

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

God's Paradise Restoration Plan: Part II "Noah finds favor with God – God's Image Bearers"

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God." Genesis 6:8b-9 NIV

We began a series last month in our first Harbinger publication of the new church year called "**God's Paradise Restoration Plan**". This series is part of our Discipleship Training. As we grow in the grace and mercy of God, we find ourselves in need, in need of greater faith, and deeper understanding of God (who God is and of who we are in relationship with and to God).

We started this series with a man named Enoch. We discover Enoch in the annals of scripture, in the Book of Genesis. In Genesis 5:22 we learn that, "*Enoch walked (intimate habitual fellowship) with God.*" **Walking with God was/is a way of life.**

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**. **Walking with God** means "to conduct oneself in a particular manner" or to "pursue a particular course of life" (Dictionary.com: walk). Those who walked with God lived openly and transparently to God, with the intent to please God with how they lived. Their lives demonstrated a **determined humility** to do the will of God even if they had to stand alone. This month, we meet another person in the Bible who is known to have walked with God. We learn about Noah.

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God."
Genesis 5:8b-9a NIV

Noah was the eighth-generation descendant of Adam, through the line of Seth. During Noah's lifetime, no one on earth walked with God, followed God or followed God's laws **except Noah**. "*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*"

Finding favor means gaining approval, acceptance, or special benefits or blessings. There is also a close association with favor, grace, and mercy. The favor that human beings receive from God depends on God's good pleasure and is often extended in response to **prayer, just living, merciful relating to others, and humility**. The favor of God refers to a life transformed by the grace and mercy of God. Noah lived among a people who were wicked and evil, even so, he lived for God. **Noah's kinship was with God.**

Noah lived a righteous and blameless life and enjoyed close association and fellowship with God. **Noah's worldview was God's worldview!** This unique relationship between God and Noah exemplifies the relationship between God and humanity. It gives us a little glimpse of **God's original plan for Paradise**. Consequently, God's original plan for Paradise points us back to the beginning...the Book of Genesis.

The first chapter of the Book of Genesis gives us great insight into the creative mind and wisdom of God. *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"* (Genesis 1:27). **This is the revelation of image to image.**

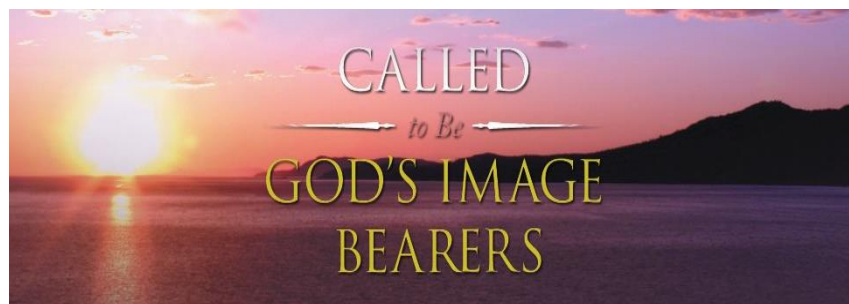
Images are created to display the original. God made humans in the Divine image so that the world would be filled with reflectors of the Divine — images of God – millions of human image bearers. **Image bearers reflect something of God's nature and character.** God's Image Bearers spend their lives discovering their connection with their original. On this journey of discovery, God's Image Bearers grow, little by little, into their **natural capacity to reflect the nature and character of God.** It is who they are! They are **Image Bearers of God's goodness, love, mercy, justice, compassion, and with the Holy Spirit's help, holiness in the world.**

Ephesians 5:1-2 says, *"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* We are created, in the image of God, as dearly loved children of God, to love just as Christ willingly loved us sacrificially.

1 John 2:5-6 teaches, *"This is how we know we are in Jesus: Whoever claims to live in Jesus must walk as Jesus did."* We walk with God and we walk as Jesus walked. It is our way of living that reflects God character and nature. It is a glimpse of God's original plan of Paradise. **Be God's Image Bearers!**

Let us pray:

*Dearest God, Creator of all that is and ever will be,
You formed us in our mother's womb. Even then you knew us. Your hands crafted us into your own image and breathed into us your Spirit, that gave us life. How blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of your creation. Your ways are beyond our wonderings. We can hardly find words to express our gratitude and awe. Form us again and again until we look like you. Form us again and again until we love like you. Form us again and again until we are like you. Thank You for loving us first and for showing us the way of love. We love You, Lord. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.*



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

Wow, weren't the last weeks of Summer great with the beautiful warm weather which God provided us with!

