

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

TO ANSWER LIFE WITH LIFE

"...the gift of God is eternal life."

Romans 6:23b NIV

The steady march of the forest had stopped as if some invisible barrier had been erected beyond which no trees dared move even in single file. Beyond was barrenness, sheer rocks, snow patches and strong untrammelled winds. Here and there were short tufts of evergreen bushes that had somehow managed to survive despite the severe pressures under which they had to live. They were not lush, they lacked the kind of grace of the vegetation below the timberline, **but they were alive and hardy.**

Upon close investigation, however, it was found that **these were not ordinary shrubs.** The formation of the needles, etc., was identical with that of the trees farther down; as a matter of fact, they looked like branches of the other trees.

When one actually examined them, the astounding revelation was that they were branches. For, hugging the ground, following the shape of the terrain, were trees that could not grow upright, following the pattern of their kind. Instead, they were growing as vines grow along the ground, and **what seemed to be patches of stunted shrubs were rows of branches of growing, developing trees.**

What must have been the tortuous frustration and the stubborn battle that had finally resulted in this strange phenomenon? It is as if the tree had said, "I am destined to reach for the skies and embrace in my arms the wind, the rain, the snow and the sun, singing my song of joy to all the heavens. But this I cannot do. I have taken root beyond the timberline, and yet I do not want to die; **I must not die. I shall make a careful survey of my situation and work out a method, a way of life that will yield growth and development for me despite the contradictions** under which I must eke out my days. In the end I may not look like the other trees, I may not be what all that is within me cries out to be. But I will not give up. I will use to the full every resource in me and about me **to answer life with life...**"

Excerpts from **A Strange Freedom: The Best of Howard Thurman**

I wonder if I dare to act even as the tree acts. I wonder! Do We? Do You?

May we choose to answer life with life.

In Christ service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly

A Message from the President

Matthew 22: 36 – 38

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[c] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“We believe that the message Jesus of Nazareth brought to humankind is as relevant today as it was 2,000+ years ago.”

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“We believe that this message is one of healing and transforming love that breaks down barriers—a message of welcome, inclusion, equality, respect, forgiveness, and care for all people and the earth.”

&

We believe that this message, rather than the particular institutions conveying it, forms the most enduring foundation for a life well lived—in other words, a life lived in the divine image.

Our fifth value statement

We believe that each of us is free to understand and worship God in our own ways.

When I first came to Harrisena, as an adult leading a young family of four, I thought I had a real bead on this whole religion thing. Initially, I attended to expose my children to a spiritual perspective the secular world did not offer. Then, God and the warm Harrisena family sucked me in.

Now my oldest daughter is a successful professional getting ready to start her own family. In all that time with Harrisena, with all of the different faith explorations lead by our church and I discovered on my own, I never felt the need to say one version of faith was superior to another. Now, more than ever, I am curious to learn more about how others experience the divine.

One thing I learned that is common to all the different ideas I explored, faith is a source of comfort, healing and strength, especially during difficult times.

What is your experience?

“At Harrisena, we believe diversity is a blessing.”

COMMUNICATIN TO THE CONGREGATION REGARDING THE SPECIAL MEETING

Dear Member of the Harrisena Congregation,

The Council set the date for the requested special meeting. The primary dates for these important meeting are:

June 11th. A two-hour evening meeting open to everyone for the Congregation to learn about the mediation process, get to know our mediator Rev. George Stefani, and gain an understanding of how to best use the mediation process.

June 12. A day-long meeting open to everyone to discuss the concerns of the group requesting the special meeting.

At our March Council meeting, there was good attendance from our congregation. We took the opportunity to poll those in attendance regarding their goals for the special meeting. We were extremely encouraged to discover strong convergence between Council members and those in attendance in desired outcomes. In summary, everyone expressed a desire to bring our congregation together, build stronger unity and by improving our communications skills, create a strong foundation together to take Harrisena into a bright future.

In conversations with the group requesting the special meeting, the Council decided to use a mediation process for this special meeting. Over the coming weeks, we will provide information to you about this important process and how using this approach will give us the best opportunity to effectively hear each other's thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Once we have a good understanding of each other, this process also will help us create solutions that address our concerns and will bring us together in a new and stronger unity.

