleaning house in our world. We must knock the dust off of unrighteousness and sin. We must boldly shake ourselves in reverential response to God's cleaning and consuming presence! We must pray without ceasing, love God with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls, all our being and our neighbor as ourselves. We must finally see each other as brothers and sisters and truly love each other, no excuses, no rationalizations, and no distractions. **We must** free ourselves, trust in God, have faith in God, and worship God in true reverence, humility and wonder!. Then maybe, just maybe we will discover that we are being transformed into the very image of God. WOW!!!! Then we will **BE the church of Jesus the Christ!**

In Christ's service with you.

**Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly**





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As your president, I want to **thank everyone who made the Easter Season such a meaningful one for the people of Harrisena:** the flowers, music, and as always, the food. All brought joy to this time of year.

Most important were the services: starting with Palm Sunday, following with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Sunrise, and most important, Easter Sunday. Each one gave the people who attended a true experience of Easter. A special thank you to the clergy who brought us the true stories of Easter.

Spring is here and this is a good time for us to move forward in our plans for our church's future. **The Strategic Planning Committee has been discussing ways we can get everyone involved to brighten the future of our church.** With your continuing support, we can make our church stronger.

President, *Susan Ogden*

Strategic Plan Framework



**THE STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM REPORT
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED**

1. Members must be empowered to “BE” the Church, evaluating their leadership role relative to pastors.

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2. If members of the church, and the community is the customer, then pastors are the coaches, strategizers and organizers, responsible for rallying and mobilizing the troops into action.
 3. Prepare the church to outlive its leadership – since members/attenders, not just pastors, define the church.
 4. We must realize the power of leverage – by increasing the church’s impact by no longer underutilizing the vast resources sitting in the pews.
 5. Christianity hinges on humility. It’s the only religion that requires its followers to accept that they are hopeless sinners in dire need of a savior.
 6. What leaders should be asking is whether their church (the entity) is generous. In other words, how much is the organization giving out of its budget to its real “customer” the community?
 7. Are churches being rewarded for “bad behavior”? In business, you don’t make profits if you ignore your target “customers”. Yet in churches, many leaders believe their financial viability hinges largely on catering to members – and wind up ignoring their intended “customers”. For example, a wealthy family leaving is cause for concern in most small churches. That mentality is natural and expected, but wrong! It’s also wrong if pastors would be more inclined to challenge their congregations more directly and preach the gospel more boldly if NONE of their funding came from members/attenders and if everyone HAD to come back the next weekend.
The companies that survive reorient outward at some point. If they persist in serving internal stakeholders and neglect the marketplace, they go under.

Evidence shows that members are more generous with generous churches.

People are more likely to donate if they know their dollars will go toward more emotional “causes” than administration and buildings.

More challenging translates into greater community impact, which in turn produces more attenders.

Definition of the “Customer” – If leadership and members see the lost in the community as their “customers”, clearly they will sense an obligation to serve those who don’t know the gospel – many of whom would never step foot into a church building.

Definition of the “Church” – If leaders and members truly see those in the pews as the embodiment of “church” – a decentralized army rather than a centralized institution – then suddenly the burden to help local families is dispersed among the many versus the few. Even if a church has budget for benevolence and is willing to bless a non-member, maybe the impact would be far greater if members assisted families in need directly. Pastors and staff don’t have the capacity to build long term relationships with many local families – but that kind of leverage does reside there in the sanctuary. In this scenario, the task of leadership is only to communicate needs and prepare members to **BE the church at every opportunity.**



MISSIONS' REPORT

We are going back to collecting the Mission's Offering on the first Sunday of each month, right after the *Moments for Mission* in the bulletin.
For the months of April, May and June, your donations will be going to Family Services to help support their Summer Food Program.
Thank you for your continuing support.

Mission Committee, *Mary Alice Clickner, Pat Zacharias, Susan Ogden*



April

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

So, What Happens Now?

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

So, what happens now? What do we do with the Easter message? What do we do with the lessons we learned during our Lenten journey? In the Bible, the book of Acts comes next. Now is the time to ACT on what we have learned! Now is the time to ACT on the revelation of God's love through Christ's resurrection! The world could use some good news. Let us go forth and share the good news: *We are saved! We are saved indeed!* Let us go forth and ACT on this good news, showing God's LOVE with everyone we meet, especially those in need. That's what happens now.

Speaking of ACTS, Our Need Continues...

We can always use help with the following duties at our weekly Worship Services:

- Reading Scripture
- Assisting with ushering
- Assisting with Communion
- Providing flowers
- Providing special music

Our **sign-up sheets** are located outside Robinson Hall, in the Education Building.
Thanks be to God for the opportunity to serve.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – May

May 12th – Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is an opportunity for us to recognize all those who have mothered us throughout our lives. This year, we would like to put together a special slide show featuring photos of mothers. ***If you would like to add a photo of the special mothers in your life, please email them to Rev. Natlie by Tuesday May 7th at the latest.***

May 19th - Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday marks the end of the 50-day season of Eastertide. It is a glorious celebration of the Holy Spirit descending upon the apostles. In some traditions, the gifts of the Holy Spirit include *wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and Fear of the Lord*. Pentecost also marks the beginning of the church's mission to share the Love and Good News of Christ throughout the world. We remember the Pentecostal "tongues of fire" by adorning our church with drapes of red and gold.

