

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

Some years ago, prior to her death, Mother Teresa was introduced to speak at a prayer breakfast in Washington, D.C. The person who introduced her said, "I now have the pleasure and privilege of introducing to you the greatest woman in the world, Mother Teresa." There was a round of applause as people stood to their feet.

As the 4' 11" woman stepped to the podium, she was so short that she had to stand on a box so that she could be seen. As the people continued to applaud, she lifted her frail arms and said, "Please, please be seated." After everyone was seated and it was quiet, she said, "I believe that if I was indeed the greatest woman in the world, God would have made me somewhat taller than I am. No, I am not the greatest woman in the world. **I am but a pencil in the hands of a writing God who writes love letters to the world through people like me and people like you.**" WOW! What an amazing vision and understanding of who we are! What a wonderful identity and purpose to guide us! What a secure place to be, positioned in the hands of God.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. I John 4:9-11 NIV

Now, I share with you a parable.

THE PARABLE OF THE PENCIL

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside just before putting him into the box. "There are five things you need to know," he told the pencil, "Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.

1. You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand.
2. You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.
3. You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.
4. The most important part of you will always be what's inside.
5. On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write."

The pencil understood and promised to remember and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Have you ever thought of yourself in this way? If so, great. If not, read the parable now, place

your name wherever you see the “you” in the place of the pencil. Listen to what our Creator is saying.

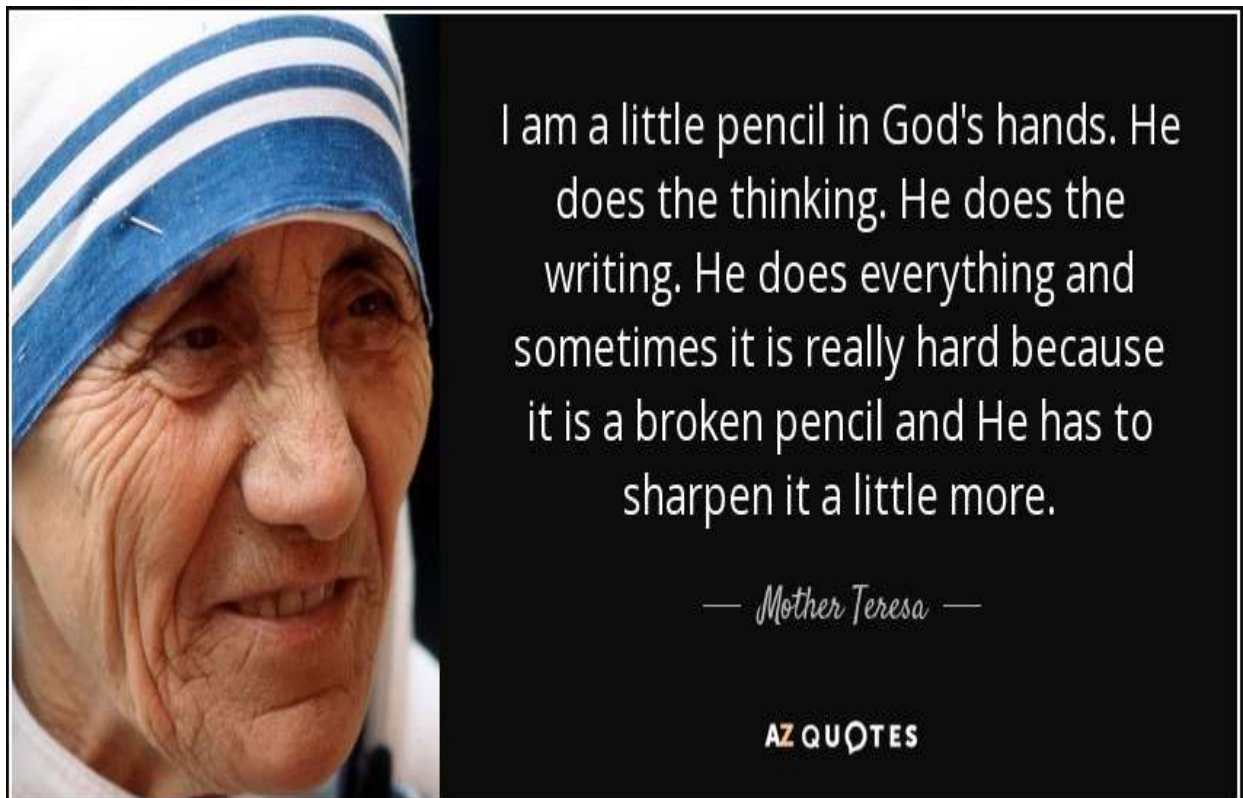
1. *You* will be able to do many great things, but only if *you* allow yourself to be held in My (God’s) hand. And allow other human beings to access *you* for the many gifts *you* possess.
2. *You* will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems, but *you’ll* need it to become a stronger person.
3. *You* will be able to correct any mistakes *you* might make. Just ask Me.
4. The most important part of *you* will always be what’s on the inside.
5. On every surface *you* walk through, *you* must leave *your* mark, a mark of love. No matter what the situation, *you* must fulfill *your* purpose.

