

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Then the Lord replied, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false." Habakkuk 2:2-3

Augustine in his autobiographical work *Confessions* tells the story of his mother Monica's constant prayers for him. She wished that one day her vagabond son would become a committed Christian. When Augustine decided to leave North Africa and sail for Rome she was horrified. She believed that in Rome's cosmopolitan environment he would go further astray. She pleaded with him not to sail and prayed with tears that God would intervene, but to no avail.

Later, Augustine inscribed these words in the *Confessions* as part of his recollection of the incident: *"But thou, taking thy own secret counsel and noting the real point to her desire, did not grant what she was then asking in order to grant to her the thing that she had always been asking."* God said, "No" to Monica's immediate petition that her son not sail to Rome in order to respond to "the real point to her desire" namely, her son's conversion. After spending some time in Rome Augustine traveled to Milan where he met Bishop Ambrose who played a key role in Augustine's acceptance of the Christian faith.

The Prophet Habakkuk wrestled with a similar dilemma in his own prayers. God had made promises, but they were not yet fulfilled. It was certainly not because Habakkuk had not prayed. He had lifted his voice to God, *"O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and thou will not hear."* Even so, Habakkuk was somewhat weary from praying and began to wonder if anyone else really cared. Nonetheless, he resolved to be watchful, to wait, and see if God would send signs of the imminent fulfillment of the covenant promises. Finally, the Lord answered him and gave him a vision of how he was to act between the giving of the promise and its actual fulfillment. The Lord encouraged Habakkuk with these words, *"Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets so that a herald may run with it."*

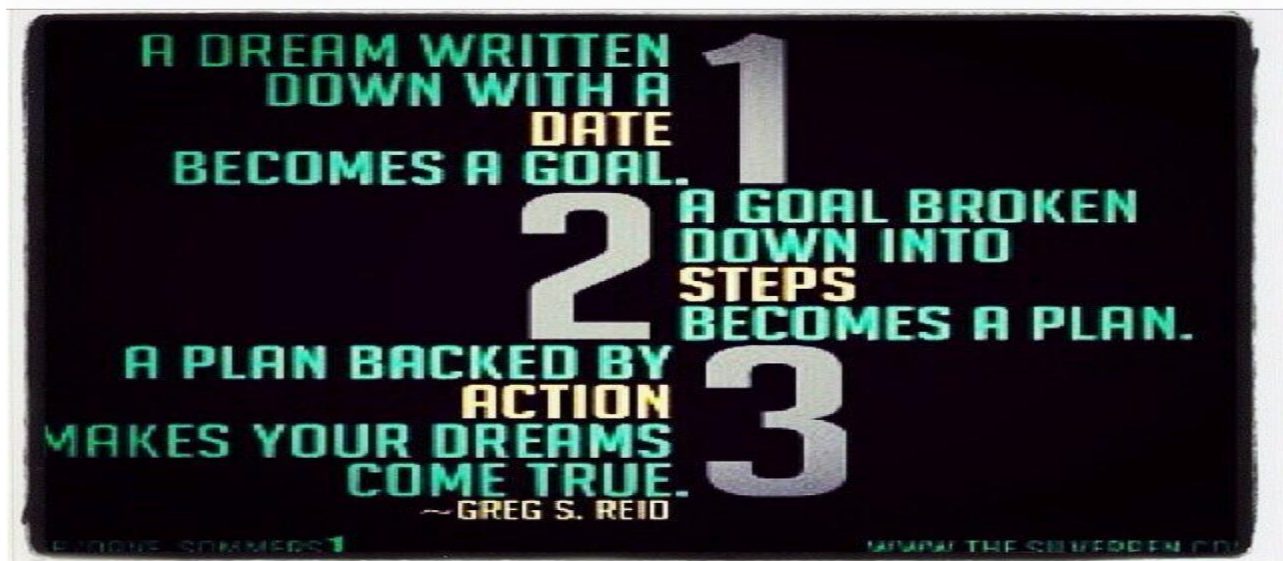
I revisit this scripture often. It helps to keep me steady and focused! As children of God, we are inundated with images and visions all day long. Our task is to set aside these images and quiet the voices around us long enough to hear the voice of God. We must remember our call to love and we must be ever ready to discover what God's love looks like in our world today. Only then, will we be able to watch and wait to see God's will manifest. In the meantime, we must live faithfully as God's kingdom comes and God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

