

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

God's Paradise Restoration Plan: Part I *"Enoch walked with God"*

There are several people we read about in the Bible who walked with God. Enoch was one of them. Genesis 5:22 tells us, "Enoch walked (intimate habitual fellowship) with God." Hebrews 11 says, "By faith Enoch ... pleased God" (vs. 5). Enoch's life and journey was that of a man in close relationship with God. In this original text, the name for God is Elohim, the God of might and strength. Walking with God (Elohim) gives stability and strength to Enoch's life and to ours.

The word "walk" is the biblical expression for "fellowship and obedience with God that results in divine favor." It refers to the manner of life of a person living in nearness to God. Enoch walked with God ... a walk of humility and dedication. His walk lived up to His name. Enoch means "Dedicated."

Enoch was the great-great-great-great-grandson of Adam, a descendant of Seth, and the great grandfather of Noah. Enoch lived in a day when people distanced themselves from God. People did not believe in eternity. They believed in brass and silver and gold and building cities and marrying and giving in marriage, and when the Word of God spoke to them of eternity and of the judgment to come, they scorned it and dismissed it. This was not the case with Enoch. Enoch's desire was to know God, to be close to God, and to walk with God.

Enoch's walk with God was visible. He lived a life that demonstrated the faith that was in his heart. His relationship with God touched his whole life. It was in his everyday way of living that he honored God with his choices, his actions, and interactions in every aspect of life.

In any era of time and space and in every season under heaven, humanity (individually and collectively) makes the choice either to serve God, society, culture or self. This intentional choice demonstrates our faith. This intentional choice manifests in our character and in the image we reflect. God made us in the God's own image. Does your life reflect the image of God? The prophet Amos asks the question: *"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"* This means we must be reconciled to God.

God has not abandoned the divine purpose for humanity, to commune and be in close relationship with us. Adam and Eve walked with God in obedience until they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God had forbidden them to eat of this tree. They ignored the voice of God in disobedience and listened to the voice of the serpent. They were sent out of Paradise/the Garden of Eden into the world. Their physical condition changed as a result of their disobedience. As God had warned

them, they became mortal. They and their descendants would experience sickness, pain, and physical death.

Adam and Eve also suffered spiritual death. This meant they and their descendants could not walk and talk face to face with God. They were separated from God both physically and spiritually. But...Paradise is still possible! In order to reconcile humanity to God, God intervenes. John 3:16-17 assures us, *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”* Through the love of God, Jesus reconciles us to God. This truth is the basic tenet of our faith. This is the basic requirement for walking with God.

It is God who invites us to walk with us. It is God who sent, Jesus to walk with us and among us on earth, so that by His life, death, and resurrection, he draws us to God. This is why Paul teaches us in [2 Corinthians 5:7](#), *“we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

As we begin this new church year, we are called to repent, commit, and submit to the will and way of God. We are called to champion the work and will of God in a world that has distanced itself from God. We are called this year to study together as a community, learn and grow in the knowledge of God, take one step at a time in sacred rhythm with God, and follow God’s lead. Will we, Harrisena Community Church, accept this call?

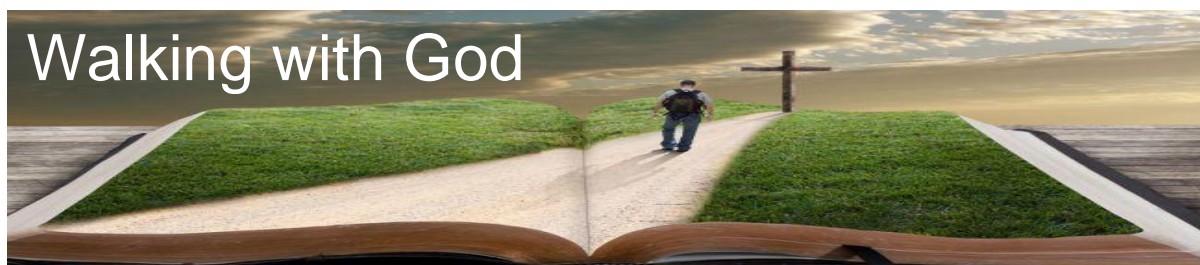
Every new mercy, every single day is an opportunity to walk in intimacy with God. Every thought and every idea is space for fellowship with God through prayer, Bible study, worship, Discipleship Training and strategic planning. Will you, will we choose God today? Will you/we walk with God?