God never called us to be successful, by our own standards, God called us to be faithful to our calling and purpose.

Let us understand and promise to remember as we live our lives in this world filled with love and purpose in our hearts. Let us be pencils in the hands of a writing God, who writes love letters to the world through people like me and people like you.

In Christ’s service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - FEBRUARY 2022

By the time you read this, the long-awaited **Tech Project** will have been installed by Ray Supply. The work is scheduled to begin on Monday, January 24th through the week. Pastor Natalie has graciously been available to open the buildings on those mornings.

What a great outreach HCC can provide to our “at home” members, the community and beyond. Our Sunday services will be streamed on Facebook Live and our website will tell the Harrisena story. Thanks to Jim Ferris, who, along with Pastor Natalie, has put so much time and effort to bring us to this point.

At the **January Council meeting it was voted to create a Tech Committee**. Next steps will be to develop a committee guideline to be included in our Committee Duties Handbook. This Handbook is being updated from the guidelines written in 2018. The guideline lists the purpose or mission of the committee, the duties and responsibilities of the committee and the goals for each committee. Currently the Handbook includes fifteen committees including officers. The Pastoral and Nominating committees do not have a guideline and this will be worked on along with the Tech committee. We will evaluate the pros and cons of each idea asking three questions: *can it be managed; who is the person responsible for the action; and, who will document the completion of the action*. Currently all committee members and officers and Pastor Natalie have received a copy of the Handbook. I have asked committee chairpersons to review the content with their members and note changes that have occurred. We will update the information and issue new Handbooks. When completed they will also be made available to any member of our congregation upon request.

Thanks to our Council Members who are working hard for our church and *Happy Valentine's Day to All*.

Women's Association

Submitted by Joanne Beck

Instead of a meeting in December, the Women's Association **held a potluck Christmas luncheon** in Robinson Hall. The tables were decorated and set up around the Christmas tree. Eighteen members attended. We had punch and appetizers (thanks to Sue Ogden), a potluck lunch, background Christmas music (thanks to Christine and Kathleen) and our program as follows.

Everyone brought a gift wrapped box with a favorite quote or saying inside. Everyone picked one like a grab bag. When everyone had selected their gift, each person took turns reading what was inside. Some were inspirational, some gave us something to think about and some were funny. Thanks to Marion Philo for suggesting this.

Everyone went home with a goodie gift bag, and good wishes for the holiday season!

Worship Committee Report

February 2022

Advent/Christmas 2021 Feedback & Recommendations for 2022:

It was nice to have various members and their families involved with reading Scripture, lighting the candles, hanging Chrismons, and sharing music throughout the Advent/Christmas season! We are considering having one service for next year due to low attendance.

Head Usher:

We are in need of a new Head Usher to keep track of attendance and coordinate various duties. Please contact the Worship Committee if you're interested!

Suggested Communion Sunday Hymns:

We are discussing having "Come O Lord" and "One bread, One Body" be sung on a regular basis at the end of our Communion Sunday services.