May 26th – Memorial Sunday

Memorial Sunday is an opportunity for us to remember those who have transitioned over the past year by reading their names aloud and lighting candles at the altar. ***If there are any names you would like to have included in this service, please contact the church office by Tuesday May 21st at the latest.***

Help is ALWAYS Welcome!

We can always use help with the following duties at our weekly Worship Services:

- Reading Scripture
- Assisting with ushering
- Leading the congregation in song by serving as a Cantor?! We can always use help with the following duties at our weekly Worship Services:
- Reading Scripture
- Assisting with ushering
- Assisting with Communion
- Providing flowers
- Providing special music

Our **sign-up sheets** are located outside Robinson Hall, in the Education Building.

2023-24 Worship Committee Members: Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, and Diane Henderson. We are here to faithfully serve God, this church, and our Community.

We welcome and encourage your constructive feedback.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Just a reminder, scholarship applications are available online and are **due Friday, June 7th**.

If you have received one of our scholarships in the past, we encourage you to apply again.

Your Scholarship Committee

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Our March meeting was attended by nine women. **We are hoping to have an outing in April to Rathbun's** for some delicious food which will definitely include maple syrup! Further plans will be shared as they develop.

Our association will be doing a **SPRING CLEANING of the kitchen** in the coming weeks. We have been discussing the state of the kitchen floor. We have asked **Hal Payne, who has been in contact with the Health Department, to obtain a copy of the regulations that govern what materials are acceptable for kitchen flooring in a church kitchen** used for food preparation. This will be helpful for future discussions.

Women's Association

May

Our May meeting included **concerns regarding the state of the kitchen floor and it was decided to postpone the spring cleaning**. Our planned outing was moved to the month of June. Many of the venues are not open until then. Lunch was enjoyed by all who attended.

APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT



The Financial Officers are part of a *Strategic Planning Committee* to create a plan for Harrisena going into the future. What we have learned so far is that as members and friends of Harrisena, we are the church and the community is the “*customer.*” We need to be disciples and disciple others. **While we already do so much as a church, we need to explore ways to do more** to spread the good news of God’s love for us and the teachings of Jesus. Updates on this committee’s progress will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, **thanks to all who continue to financially support the church.** There are many of us who donate food, flowers and time. Your efforts are appreciated!

Your Financial Officers,
Ken Zacharias, Bonnie Nadig, Janet Wilson



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

May 2024

By Pam Loeb

The Fellowship Committee had a busy Holy Week providing a chili and cornbread dinner for Maundy Thursday and a breakfast following the Sunrise Service on Easter.

After every Sunday service we set up coffee and snacks for all to enjoy. This fellowship time allows us to get to know and enjoy each other’s company.

If you would like to help out with this fellowship time, please sign up to bring snacks for a particular Sunday in the Robinson Hall. If you are unable to commit to a specific Sunday, you can send in a baked good to be put in the freezer and we can use it when no one signs up to bring snacks.

“Out to Eat” has been very successful. Under the **organization of Ron Henderson**, we have been trying out restaurants and enjoying the experience. The next “Out to Eat” is scheduled for **Thursday, May 16, 2024** at *The Talk of the Town* in Glens Falls, NY. The event begins at 5:30. Please sign up in Robinson Hall or text Ron at 802-282-3568 to join in the fun.



Thank you to **Melissa Ferrie-Healy** for her idea of spring bulbs for the Lenten season. We hope the congregation is enjoying watching their growth. Our committee has placed new wreaths at the front entrance, also for Lent.

Anyone wanting to help the Flower Committee with our work is welcome. Please reach out to *Janet Wilson, Phyllis Straut or Doris O'Rourke*. *****HAPPY SPRING*****

Flower Committee May

We will be planting the bulbs from the Easter flowers when the weather cooperates. Hopefully they will bloom next spring.

The grounds need tending. **Does anyone remember "Levi Sundays"**. Many hands make light work!!

EASTER FLOWERS - 2024

GIVEN by:

Joanne Beck

Christine Burke

Dr. Bob & Cheryl Evans

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Phil & Bonnie Nadig

Doris O'Rourke

Janet & Ralph Wilson,

In "MEMORY" of:

Bruce Beck, Husband; Brian Beck, Son

Scott Fraser, the love of my life

Abigail Evans

Allan J. Ferrie, Jack & Ann Healy, Rachel & Eldred Ayer, Jack & Norma Ferrie, Richard & Hertha Gillespie and Raechel Ann Howard

Chuck Ogden, Pat Petel, Nancy Hoover, Dave & Melissa Swinton

Edward O'Rourke and Stephen O'Rourke

Our Loved Ones

GIVEN by:

Christine Burke

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Phil & Bonnie Nadig,

Janet & Ralph Wilson,

In "HONOR" of:

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Brenda Ferrie; My boys: Michael, Ryan & Matthew Healy

Our Children, Grandchildren and Our Church Family

Our Family





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JUNK IN THE TRUNK

Join us for the *Harrisena "Junk in the Trunk" Sale* in the
HARRISENA CHURCH PARKING LOT

Saturday, June 1st, 9 AM-3 PM

\$20/per car Registration Fee

BAKE & BOOK SALE also!

