

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

DREAMS AND ADVENTURES

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Matthew 2:12

The journey of the magi began in their ordinary everyday routine and where abouts. God reached beyond social structures. God reached out to shepherds as well as to the Wise Ones. God reached beyond people frightened by the very presence and glory of God to those who observed and followed the constellations with curious intrigue to follow a star to the King. All along the way, God directed them, first by a star, then through the prophetic writings found in the Book of Micah, and finally in their dreams.

God does whatever it takes to reach out to and embrace all people. God announces the birth of the Messiah to shepherds through angels on Christmas, to the magi by a star on Epiphany, and to the political and religious authorities of God's own people through visitors from the East. From a manger, where a child lies wrapped in strips of cloth, God's reaches, God's embraces the world.

Jesus eats with outcasts and sinners. Jesus touches people who are sick and people who live with disabilities. Jesus even calls the dead back to life. Jesus offers eternal life to all people as he hung upon the cross. In Jesus the Christ, no one is beyond God's embrace, no one is beyond God's love.

In 2017, Bruce Epperly wrote a book titled, *The Work of Christmas: The 12 Days of Christmas with Howard Thurman*. In this book, Epperly captured some of Dr. Thurman's writings in the context of Christmastide and the Feast of Epiphany. Dr. Thurman's writings, speak so profoundly to the inexhaustible presence of God's love and embrace. His words invite us to a journey where limits of time and space do not hold us bound or captive, but free us for the adventure of a lifetime. Thurman points us to the journey before us. He writes, *"Once this spirit becomes part of a person's life, every day is Christmas and every night is freighted with the dawning of fresh, and perhaps holy, adventure."*

Maybe, just maybe Christmas is not only a season, *“but a state of mind that dwells tenderly on the simple things, that looks for beauty in ugliness, and seeks peace in conflict (Epperly,2017)”*.

This is revelation! It is *God’s kingdom come; God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. This is invitation! It is your time and my time to discover and develop spiritually. This is faith in action! It is the proclamation of God’s revelation of love in unexpected places and in unexpected people in real and tangible ways. God’s love and light can be found everywhere...even right where you are.

“We never know where a dream can take us. The light can take us to unexpected places. Holy adventures can’t be predicted, but one thing is certain: noticed or unnoticed, obvious or hidden, God will guide us as we go forth, following stars and dreams toward unexpected destinations” (Epperly, 2017).

May God grant us, Harrisena Community Church, dreams and adventures that take us to places and spaces that change our world for God. Maybe we will even create some of these spaces and places along the way.

Happy New Year!

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly

Noted excerpts from *The Work of Christmas: The 12 Days of Christmas with Howard Thurman*, by Bruce Epperly, 2017.

Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)

On December 16, 2021, the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) met with Rev. George Stefani to begin to develop healthy Pastoral/Congregation relationships that enable us to focus on the mission and ministry of HCC. One of the most important parts of any committee is communication. When communication is missing we tend to think the worst.

The members of the PRC are Peter Cartier, Pam Loeb, Donna Davison Smith and Rev. Natalie C. Wimberly. We are using a handbook for Pastoral Relations provided by the American Baptist Churches, USA.

The roll of the PRC :

- Foster good dialog rather than being a complaint department

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- Stay focused on the Mission of the Church
 - Help communicate the message of hope
 - Support the Pastor

As we begin this process of developing healthy Pastor/Congregation relationships, we need to have scriptural underpinnings. We are all part of the solution and need to remember to be hard on issues and soft on people.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 shows us the scriptural underpinnings for our work. *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, it's many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one but of many. Now if the foot should say “But am I not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” if not for that reason stop being part of the body, if the ear should say, “Because I am not an ear, I do not belong to the body. If the whole body was an eye, where would the sense of hearing be. If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the part of the body, every one of them, just as he wanted it to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts but one body.*

The next PRC meeting will be on January 21 on Zoom.

Look for more updates in future Harbingers.

President's Message

Submitted by Doris O'Rourke

As we welcome the New Year 2022 we have an opportunity before us. On **January 30, 2022 there will be a vote on the sale of the lot that borders Clemmons Road.** This project has been worked on since the congregation voted to begin the process to subdivide the property. Hal Payne volunteered to lead this project. He will share the details of the work that went into this project with us.

I want every member to know that from the first mention of selling the lot it was stated that the **funds would be RESTRICTED for MAJOR CAPITAL REPAIRS ONLY** of our buildings. We have an Educational Building whose roof is thirty years old and a highly sophisticated heating system of the same age. As a former Trustee I supported the subdivision and as your current President I am encouraging the members of Harrisena to vote in favor of this sale. We all want our church and buildings to remain secure.

Thank you.

Worship Committee:
Submitted by Kathleen Gusek

The Worship committee has been very busy decorating the church for the holiday season! Several other positive changes have been made as well: The Hymnals and Bibles are back in the pews. We have new offering baskets on poles to accommodate safe distancing protocols. **Prayer request cards will be ordered and placed in the church.** When they arrive we will no longer print them in the bulletin. The screens in the sanctuary are again showing the service, thanks to Bob Tucker. Since **the hymns are now available in the hymnals and on screen** we will no longer be printing them in the bulletin.

Sign-up sheets are back! Please seek them out in the Sanctuary. Many hands make light work!

MANY THANKS to all of the **Advent/Christmas Eve Readers**, as well as to the many who **purchased poinsettias to brighten our sanctuary** in Memory of and in Honor of loved ones!

~~Worship, please contact Kathleen Gusek with regard to every aspect of the~~
Gusek

Fellowship Report

The Fellowship Committee has set some goals for the up-coming year:

1. To organize fellowship after Sunday service,
2. To continue the “*Out to Eat*” program started by Deanna Payne. (Thank you Deanna!)
3. To work with other committees, such as **Outreach**, by providing food for the blood drives; **Missions**, by assisting with the Friday meals, and **Worship**, by continuing our breakfast after Hanging of the Greens.