Now, we have shared goals, a proven process, and the opportunity of the special meeting to move our church forward. As you will soon learn, George Stefani, pastor and trained Mediator, showed us a bell curve describing the state of mind needed by individuals in order to have the most meaningful communications. This top of the bell curve, people are calm and open to hearing other's ideas. Please know that we will work diligently over the coming weeks to make certain our congregation prepares its hearts to be in this state of mind.

Please look forward to more information from Council regarding this meeting soon.

Kind regards,

Jim Ferris
President of the Congregation

Missions

An update on our **Friday Food Program**. We have had people join and some have moved on but the newest group of people preparing food for our Friday meals are:

Robin Dutcher, Shirley Harney, Pam Loeb, Bonnie & Phil Nadig,
Sue & Chuck Ogden, Deanna & Hal Payne, Donna D. Smith,
And Phyllis Straut.

Our Thanks to those who are helping us now and to the many who have helped get our meals ready in the past!!

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We are sad to report that our Financial Secretary, Cheryl Straut, has resigned as of March 31, 2021. We have enjoyed working with Cheryl and wish her the best in her new pursuits.

We are happy to report that **Janet Wilson** has agreed to take on the Financial Secretary position. Janet will be training with Cheryl to learn the "ins and outs" of this important position. Welcome aboard Janet!

The Finance Committee also reminds everyone to please send pledges and donations to Harrisena Community Church at 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, New York 12804, Attention: Financial Secretary.

Thank You!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE - May

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Spring Cleaning for Outreach Committee

The rising energy of spring often encourages us to clean and de-clutter our homes. It's time for Outreach Committee to do some "spring cleaning" as well! Please read through the prayer concerns listed in our weekly bulletins. Please read through the prayer concerns listed in our monthly Harbingers. Do you recognize any names? Do you have any updates to share? Is there a name missing? We want to make sure our records are as accurate and up to date as possible, but we can only do that with YOUR help! Now more than ever, we encourage you to...

Please Continue to Share Your Prayer Concern Updates

Please let us know of any names/situations you would like added to or removed from our Prayer Concerns and Long-Term Prayer lists. In addition to contacting the church office, please contact a member of Outreach Committee. (Contact information is listed below.) Thank you!

Encore: Summer Blood Drive

We have been asked to host a summer blood drive again this year. Hooray! We have yet to determine a date, but it's never too soon to start praying for a successful drive!

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

Outreach Committee Members: Melissa Ferrie-Healy (518-792-4709 or mlfmusic@yahoo.com) & Peggy McArthur (518-793-2377 or peggymcarthur48@gmail.com).

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

*Thanks to Shirley Harney for helping write cards to all on our list!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Three (3) fun events!!!

HARRISENA'S JUNK IN THE TRUNK
May 14, 2021
8 AM – 2 PM

Junk in the Trunk is also going well. We have about 10 vendors. Very encouraging since the information was in the paper yesterday our pre- summer season it's looking very positive.

God has his favor on Harrisena.

Let us all come  together and  enjoy!

HARRISENA'S OUT-TO-EAT!
May 20, 2021
5 PM

Third (3rd) Thursday of the month is May 20.
We will meet at 5 PM:

Sweet Basil Restaurant
on Route 9, Queensbury, NY
RSVP. (518) 681 2602.

We already have a group confirmed, so please join us for this WELCOME BACK CELEBRATION (We're back in-person at church and getting our schedule back for OUT-TO-EAT!

Don't be left out! Special treats planned!
We will still be following the latest COVID-19 guidelines. So, wear your masks.
All are welcome and don't forget to bring the kids!

HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH'S ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ
May 29, 2021
1 PM – 4 PM

We already have 20 signups for the **HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH'S ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ**, and it just came out in the paper yesterday. We will need help Friday evening to husk corn, wash potatoes, scoop coleslaw and package rolls.

We will also need help Saturday passing out the dinners. You'll have to contact Deanna at **(518)681-2602** to signup!

THANK YOU SO MUCH, ANONYMOUS DONOR!!!!

The Anonymous Donor is still anonymous, but we would like to say THANK YOU!

