

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

MY HEART IS FIXED!

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.

Psalm 57:7-11 KJV

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed! David's words, "My heart is fixed," is a *michtam*. He speaks of that which is substantial, enduring, and fixed. *Michtam* literally means "engraved" or "permanent." David is saying, "My heart is unmoveable, steadfast, stable and enduring. He goes on to say, "*I will praise Thee O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto Thee among the nations.*" David is determined to proclaim the mercy, truth, and faithfulness of God. Regardless of the circumstances, David's heart is engraved, stable, unmovable, and enduring in God. ***My heart is fixed!***

In this 57th Psalm, David is hiding in a cave. He is running from King Saul who is trying to kill him. David has already been anointed as king to take King Saul's place. Instead of fighting Saul, instead of plotting to kill Saul, instead of feeling sorry for himself...David is in a cave singing praises to God. God's creation is great, but the God of the creation is even greater. Saul is still not to be trusted; more trials lie ahead but God has given David assurance of His presence. David's heart simply overflows. David's confidence and trust are in God! ***My heart is fixed!***

My heart is fixed, O God, is an offering of our highest praises to God. This is the kind of praise that just wells up inside of you and the only choice you have is to let it out. This is praise that cannot be contained solely in church. It requires so much more. It is a condition of the heart! . It is the commitment of our lives and way of living to God. It is the willingness to yield to God's will with praise and thanksgiving. As we pour ourselves out into the very presence of God, God pours the Holy Spirit into us, so that there is an overflow of God's Spirit into the world!

So, when we are confronted with challenges, threats, or verbal attacks, the best defense is simply to be quiet and praise God realizing that our confidence is in God's mercy and God's truth. Following David's example, in times of trials, troubles, and challenges of all kinds, don't turn **inward** to self-pity or **outward** to revenge but **upward** to God.

May our lives always and forever be engraved, stable, unmovable, and enduring with trust, faith, and confidence in God! ***My heart is fixed!***

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom,

Rev. Dr. N. C. Wimberly



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

On June 18th, the Harrisena Community Church celebrated the Baptism of

Savannah Lee Sesselman and Alaina Ann Sesselman

Welcome to the Family!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE – July/August

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

A Reflection on Independence Day

July 4th has been a special day for many since 1776. It marks the day that our Continental Congress approved the historic Declaration of Independence, a document outlining the reasons we no longer wished to subject ourselves to Great Britain's rule. One of the most memorable lines of this document is as follows:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

As we celebrate Independence Day 2023, let's take time to carefully consider the full ramifications of that statement. We have been working on a "more perfect union" for nearly 250 years. How are we doing at securing "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" for ALL? How are we doing at treating EVERYONE as if they were our equal, endowed with these "unalienable Rights?" We have indeed made many positive strides, but there is work yet to be done. *Jesus was working on this long before our founding fathers were born!*

If you care to read further into the Declaration of Independence, there is an eerie sense that in some ways "we have become our parents," so to speak. How many of the grievances we felt compelled to rebel against in 1776 are now condoned in our current government? Worse yet,

how many of the grievances have we committed against others (African Americans, Native Americans, to name a few) right here in the United States? *Have we behaved like the “Unforgiving Servant” in Jesus’ parable on forgiveness? (Matthew 18:23-35)*

Yes, enjoy your fireworks and time spent celebrating the United States of America, but please take time to pray for us, as well. And remember to **give thanks for your own personal “Independence Day;” the day you chose to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior!**

Let Us Break Bread Together...

We will continue to serve gluten free Communion (traditional and all-in-one packages) the first Sunday of every month. Please mark your calendars: July 2nd and August 6th.
Thank God for Flower Power!

This is the season for God and gardeners to display the full glory of their collaboration in FLOWER POWER! We invite you to share the bounty of your blooms at Sunday worship as often as you are able.

Thank you to **Diane Henderson** for creating the colorful summertime wreaths for our church doors.

More Banners Under Construction

The Worship Committee is hard at work creating a few more banners to brighten our Sanctuary and enhance our worship experience. It’s not too late to join the fun! Please contact a Worship Committee member if you would like to help.

Whatever the Season, Our Need Continues...

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

- Reading Scripture
- Ushering
- Leading the congregation in song
- Sharing special music
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Our **sign-up sheets** are located outside Robinson Hall, in the Education Building.