Send Registration Checks to: *Harrisena Community Church,*
1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, c/o ***"Junk in the Trunk"***

Any questions call Shirley Harney @ 518 832-7306



MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Christian Home Month / American Heritage Month			1 5:30am PRAYER AA @7:30	2 5:30am PRAYER STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING @ 12	3 5:30am Prayer Mission Meal prepared	4 5:30am PRAYER
5 5:30 am Prayer @9:30 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Holocaust Remembrance Day	6 5:30am PRAYER	7 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @1	8 5:30am PRAYER Lectio Divina @10 on Zoom AA @7:30	9 5:30am PRAYER STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING @ 12	10 5:30am Prayer Mission Meal prepared	11 5:30am PRAYER
12 5:30 am Prayer <i>Ascension Sunday</i> Sunday Morning Worship @9:30 am Mother's Day	13 5:30am PRAYER	14 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @1; Council @7 Council @ 7 pm	15 LGGC 5:30am Prayer Lectio Divina @10 on zoom AA @7:30 LGGC	16 5:30am PRAYER STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING @ 10 Women's Assoc. Mtg@12	17 5:30am Prayer Mission Meal prepared	18 5:30am PRAYER
19 5:30 am Prayer <i>Pentecost Sunday Morning Worship @9:30 am</i>	20 5:30am PRAYER	21 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @1	22 5:30am Prayer Lectio Divina @ 10 on zoom AA @7:30	23 5:30am PRAYER STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING @ 12	24 5:30am Prayer Mission Meal prepared	25 5:30am PRAYER
26 5:30 am Prayer <i>Trinity Sunday</i> Sunday Morning Worship @9:30 am	27 5:30am PRAYER <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @ 1	29 5:30am Prayer Lectio Divina @10 on zoom AA @7:30	30 STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING @ 12	31 5:30am Prayer Mission Meal prepared	

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP in the HCC sanctuary and NEW conference call-in number: (701) 791-9764. You can join our worship service via livestream at Harrisena.org. Harrisena Community Church on **YOUTUBE** coming soon!

April Birthdays: 1) Carolyn Curren; 7) Katherine Gould, Lauren Gould, Donna Smith; 8) Jeremy Carte; 9) Lori Carte; 14) Ken Zacharias; 15) Kathy Herold, Doug Helffrich, Jr.; 16) David Michaels; 20) April Beasley-Irving; 23) Blake McComsey; 25) Ralph Wilson; 26) Anne Kingsley, Sean Robinson; 30) Elizabeth Gusek, Mac Petrequin.

May Birthdays: 2) Christine Burke; 5) Billy Brown; 6) Kayla Monroe; 12) Mary Alice Clickner; 15) Peggy McArthur; 20) Pamela Loeb; 22) Linda Havens; 26) Lance Fuihon Loonan; 27) Mercedi Loonan; 31) Ryan Healy.

CELEBRATION FRIDAYS!! Send your special events and celebrations to the church office for our CELEBRATION FRIDAY email publication. This is our way of sharing the blessings of God with each other as we live filled with gratitude for all that God has doing and continues to do!

Long-Term Prayer Requests – April / May 2024

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

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Francis Howard – Health & Rehab. Center, Clarksville, VA
Manu Malkani – Fort Hudson
Art Norton – Slate Valley Center, Granville
Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village, Rexford

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena
Karl Avent – Son of Laura Avent
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Randy Huber – Husband of Cindy Huber
Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton
Ann Malkani – Friend of Joanne Beck
Robert & Beth Marshall – relatives of Phyllis Straut
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Fran Tucker – Mother of Bob Tucker
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends of: **Lindsay Carte, Amelia Manetta** and **Joyce Wilcox** who died this last month. Lindsay was the brother of members, Chris Carte and Dawn Pliscofsky; Amelia was the niece of Janet & Ralph Wilson; and Joyce was the long-time next-door neighbor of Harrisena Community Church.*



Members and Friends in the Military

If any of the service people below need a change in status (home/reserves, etc.), please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Andrew Bigelow (*Army*), son of Karen Bigelow—serving stateside

Derek Dumas—stateside

Joseph Hubbard (*Army*) – stateside

Tony Mitchell (*USAF*) - serving in Afghanistan.

Tyler Monroe (*USAF*), son of Cheryl Pagano – serving at Sheppard AFB

Kaleb Parker (*Army*), grandson of Rev. Dr. Wimberly – serving in Germany

Griffith Parry (*West Point Military Academy*), relative of Griffith Parry- serving in Poland

James Pearson (*USAF*)

Phillip Riccio (*Army*), son of Phyllis Riccio -serving stateside

Brian Schneider (*Army*) – serving in Afghanistan

Daniel Urband (*USAF*), grandson of Alice Urband—serving stateside

Mark Wilson (*Army Special Forces/Reserves*), husband of Andrea—serving stateside

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