We would also like to set up Fundraisers and just some “good old fashioned” fun times of fellowship!

One idea that came from Membership, is a “*getting to know you*” Game Night for Valentine’s Day in February. **It is time we get to know each other again!**

We welcome any and all ideas – please contact the Fellowship Committee with yours!

Let’s rebuild our Unity (in Fellowship),
Pam Loeb – Janet Wilson – Shelley Durkee

January Membership Committee Report

Your HCC Membership Committee is working hard on your behalf.

- We have reviewed the committee Mission and agree with its verbiage.
- We have reviewed the membership sections of the bylaws, and we are making recommendations to the council for changes in reference to the description of “Active Member” and the “Orientation” of new members.
 - We are working on updating the membership list, friend list, and directory, as well as the birthday list. This will all take time, and we appreciate the patience of the congregation.
 - We are sending a letter to members who are not currently attending HCC to express that we miss them and that we hope to see them soon.
 - Our committee is tasked with suggesting and facilitating membership promoting events.

We are suggesting a **Getting-To-Know-You event during coffee hour**, including games and lunch. Members will “earn” game points for bringing a friend from outside our congregation! We are excited to have a great deal to present to you. If you have any suggestions, please bring them to us!

Submitted with God’s Love,
Donna Gelder Bigelow , Brandy Madon, Cheryl Straut

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

We are very excited to have the Red Cross back at Harrisena for a **January Blood Drive!**

The Blood Drive will be held from **12-5:30 PM on Friday, January 28, 2022**. Please sign up to give blood at **1-800-RED-CROSS** or redcrossblood.org.

If you **would like to volunteer your help during the drive**, contact Pam Loeb and/or Melissa Ferrie-Healy.

As always, we welcome and encourage your feedback...

Outreach Committee Members: Shirley Harney @518 832-7306, Donna Davidson Smith @518 793-2304.

Many hands make light work! Please let us know if you'd be interested in joining us or assisting in any way, especially writing cards.

Harrisena Community Church
Winter Blood Drive

Friday January 28th, 2022
12:00 – 5:30 PM

Harrisena Community Church
Education Bldg. - Robinson Hall
1616 Ridge Road
Queensbury, NY 12804

Be part of the lifesaving cause!

Blood Drive Coordinator: Melissa Ferrie-Healy

mlfmusic@yahoo.com

518 792 4709

Missions Report

The Mission Committee members are requesting **donations of Shampoo & deodorant** (any type) for Family Services during the month of January 2022.

Please contact Sue Ogden for more information @518 792-8851.

Thank you.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS (2021)

Given By

In Memory of

Joanne Beck

Bruce Beck

Evans Family

Abigail Evans

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Rachel & Eldred Ayer; Norma & Jack Ferrie;
Hertha & Richard Gillespie; Ann & Jack Healy

Kathleen Gusek

John Hemglein; Alfred Gusek

Diane Kerchner

Cloyd Kerchner

Jean Meyers

Mr. Richard H. Meyers Jr.; Dr. &
Mrs. R.C. Tefft Jr.; Mrs. Joan
Sundiem; Timothy F. Reinmuth

Doris O'Rourke

Edward O'Rourke; Stephen
O'Rourke

Chuck & Sue Ogden

Our Parents: Louis & Virginia
Ogden; Benjamin & Marjorie
Bardin

Cheryl Straut & Robert Tucker

Robert Straut, Sr; Morgan G. Monroe

Phyllis Straut

Robert Straut, Sr.; Donna L. Straut;
Morgan Monroe; Witmer family;
Morgan family

Given by

In Honor of

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

My Boys: Matthew, Ryan &
Michael Healy;
My Beloved Parents: Brenda & Allan Ferrie

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THANK YOU to ALL!

*Special Thanks to **Donna Bigelow** for the Nativity Scene; and to **Stephen Greene** for his contribution to the Flower Fund!*

JANUARY 2022

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 1 |
| 2 9:30 am Sunday Worship on | 3 | 4 | 5 AA@7:30 | 6 Conversations @9:30 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:30 am Sunday Worship | 10 | 11 Council Mtg @7 PM | 12 AA @7:30 | 13 Conversations 9:30-11: | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:30 am Sunday Worship | 17 | 18 | 19 LGGC AA @7:30 | 20 Conversations 9:30; Women's ASSOC Mtg@12 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:30 am Sunday Worship | 24 | 25 | 26 AA @7:30 | 27 Conversations 9:30-11 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:30 Sunday Worship | 31 | | | | | |

Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE will continue in person at 9:30 AM and by Conference CALL-IN at: 1) Dial+1 (313) 209-8800; 2) Enter Conference ID 796-8500 and press the pound key.

January Birthdays

5) Debbie Cartier; 9) Roy Urrico; 12) Jay Petrequin; 14) Donna Gelder-Bigelow; 15) Danielle Nadig-Cooper, Sandy Jabaut; 17) Kyle Irving; 18) William Brown, Richard Kline, Dan Donovan; 19) Cameron Brown, Matthew Healy; 21) Andrea Nadig-Wilson; 22) Ajani Wimbley; 24) Shelley Durkee; 27) Dr. Natalie C. Wimberly.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – January 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, Schenectady
Theodore Gusek – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terraces
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 – Neighbor of Joanne Beck
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
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** who died 12/15/21, 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.

Derek Dumas—stateside

Michael Gusek, son of Kathleen & Timothy Gusek is serving stateside

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

Griffith Parry (Army) , relative of Griffith Parry- Middle East

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

Corey Ledgerwood (Army) – is safely home & out of the service.