***2022-23 Worship Committee Members: Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, and Diane Henderson. We are here to serve God, Christ, and our parish!
We welcome and encourage your constructive feedback.***



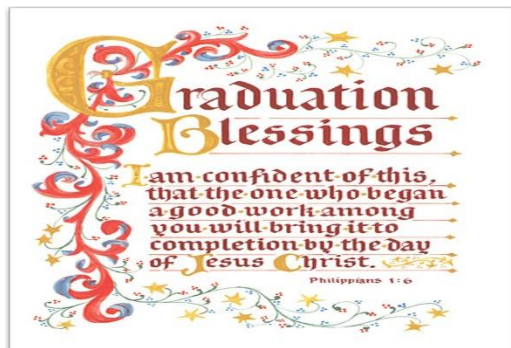
MISSIONS REPORT

Submitted by Sue Ogden

The Mission's Project for July and August is the **collecting of food for Family Services**. School is out and families need help feeding their growing children. Please donate items such as peanut butter, jelly, tuna, mayonnaise, cereals and anything else children like to eat! Bring your donations to Harrisena and place them in the baskets found in the church and Education Building.

We are now having a **separate collection for Missions the first Sunday of each month**.

The Friday Night Meal Groups have served 2,498 meals as of June 23rd. Our June 30th meal will be the last one for the summer – we are **taking July and August off**. The meal for June 30th will be a picnic.



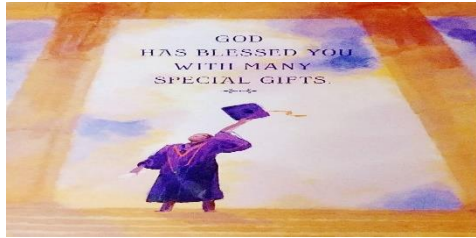
2023 HCC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Cameron Cartier, son of Kristen Simoneau & Jeremy Cartier. Grandson of Peter & Suzanne Cartier; attends Florida Southern College and is studying Marine Biology.

Isabella Cartier, daughter of Jeremy Cartier & Leslie Cartier. Granddaughter of Peter & Suzanne Cartier will attend Robert Morris University, studying Sports Psychology.

Ryan Healy, son of Melissa & Michael Healy, brother of Matthew Healy; and grandson of Brenda Ferrie. Ryan will attend the University of Delaware, studying Sports Management.

Lydia Thrall is the daughter of Jamie & Donnean Thrall. She is the granddaughter of Donna Davison Smith and will be attending SUNY Adirondack Culinary School



HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Jack Brazie, graduating from Shenendehowa High School, is the nephew of Melissa Ferrie-Healy.

Sophie Burke graduating from UVM, is the niece of Christine Burke.

Jacob Henderson, graduating from Castleton State College, is the son of Ron & Diane Henderson.

Hailey Howard, graduating from Halifax County High School, is a relative of Melissa Ferrie-Healy.

Madison MacDermid, graduating from the University of Alabama, is the granddaughter, of Philip & Bonnie Nadig.

Morgan MacDermid, graduating from SUNY Albany Nursing School, is the granddaughter of Philip & Bonnie Nadig.

Molly Monahan, graduating from Berkley University, is the niece of Christine Burke.

Johan Savage, graduating from Baldwinsville High School, is the grandson of Peter & Suzanne Cartier.

Lydia Thrall, graduating from Saratoga High School, daughter of Jamie & Donnean Thrall.



Treasurers' Report for July

The Harrisena Financial Officers want to remind everyone that with travel and summer activities in full swing, the expenses of the church do not take a vacation. **Your donations and pledges are appreciated and necessary to keep our church expenses current.** If you are traveling or otherwise not planning to attend church in person, please mail in your offering or use the "donate" button on our web page.

The **first Sunday of each month there will be two collections which will include the special Missions offering** as well as the usual offertory.

We hope you agree that walking to our church from the parking lot is part of the Harrisena experience. The beauty of the mountains and trees reminds us of God's handiwork in nature. Once inside the sanctuary, the beauty of the stained glass windows, the view from the large window, the beautiful music, the lovingly made banners that adorn the walls, the flowers, all contribute to a special worship experience. Praise God for all He provides!

We wish everyone a wonderful summer and thank you for your past and future support.
Ken Zacharias, Bonnie Nadig, Janet Wilson



Women's Fellowship

Women's Assoc.

Submitted by Doris O'Rourke

In June we had our regular meeting at noon. **In addition, we held a "work meeting" from ten to twelve for our History Project in the Ed building.** Attendees were Shelley Durkee, Bonnie Nadig, Joanne Beck, Doris O'Rourke and led by former Church Historian, Mary Clickner. At noon we were joined by Janet Wilson for a festive lunch and our regular meeting.