I invite you to take some time over the next couple of months to intentionally identify ways you are called to act between the promise and the fulfillment. The words of the Lord to Habakkuk challenge us to write the vision and make it plain. Writing the vision helps us to identify our purpose. It gives us meaning and direction. It encourages us to live fully alive in each and

every moment. Remember, God loves you so much that over 2000 years ago, God stepped into human history, clothed in flesh and blood and lived among us in the person of Jesus. Remember, Jesus was betrayed, abandoned, suffered, and died and on the third day was raised from the dead for each one of us so that we may have life. Write the vision and make it plain. So, live the life God has given you to live!

Shalom,

Dr. N. C. Wimberly



So...



A Message from the President



God blessed Harrisena with so many things.

Every church face challenges, and this year included a pandemic. Harrisena responded by continuing our weekly services and Saturday Bible Study on-line, moving forward with our mission of supporting many local charities, initiating new ways to support our community through delivering weekly meals, re-inventing the chicken barbeque and continuing to expand ways to stay in contact with a prayer group, thoughtful phone calls and gift bags.

And we accomplished all these things without our beautiful sanctuary!

My thanks to everyone who keeps us moving forward.

I am pleased to share that the Trustees, Rev. Natalie, and myself have decided that we can worship together in person, as long as we understand and apply NYS/CDC guidelines to protect attendees from catching Covid-19. We also agreed that moving slowly is the safest path for Harrisena. We ask that you RSVP if you are planning to attend. If you haven't and want to come to service, call Rev. Natalie @ 518-744-8768. We have to be prepared!

My thanks to everyone who stepped up and volunteered to help us keep us all safe.

As our lives begin to return to normal, I would like to propose we begin a conversation within our congregation. A conversation about what makes us Harrisena, and what this means for our future. In the past, it has been suggested that people come to Harrisena because of our beautiful sanctuary and Education buildings. While these are important aspects of our worship, clearly they are not essential as we were able to move forward without them over the past six months. So, what is it?

To guide our conversation, I would like to suggest we revisit the values of our Church that we publish on our weekly bulletins. The first value:

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

What does this value mean to me?

Mark 12, Verses 28 - 31

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'^[e] ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'^[i] ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[g] There is no commandment greater than these."

Praying and contemplating our first stated value, this scripture jumped into my mind. In this passage, Jesus sets these two commandments above all others. He does not place any qualifications on who should we love or what anyone needs to do to earn our love. First love God and then your neighbor as yourself. His words are both comforting and challenging.

It is comforting because I can expect to be loved, even if I am different or make mistakes.

It is challenging because this scripture asks us to let go, through love.

For me, understanding how this scripture empowers our stated value and provides guidance to our life at Harrisena, we need to think and discuss.

For me, embracing diversity as a core value one must offer love and acceptance to everyone regardless of any outward appearance, personal circumstance or religious philosophy. This means we need to love others even though we disagree with them or they do not look like us or they believe something we don't like or accept.

It means letting go of judgement, the need to correct others or force them to do what we want them to do.

It means letting go of my need to micromanage my worship experience and be open to how others experience and worship God.

It means releasing my need to control everything and embrace openness to differing thoughts and ideas.

It also means freedom:

- I am free from the need to take control of everything.
- It means freedom from the need to judge others and be judged by them.
- It means freedom to celebrate our relationship with God together, with different views which enhance our understanding of this Being, not limit it.

It means learning to trust God and where he is taking me, my family, and our congregation.

What does this value mean to you?

Jim





Christian Education

Kick off the holiday season and start getting in the spirit with **The North Country Festival of Trees** tree decorating project! The Festival of Trees is the largest fundraiser of the year for Prospect Center, a nonprofit organization that provides services to people with developmental disabilities.