Let us pray:

Dear Lord God, Elohim,

We are here, our hands reaching out to You. Please take our hands into your hand as we learn to walk with you in your perfect rhythm. Remind us daily who we are and whose we are. Touch our hearts and minds so that we may live according to your divine purpose and will as your children. Help us, by your Holy Spirit, to grow, day by day to look more and more like you in our being and in our becoming. Nothing more. Nothing less. Nothing else. Amen.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

I hope you and your family are having an enjoyable and healthy summer. It has been a very busy and exciting time at our church. We will be starting a new church year on **Rally Day Sunday, September 8th**. Please mark your calendar and come and see and hear what has been happening at the "Little Friendly Church on The Ridge."

We have been given the opportunity to share our beautiful Robinson Hall with two Christian Organizations, **Oneida Community Church**, and the **Kingdom Co-Op Home School Program**. Our Trustees, Financial committee, Pastor and I have worked with these two groups and have signed a *Shared Space Agreement* with them.

Oneida Church will use Robinson Hall for their Sunday Services **starting Sunday, September 15th**. The **Co-Op will begin using our Sunday School classrooms** on Thursdays and Fridays beginning September 12th. The Co-Op has been very busy cleaning and setting up classrooms. They have also helped with some of our building repairs. It seems so good to have children and adults using Robinson Hall and our Sunday School classrooms again!

God has given us many ways to reach out and spread the love of our church family. Your Church Council, Pastor and I, hope you will come and support your church in any way that you can. *Let's make the new Church Year a great one!*

Church Administrator,
Susan Ogden

MISSION'S REPORT

The Mission's Committee continues to collect food and personal items for the **Warren County Family Services**. We also sent a donation to help support their Feet First Program. This program provides shoes and socks for children in the community.

Our Friday Night's dinners will start to be delivered soon. If you would like to be involved in this program, please let Susan Ogden know. It's a great way to reach out to the people in our community.

We continue to support the Open Door. The committee thanks you for your monthly donations! They really help make these projects successful.

Mission's Committee,
Mary Alice Clickner, Patty Zacharias, Susan Ogden

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

In September we plan to **complete the displays for the History Corner**. We also have plans in the works for an **outing to Gardenworks in Salem, NY on September 14th**. Reservations are required, so we ask our members to RSVP as soon as possible.

Over the Summer, many women have been preparing our facility to welcome Kingdom Co-Op School and Oneida Church members to our church. We look forward to this new outreach of Harrisena Community Church!

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Over the Summer we have had a lot of weeding going on around our church. **Our thanks to all those who have helped** with this project!



SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Rally Day marks the beginning of a new year for Harrisena Church. It also brings changes.

Janet Wilson, our Financial Secretary, has resigned after many years of faithful service to our church. **Janet did a wonderful job in many capacities, but as a part of the Finance Team she will be especially missed.** Thank you, Janet, for all you did as our Financial Secretary!

Ken Zacharias and I have been **exploring ways to fill in the large gap having NO Financial Secretary has left us.** Should anyone be interested in this position, we would love to hear from you. In the meantime, we are exploring ways to smoothly continue, but ask our congregation to be patient as we test out new ideas and methods to efficiently deposit and record income.

Thank you, Co-Treasurers,
Bonnie Nadig, Ken Zacharias

Let's Play Church Bingo!

On the back of this paper, you will find 24 FUN CHURCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES, arranged in the form of a bingo card. These activities have been chosen to assist our members in becoming actively involved in worship and service at Harrisena Community Church.

All HCC members are invited to grow in their faith throughout the year as they prayerfully complete the suggested activities. *Please contact a member of the Worship Committee if you would like us to modify any of the activities to accommodate your individual circumstances.*