Our association financed the refinishing of the floors in Robinson Hall and the kitchen. Everyone commented on the excellent job done by Spotless Cleaning. Thanks to Sue Ogden for opening the building early so Wayne could "beat the heat".

A major concern brought up at our meeting was **the removal of the organ from Robinson Hall.** The hall has been rented for a dinner which we are catering. One suggestion was to move it to the lower level of the Ed building until we find a buyer, or we donate it to a non-profit organization.

The other concern discussed was the **status of the kitchen refrigerator.** It must not be in the storage closet because it blocks access to the table and chairs needed for catering.

We have shared these concerns with the Trustees and appreciate their help to resolve these issues.

We do not officially meet during July and August. However, we hope to have a social time this summer. We will make contact by emails and calls.

June 29 we will have another work session in the History room. Anyone is welcome to join us, or to just stop in and see what's happening.



UPCOMING EVENT DATES

August 12 Dizzy Dave's BBQ 4:00 - 6:00 *(This date has been changed from July, because of a conflict in dates with Dizzy Dave.)*

Summer Blood Drive *August 18th, 2023* 12-5:30

September 30 Apple Festival 10:00 to 3:00

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The Harrisena Community Church **Summer Blood Drive** will take place on **Friday, August 18th from 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM in Robinson Hall.**

How is God calling YOU to help?

- **Spread the word on your social media**
- **Hang a poster where others in the community can see it**
- **Pray for the safety and availability of our donors and volunteers**
- **Assist with set-up or clean-up**
- **Work as a greeter**
- **Bake some goodies or help make a meal for our volunteers**

If any of these options sound appealing to you, **please contact Melissa Ferrie-Healy or Pam Loeb.**

If you are feeling especially brave and generous, you could **DONATE YOUR BLOOD!** Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments can easily be scheduled ahead of time by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visiting redcrossblood.org.

Any help would be appreciated!

JULY 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 5:30am PRAYER |
| 2 5:30 am Prayer SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP@9:30 am HOLY COMMUNION! | 3 5:30am PRAYER | 4 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @1 Independence Day! | 5 5:30am PRAYER Lectio Divina @12:30 on ZOOM ONLY! AA @7:30 | 6 5:30am PRAYER | 7 5:30am Prayer | 8 5:30am PRAYER |
| 9 5:30 am Prayer SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP@9:30 am CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on BYLAW REVISIONS | 10 5:30am PRAYER | 11 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @1 | 12 5:30am Prayer Lectio Divina @12:30 ON ZOOM ONLY! AA @7:30 | 13 5:30am PRAYER 12- Women's Assoc. Mtg | 14 5:30am Prayer | 15 5:30am PRAYER |
| 16 5:30 am Prayer SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP@9:30 am | 17 5:30am PRAYER | 18 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @1 | 19 5:30am Prayer Lectio Divina @ 12:30 PM on ZOOM LG Garden Club AA @7:30 | 20 5:30am PRAYER | 21 5:30am Prayer | 22 5:30am PRAYER |
| 23 5:30 am Prayer SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP@9:30 am | 24 5:30am PRAYER | 25 5:30am PRAYER Conversations @ 1 | 26 5:30am Prayer Lectio Divina @12:30 AA @7:30 | 27 5:30am PRAYER | 28 5:30am Prayer | 29 |
| 30 5:30 am Prayer SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP@9:30 am | 31 5:30am PRAYER | | | | | |

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP @ 9:30 a.m. in the Harrisena Community Church sanctuary. You can also join our worship service via livestream at Harrisena.org. Click on the FACEBOOK link at the top right-hand side of the website to the livestream of the service.

July Birthdays: 3) Jane Gould-Badger; 9) Hal Payne; 13) Marlie Thrall; 14) David Aust; 18) Kylie Lipinski; 20) Larissa Gusek; 29) Cheryl Straut, Janet Richard.

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 is doing in our lives.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – July 2023

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
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
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
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: **Marie Scarselletta**, mother of Diane Straut; and **Dr. Robert O'Connor**, long-time veterinarian at the Glens Falls Animal Hospital.*



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, son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek – stateside at Ft. 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

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

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

Todd Payne (Army), cousin of the Payne family - serving stateside

James Pearson (USAF)

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

Brian Schneider (Army) – serving in Afghanistan

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