HCC Christian Education has received a tree from Prospect School to decorate for The North Country Festival of Trees this year. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

The themes for the tree are:

"O HOLY NIGHT" and "CHRISTMAS CAROLING"

You can donate decorations related to the Holy Family, mangers, angels, sheep, camels, stars, etc. or donations of musical instruments, snowflakes, mittens. We will be able to put these 2 themes together and make a beautiful tree to donate for the kids at Prospect School. Drop your donations off at the HCC Education building inside the front door. Call the office or email us to let us know when you will be bringing your donations so we can get them. We will let you know when we will be decorating and set a COVID-19 guidelines' schedule so you can help.

Thank you in advance for your donations.





Outreach Committee

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Winter Blood Drive: Save the Date!

Our WINTER blood drive will be held on **Friday January 29th at 12 – 5:30 PM**. We're hoping to build on the success of our summer blood drive, during which we achieved 140% of our goal!! Thank you to Pam Loeb for agreeing to work with me. Eventually, we will need more volunteers to help, but for now, please just mark your calendars.

November Outreach Ideas

This month, our nation will observe Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. What will this mean for you? Possibly an opportunity to say "thank you" to those who have served our country through the armed forces. Why not send a card, make a phone call or thank a veteran you meet in passing? Possibly an opportunity to say "thank you" to God for all the blessings of this past year - most importantly the blessing of His promised presence in our lives, no matter what comes our way. Why not take the time to write your blessings down, either on paper or on your heart, and pray them aloud with God? Or share them at your Thanksgiving dinner, as a testimony of God's love? Opportunities for outreach ABOUND! Carpe diem!

Please Continue to Share Your Updates

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

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 in any way, especially writing cards for the coming holiday season.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT--PHYLLIS STRAUT



If you can remember back to the time we could all sit in church, next to each other, you surely remember Phyllis Straut. Phyllis would make sure to welcome each and everyone of us. I always admired her ability to make everyone feel special and set the mood for a warm and enriching worship experience.

Phyllis has been a member of Harrisena Community Church for 54 years. The Straut family had played and continue to play integral parts in the history of our church. Phyllis has served on every committee, including singing in the choir, and always goes above and beyond when it comes to taking care of the needs of Harrisena and everyone around her. This statement is proven by the fact that Phyllis and husband Bob have even served as foster parents in the past, along with raising their own three children. Currently, Phyllis has 8 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

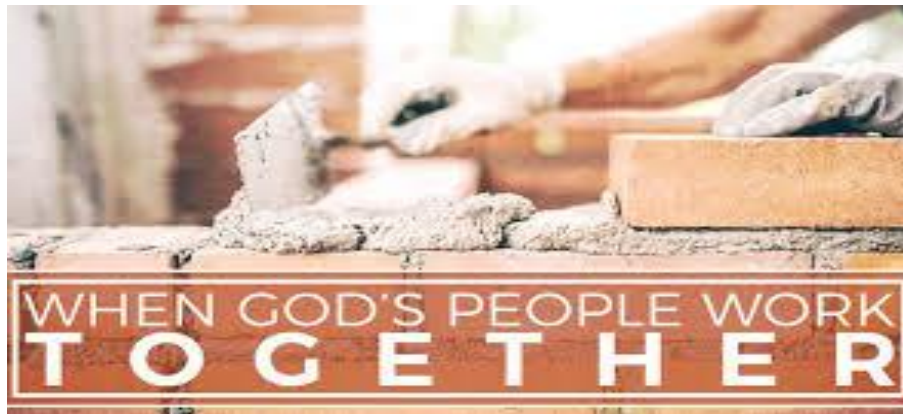
New Jersey is the State Phyllis lived before moving to our area. When looking for a church, the novelty of a community church drew her to Harrisena. The idea of a church not directly affiliated with a specific denomination appealed to her, and the rest is history. Having been an active member for so long, Phyllis stated she has seen highs and lows in church. *“We don’t stay the same, but accept and go through changes. We need to hear each other.”*

Phyllis remembers back to her younger days when she felt she was helping out her elders by volunteering at church to do as much as she could to keep the church going forward. She looks forward to the days when a younger group joins in to assist with the many facets of church life and thereby keep Harrisena strong and viable for the next generations to come. Our youth are our future.