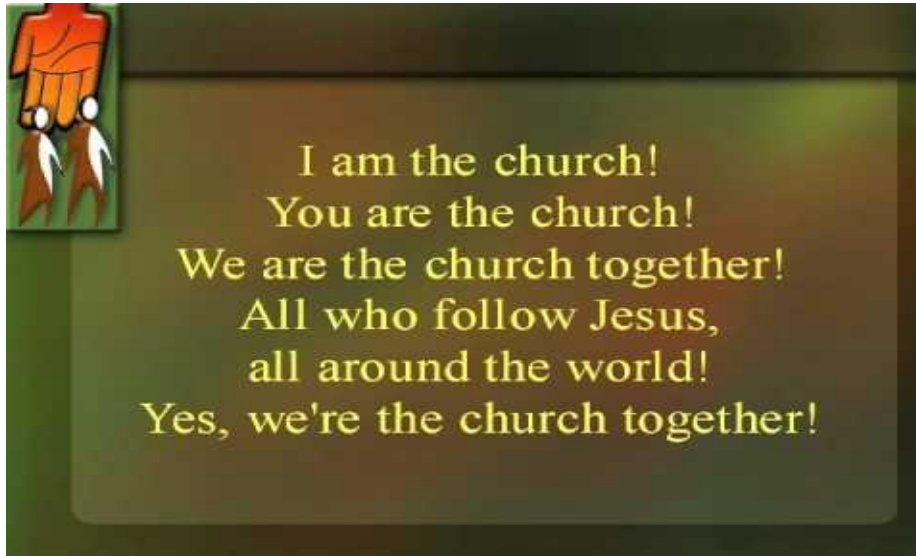
Here's how to play:

- Participants earn a square for every activity they complete.
- Committee chairs, the Head Trustee, the Church Administrator, or Rev. Natalie will initial activities as they are completed.

Here's how to win:

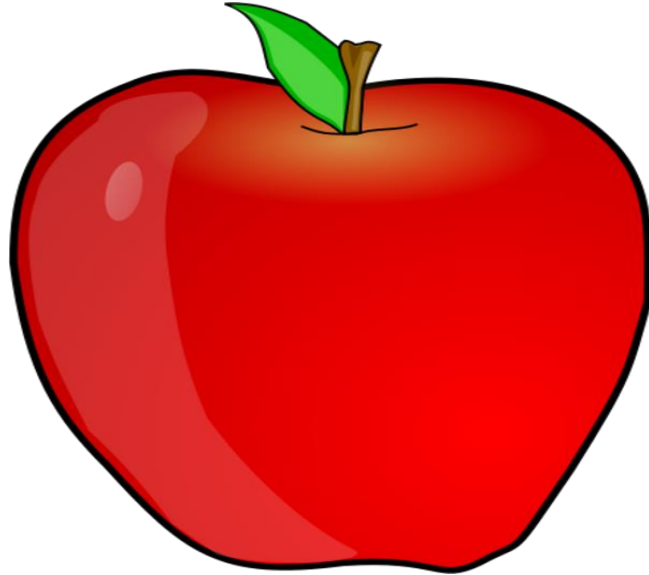
- Prizes will be awarded for each "Bingo" earned (5 completed squares in a row).
- SPECIAL PRIZES will be awarded for those who are able to complete ALL the activities on the Church Bingo card before Rally Day 2024.
- Note: Each "Bingo" earned should be submitted (along with your Church Bingo card) to the Worship Committee.

Let's put our faith to WORK!



Name _____

S	E	R	V	E
Volunteer to read scripture at Sunday worship	Volunteer to usher at Sunday worship	Volunteer to ring the bell prior to Sunday worship (9:20)	Request a hymn for Sunday worship	Request or provide special flowers for Sunday worship
Host or co-host Coffee Fellowship	Make the coffee for Coffee Fellowship	Assist with clean-up for Coffee Fellowship	Donate baked goods for a fund raiser	Bring an item to donate on Missions Sunday
Attend a Congregational Meeting	Attend a Church Council Meeting	FREE SPACE: God's Grace	Serve on or assist with a church committee	Assist with sending monthly Outreach cards
Visit someone on our long-term prayer list	Invite someone to attend Sunday worship	Introduce yourself to someone new at Sunday worship	Attend one of our seasonal mid-week services	Attend a Bible Study or <i>Lectio Divino</i> with Rev. Natalie
Visit our website and share a review with our Tech Committee	Visit our Facebook page and share a review with our Tech Committee	Assist with streaming our Sunday worship service	Watch one of our Sunday worship services online	Assist with an indoor or outdoor cleaning project at HCC



APPLE FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 12th, in Robinson Hall
10 AM – 3 PM**

Join us for:

*Silent Auction, Lunch, Craft Vendors,
Basket Auction, Bake Sale and Much More!*

***THE FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE AUCTION ITEMS TO BE
USED DURING OUR APPLE FESTIVAL ON OCTOBER 12TH!***

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS & BASKETS

Please Contact Shirley Harney at 518 832-7306 for more information



Worship Committee

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Rally Day 2024

We will begin a new year at Harrisena Community Church with our **Rally Day service and celebration on September 8th**. During our worship service, we will formally install our new church officers and committee members. Following our service, we will head over to Robinson Hall to enjoy a delicious potluck brunch.