On April 17th a group of pledgees meet at Sweet Basil for a delicious dinner of Prime Rib/ Chicken Parm./Eggplant Parm./Baked Sole!

We followed all COVID-19 guidelines and enjoyed a wonderful time of fun and fellowship. There were some door prices and just a good time together.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH WITH YOU PLEDGES, OFFERINGS, AND GIFTS!

THANK YOU

for your kindness, generosity, and support!



May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Sunday Morning Worship in-person and on ZOOM & Facebook Live!	3	4	5 AA @7:30	6 Conversations@9:30; Pray Together at noon	7	8
9 Sunday Morning Worship in-person and on ZOOM & Facebook Live!	10	11 COUNCIL @7 Via zoom	12 AA @7:30	13 Conversations@9:30; Pray Together at noon	14 JUNK IN THE TRUNK <u>8-2</u>	15
16 Sunday Morning Worship in-person and on ZOOM & Facebook Live! @9:30	17	18	19 Bible Study AA @7:30	20 Conversations@9:30; Pray Together at noon; OUT-TO- EAT! 5 PM	21	22
23 Sunday Morning Worship in-person and on ZOOM & Facebook Live! @9:30	24	25	26 Bible Study AA @7:30	27 Conversations@9:30; Pray Together at noon	28	29 CHICKEN BBQ 1 – 4 PM DRIVE THRU ONLY!
30 Sunday Morning Worship in- person and on ZOOM & Facebook Live! @9:30	31 Memorial Day					

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IN-PERSON and on ZOOM!

Use the link below or dial: 1-646-558-8656, enter Meeting ID: 989 1614 9913 and Password: 639393 when prompted.

We will also stream to FACEBOOK LIVE @ drnatalie wimberly.

ZOOM MEETING: HARRISENA SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/98916149913?pwd=aHIYR0VrZENleDd1SHB3c3JUVlp1QT09>

May Birthdays: 2) Christine Burke; 5) Billy Brown; 6) Kayla Monroe; 7) Clayton Burgess; 12) Mary Alice Clickner; 15) Peggy McArthur; 22) Linda Havens; 26) Chuck Ogden; 27) Mercedi Loonan; 29) Carol Webster; 31) Ryan Healy. **March Birthdays:** 4) Liz Moon; 5) Nancy Cathers; 6) Thalia Matthews –Chase; 9) Walda Blanchard; 12) Patty Zacharias; 14) Brandy Madon, Griff Parry; 15) Natalie Robinson; 16) Sue Ogden, Tyler Monroe; 17) Kathleen Gusek; 20) Jonathan Staunches; 21) Dennis Moon; 28) Bruce Lipinski; 30) Peter Aust. **April Birthdays:** 1) Carolyn Curren; 7) Katherine Gould, Lauren Gould, Donna Smith; 8) Jeremy Carte; 9) Lori Carte; 14) Ken Zacharias; 15) Doug Helffrich, Jr., Kathy Herold; 16) David Michaels; 20) April Beasley-Irving; 23) Blake McComsey; 25) Ralph Wilson; 26) Anne Kingsley, Sean Robinson; 30) Elizabeth Gusek, Mac Petrequin.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – March-May 2021

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

In Facilities

Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Maria Foss –Sunnyview Rehabilitation, Schenectady
Collin Fuller – Glens Falls Hospital-ICU
Theodore Gusek – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terraces
James Nobile – Fort Hudson
Art Norton – The Warren Center

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena
Maria Berg – Mother of Nicole Robinson
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Patricia Burke – mother of Christine Burke
Sally Busteed – friend of the Cartier family
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Abigail Evans – Friend of Harrisena
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Pam Gitto – friend of Nancy Wilder
Bambi Greychek-Spenser- Friend of Sue Cartier
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
Carmen LeFebvre – Friend of Peg McArthur
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 **Diane Parry** and **Ruth Daggs** who died this past month. Diane was the aunt of Grif Parry; and Ruth was the mother of a dear friend of Melissa Ferrie-Healy.*

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 in Middle East
Joseph Hubbard (*Army*) – stateside
Corey Ledgerwood (*Army*) -serving in Afghanistan
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 (*West Point Military Academy*), relative of Griffith Parry
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