Phyllis stresses that she wants to be with people she loves when she worships. She is looking forward to the day we are able to overcome the restrictions of the virus and enjoy each other in worship.

On behalf of the Membership Committee and everyone in the Harrisena family, thank you Phyllis for all you have done and continue to do for all of us.

Bonnie Nadig for Membership



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

We all received the bag of cards on October 24th from the "Strings of Love". This was such a great project everyone enjoyed it so much that we are doing it again. This time we are asking everyone to send a Christmas card, either one you make yourself, or from a box or the card shop. Send your cards to:

Donna Gelder-Bigelow
5 Ryder Ave.
S. Glens Falls. 12803-5334

Just send one signed card to Donna. If you would like to, also write a few words of Holiday Cheer and encouragement. Donna will copy your card and place it in the bags. Christmas will be a bit different this year, so we decided to find ways to make spread the Christmas cheer.

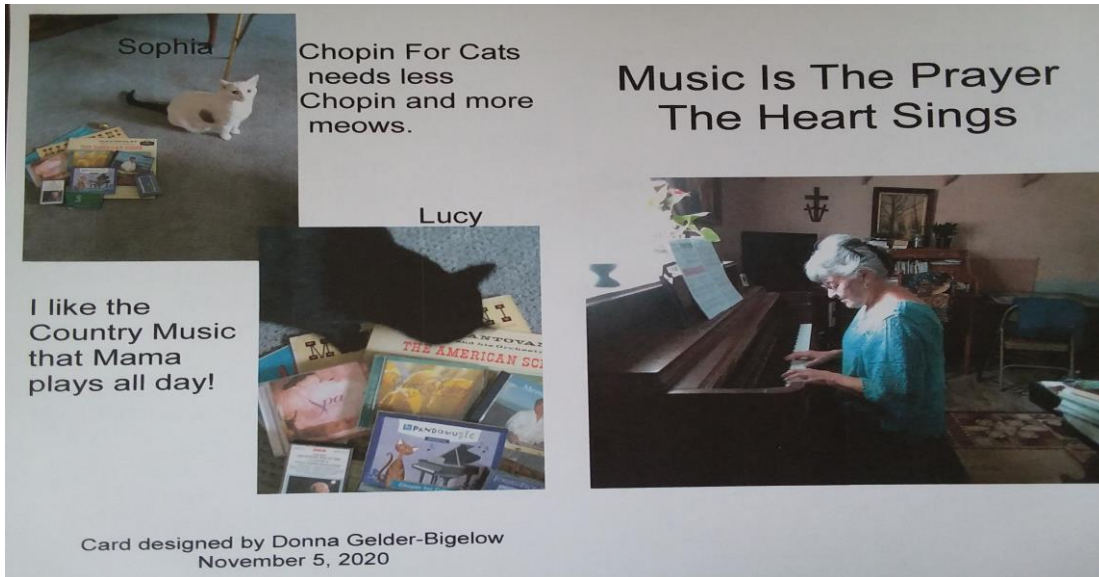
Remember how delightful it is to receive a Christmas card, but when there is a short handwritten note inside, that is what make our hearts dance.

How will you celebrate Jesus' birth this year? We want everyone to share their creative ideas for Christmas this year. Send your ideas, with pictures if you have some and we will feature them in the December and January Harbinger.