Follow Up:

S.E.R.V.E. "Bingo"

Last year, we distributed S.E.R.V.E. "Bingo" cards on Rally Day, including multiple options for our members to SERVE at Harrisena. How did you do? Do we have any winners? Please let us know so we can celebrate (and duplicate) active service!

Remember, **We Can ALWAYS USE HELP...**

- Reading Scripture*
- Ushering/Greeting
- Sharing fresh flowers
- Transporting the "Light of Christ"
- Leading the congregation in song
- Sharing special music

** Christine Burke has graciously offered to help anyone with a desire to approach the lectern with CONFIDENCE and SKILL. We would love to hear God's word spoken with YOUR voice!*

Sign-up sheets are in the Education Building, outside Robinson Hall.

2024-25 Worship Committee Members: *Melissa Ferrie-Healy and Diane Henderson.*

We are here to serve God, Christ, and our parish!

We welcome and encourage your constructive suggestions.



UPCOMING EVENT DATES

September 8: RALLY DAY at HCC

September 10: First Council Meeting, 7 pm

October 12: Apple Festival, 10:00 to 3:00



Another Successful Summer Blood Drive

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Thank you to everyone who helped with our **Summer Blood Drive** on **August 16th**. The Red Cross volunteers were grateful for the lunch of
We registered 35 donors for *able to donate blood, as well.*

SAVE THE DATE for our next **WINTER BLOOD DRIVE:**
Friday January 26th from 12-5:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 5:30 am Prayer 9:30 - Holy Communion Worship	2 5:30 am Prayer Labor Day	3 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations	4 5:30 am Prayer Bible Study 10 am 7:30-AA	5 5:30 am Prayer	6 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op	7 5:30 am Prayer
8 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Rally DAY Sunday Worship	9 5:30 am Prayer	10 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations; 7-Council /Orientation	11 5:30 am Prayer Bible Study 10 am 7:30-AA	12 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op	13 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op ; 12- Mission Meal Prep	14 5:30 am Prayer
15 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Worship; 9:30- Oneida Church	16 5:30 am Prayer	17 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations	18 5:30 am Prayer Bible Study 10 am 12- Women's Assoc Mtg 7:30 AA	19 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op	20 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op ; 12-Mission Meal Prep.	21 5:30 am Prayer
22 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Worship; 9:30- Oneida Church	23 5:30 am Prayer	24 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations	25 5:30 am Prayer Bible Study 10 am 7:30-AA	26 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op	27 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op ; 12- Mission Meal Prep.	28 5:30 am Prayer
29 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Worship; 9:30- Oneida Church	30 5:30 am 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](https://www.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.

August Birthdays: 1) Laurie Ferris; 5) Phyllis Straut; 6) Valerie Curren; 10) Wallace Loonan, Michelle Staunches; 13) Tim McAuley; 14) Sue Helffrich; 20) Gigi Barrett; 23) Sue Cartier, Doris O'Rourke; 24) Luke Mootz.

SEPTEMBER Birthdays: 5) Bruce Lipinski, Lydia Thrall; 8) Steven Greene; 9) William Resse; 12) Doug Helffrich; 20) Evan Lipinski; 21) Michael Healy; 28) Noel Granger, Jane McLaughlin, Lynsey Urrico; 29) Nicole Nadig-MacDermid.

CELEBRATION FRIDAY! Send all announcements to the church office on Wednesdays to be included in the Celebration Friday publication. CELEBRATION FRIDAY is the HCC email publication sent every two weeks.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – September 2024

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 & Rehabilitation Center

Manu Malkani – The Terraces

Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village

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

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

Robert Marshall – Friend of the Straut family

Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile

Gay Smith - Member

Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville

Fran Tucker – Mother of Robert Tucker

~

*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends who lost Loved Ones during these past months: **J. Arthur Norton**, long-time Harrisena Member; **Jeffrey Kuck**, neighbor of Sue & Roy Urrico; **Marian F. Philo**, long-time Harrisena Church member; **Gay Gross**, cousin of Susan & Roy Urrico.*



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

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

James Pearson (*USAF*)

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

Brian Schneider (*Army*) – serving in Afghanistan

Daniel Urband (*USAF*), grandson of Alice Urband—serving stateside

Mark Wilson (*Army Spcl Forces/Reserves*), husband of Andrea—serving stateside

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