Streamlined Weekly Bulletin:

We will no longer be printing the hymn lyrics, pledge forms and prayer request forms in our weekly bulletin. The hymn books are back in the pews and Bob Tucker will include them in his big-screen slides. And the pledge and prayer request forms will be available in the back of the church. We're working on having the prayer request forms in the pews slots and will place them there when the reformatting process is complete.

Banner Project:

Worship Committee would like our young people to help make felt banners to display in our Sanctuary, as Carol Webster and Laurie Ferris did so many years ago. They could help plan the design, purchase materials, and assemble. Suggested themes: Communion Sunday, Harrisena Shield/Core Values/History, Seasons (winter, spring, summer, fall) – we're open to ideas!

Plans for Lent:

Worship Committee would like to bring back the "Lenten Cross" candle-lighting tradition to mirror the lighting of the Advent Wreath candles.. Sign-up sheets for readings will be made available ASAP.

2021-22 Worship Committee Members:

Melissa Ferrie-Healy (chair), Kathleen Gusek (Harbinger), and Phyllis Straut
Rev. Natalie Wimberly and Doris O'Rourke (ex-officio members)

Treasurer's Report

Welcome to 2022 HCC Friends and Family

We as part of the financial committee are praying for a fiscally sound 2022 for HCC. The obvious solution is for us to realize the need and the support that Harrisena must have in order to keep our doors open. I must add that HCC parishioners have never let us down in the past, which is so appreciated by all. Thank you in advance for all you do and all your support.

To date there are 21 pledges for 2022 - down from 2021, which means we are down three pledges.

We have a pledge commitment of \$35,860.00 to date for 2022.

Technology has received a total of \$6,033.00 in donations to date.

As of January 19, 2022 our savings account is showing \$174,343.13

Thank you all for making our job so satisfying by showing us your love and support.

Your Financial Officers:

Ken Zacharias
Bonnie Nadig
Janet Wilson

February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 AA @7:30	3 Conversa- tions @10:30;	4	5
6 Worship @9:30 Livestream on Harrisena.org	7	8 COUNCIL @7	9 AA @7:30	10 Conversa- tions@10:30	11	12
13 Worship @9:300 Livestream on Harrisena.org	14	15	16 AA @7:30	17 Women's Mtg @12	18	19
20 Worship @9:30 Livestream on Harrisena.org	21	22	23 AA @7:30	24 Conversa- tions@10:30	25	26
27 Trans- formation Sunday- Worship @9:30 Livestream on Harrisena.org	28					

Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE will be streamed live on the Harrisena Community Church website at **Harrisena.org**. We will still use our **conference call-in at 1-313-209-8800**. **The ID# is 796-8500, then press #.**
Conference call-in will continue through the month of February only.

WE ARE THE CHURCH!

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.

February Birthdays:

2) Linda Richardson, Lynda Scurlock; 4) Dan Blanchard; 5) Maxine Einzig, Jim Ferris;
6) Jeremy Cartier, Marilyn Somerville; 10) Art Norton; 18) Phil Nadig, Linda Brown, Cindy Huber; 19) Shirley Harney; 21) David Farbaniec; 22) David Helffrich; 25) Tim McAuley, Jean Meyer; 27) Andrea Lipinski, Jodi Loonan, Victor Urrico.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – February 2022

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

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – The Terrace
Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Maria Foss – Sunnyview Rehabilitation
Theodore Gusek – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terrace
Art Norton – Slate Valley Center, Granville
Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village, Rexford

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Randy Huber – Husband of Cindy Huber
Fabiola Jabaut – Mother of Steve Jabaut
Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton
Teagan Klingenburg – Student of Melissa Ferrie-Healy
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Ann Malkani – Friend of Joanne Beck
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of **Carmen LeFebvre**.
Carmen was a friend of Peg McArthur.*

Members and Friends in the Military

Please update the status of anyone you know on this list as soon as information is available.

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

Derek Dumas—stateside

Michael Gusek (*Patriot Missile Battery*), son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek – serving Fort Hood, TX

Joseph Hubbard (*Army*) – stateside

Wes McQueen, nephew of Dodi/Rev. Robinson- serving stateside

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

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

Lt. Griffith Parry (*Army*) 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

Dr. 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

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

Corey Ledgerwood out of the military.