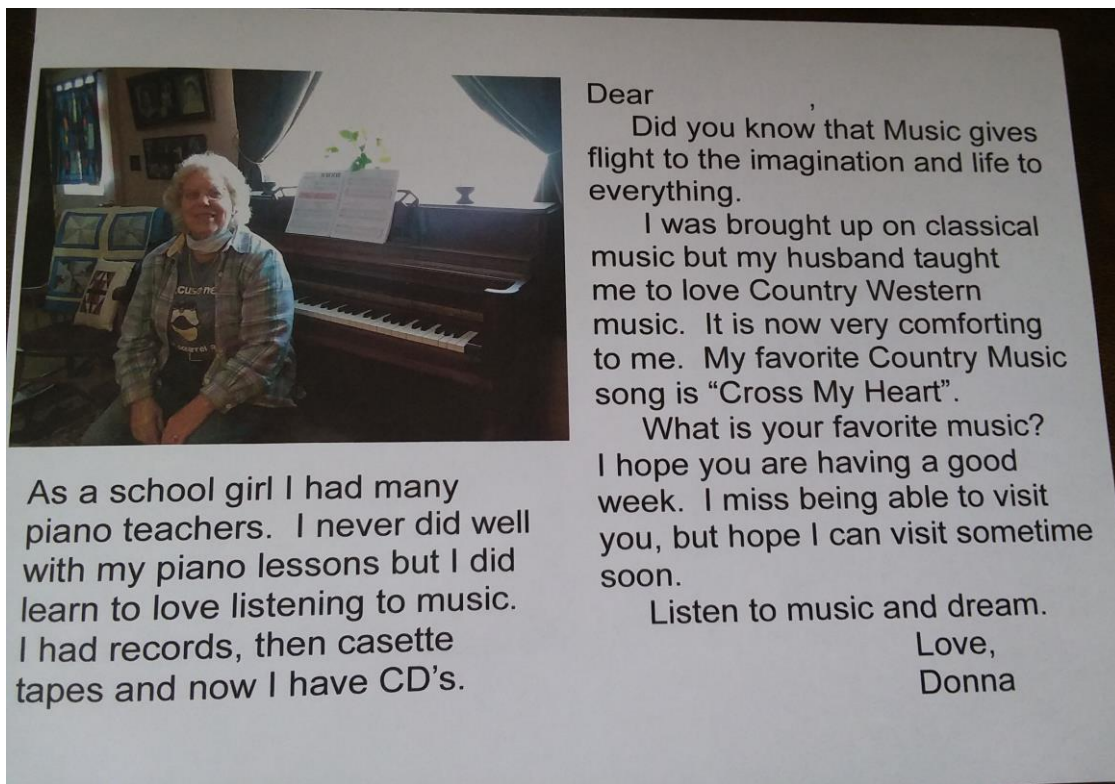
Any questions, please call Donna 518-742 0141.

Please get your cards to Donna before Nov. 20th.

Donna's card ministry has a long history. She has been making cards for residents at Fort Hudson for quite a while. Look at her latest card to her Fort Hudson friends. She designs them for the residents she visited before the pandemic. She wanted a way to stay in touch with them. Thank you for sharing this gift with your Harrisena Family.



Front and Back of Card



Inside of Card

FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT



An email has been sent with the proposed budget for 2021, as well as the budget for 2020 which has been included for convenient comparison. The proposed budget for 2021 has been reviewed and approved by both the Trustees and the Church Council. There will be a vote for approval on the budget at our Annual Congregational Meeting on November 15.

The Trustees and Finance Committee have worked diligently to bring down costs throughout this year and for next year.

Should you have any questions prior to the 11/15/2020 meeting, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Finance Officers.

Thank you.

Faithfully,

Bonnie Nadig
Ken Zacharias
Cheryl Straut

faith and
finances

A Note from the Finance Secretary

As the fiscal year winds down, please remember to follow through on your pledges and offerings. Our income has been on a downward slope this Fall season. Let's rally as we move into the winter. Pledge statements will be available by the end of the month. They will be in hard copy form at church services. If you wish to have an email of your statement, please reach out to financial secretary, Cheryl Straut at (518)307-3379 or castraut@gmail.com.

2021 pledge cards are available here below. Please print it, fill it out, and return it to Cheryl Straut. You can also get one from the church office or from a member of the Finance Committee.

Thank you for all of the support you provide to Harrisena Church and our community.

TOUCH-FREE HAND SANITIZER STATIONS

Bill and Pam Loeb donated two TOUCH-FREE hand sanitizer stations for the
Harrisena Community Church Sanctuary.



THANK YOU SO MUCH, PAM AND BILL LOEB!!!

**Stop the spread of germs
that can make you and others sick!**



Wash your
hands often



Wear a cloth
face cover



Cover your coughs
and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space
between you and
your friends



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 am Sunday Worship in HCC Sanctuary, Facebook Live! & Conf. call in.	2	3	4 AA @7:30 PM	5 Living Res. Group 8:30-2; Conversations 9:30-11 AM Prayer Together @12 noon	6 Living Resource Group 8:30 -2 PM	7 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
8 9:30 am Sunday Worship in HCC Sanctuary, Facebook Live! & Conf. call in.	9	10 Council Mtg on conference call- in & Ed. Building @7 PM	11 AA@7:30 PM	12 Living Res. Group 8:30-2; Conversations 9:30-11 AM Prayer Together @12 noon	13 Living Resource Group 8:30 -2 PM	14 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
15 9:30 am Worship in HCC Sanctuary, Facebook Live! & Conf. call in. Congregational Meeting-BUDGET	16	17	18 AA @7:30 PM	19 Living Res. Group 8:30-2; Conversations 9:30-11 AM Prayer Together @12 noon	20 Living Resource Group 8:30-2 PM	21 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on FB Live
22 9:30 am Sunday Worship in HCC Sanctuary, Facebook Live! & Conf. call in. 29 9:30 am Sunday Worship in HCC Sanctuary, Facebook Live! & Conf. call in.	23 <i>Harbinger articles due for December</i> 30	24	25 AA @7:30 PM	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27 Living Resource Group 8:30 -2 PM	28 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live

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

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.

NOVEMBER Birthdays:

7) Laura Avent, Kristen Shahay-Mootz; 11) Carl Avent, Peter Pepe; 12) Sydney Parry; 15) Joan Walker; 20) Danielle Brown, Rachel Straut, Lynn Bishop; 23) Jeffrey Cartier, Patrick Resse; 24) Timothy Gusek; 29) Kristi Helffrich-Chen.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – November 2020

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

Nancy Cathers – Nursing Home, Maryland
Diane DeMass – Glens Falls Hospital
Abigail Evans – Glens Falls Hospital
Colin Fuller – Slate Valley Nursing Home
Theodore Gusek- Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson Health Services
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
James Nobile - The Landing of Queensbury

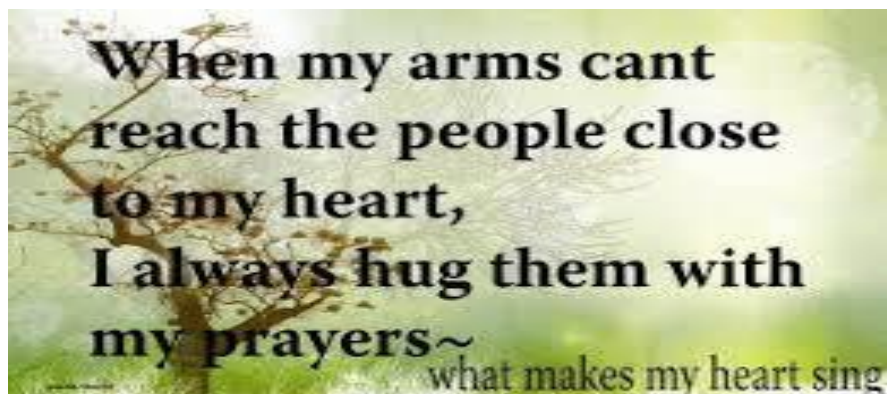
At Home

Maria Berg – Mother of Nicole Robinson
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Lee Ann Clark – Daughter of Murial Clark
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
Thomas Kerschner – relative of Allan Ferrie
Teagan Klingenburg – Student of Melissa Ferrie-Healy
Carmen LeFebvre – Friend of Peg McArthur
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Diane Parry – Cousin of Griffith Parry
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Melanie Swinton – Friend of Sue Ogden
Doloras VanDetta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends who lost loved ones this past month:

Lillian McDonnell, mother of Rev. Patti Girard.



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

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

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