We started off our church year with **Rally Day on September 8th**, and several families from the Christian Homeschool program joined us for our worship service.

Your church officers pledged to do their best to make this coming year successful and spiritual for our Harrisena Church and community. We enjoyed a delicious brunch with more families from the homeschool group. **Many Thanks to our Fellowship Committee** for planning a great time together!

On Thursday, **September 12th the Christian Homeschool Program started using our Sunday School classrooms.** It is great to see these rooms being used again for teaching children in a Christian way.

Sunday, **September 15th Oneida Community Church started having their Sunday services in Robinson Hall.** We welcomed them with a delicious Coffee Hour. We hope they will continue to join us so we can get to know each other better. So, as you can see, our church is a busy place spreading the love of God in our community!

Our Finance Committee has been very busy working hard to come up with a budget that will successfully get us through the year to come. You will be receiving communications from them explaining the budget and asking you for your support. Harrisena can only continue to be a place of worship if you pledge to help.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in November. Please come and hear how we can continue to make Harrisena Community Church a great place to worship God, and to help make our community successful in many ways.

*Your Church Administrator,
Susan Ogden*



HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH CAMPUS

FYI: The Harrisena Community Church campus will be closed to visitors/members/friends on Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30-5:00 p.m. The Christian Homeschool Program uses the Robinson Hall/Education Building during this time. We are asking for your support and cooperation in this matter!

The church office will be open during regular hours. If you need to come to the church office, please plan to come on Tuesdays ONLY! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Susan Ogden

We ended our **Pie Raffle on Sunday, September 8th** and made \$541.00! Thank you to all who bought Raffle tickets every week. A Special Thank You to all our pie bakers - **Mary Alice Clickner, Mary Boyd, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Diane Henderson, Pam Lobe, Sandy Chambers and Bonnie Nadig!** Special thanks also to **Joanne Beck** and **Peter & Suzanne Cartier** for their donations!

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

We are collecting and delivering food and personal items to **Family Services** in Glens Falls. They are always so thankful to see us.

The Christian Homeschool Program is delighted to get the shoes you have been donating!

As always, your monthly donations to the Mission Committee are needed and appreciated! These donations help the church provide many other services and needs within our community.

Mission Committee:

Mary Alice Clickner, Patty Zacharias, Susan Ogden

OCTOBER IS THINK POSITIVE THOUGHTS MONTH @ HCC



OCTOBER IS THINK POSITIVE THOUGHTS MONTH @ HCC

*"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing.
Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and
admirable.*

Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8 NLT

WHEN SCIENCE CATCHES UP TO BIBLICAL TRUTHS

Barbara Fredrickson, a professor of Psychology and Director of the [Positive Emotions and Psychophysiology Laboratory](#) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been investigating the effect of positive emotions for more than thirty years. Her research shows that people with a positive attitude overcome difficulties more quickly and are more resilient. Based on her research, she developed the [broaden-and-build theory](#), which uses positive emotions to solve developmental and growth challenges instead of solving survival issues.

A positive mindset is the breeding ground for creativity, expansive and visionary thinking, empathy, cooperation, and connection. Moreover, broadening one's mindset makes people better equipped to overcome adversity. Her findings shed light on how people with a positive mindset become stronger and develop exponentially in overcoming obstacles.

Two chemical messengers control our motivation and happiness when it comes to positive thinking — dopamine and serotonin. Our bodies release dopamine when we accomplish our goals and it gives us the rush to keep going so we can achieve even more. In contrast, we gain a feeling of calm, relaxation, and comfort when our bodies release serotonin.

Our bodies don't always regulate dopamine and serotonin in the way we want, and sometimes we can chase too much of one or the other in hopes of improving our mood. However, learning how to find balance in our lives helps us earn a steady flow of both neurochemicals. Maintaining a positive attitude is the key to unlocking that balance!

THINKING POSITIVE THOUGHTS MATTERS!

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

What is stewardship season at Harrisena?

A time to reflect on all the extraordinary things we do at Harrisena Church and how best to support the Church so it may continue to do all those wonderful things.

Why should I pledge an amount for the church year?

Our fiscal year runs January through December. By having people pledge, we have a better idea of how we will meet our budget. If our pledges run below our needs, we rely on fundraising and special donations for a cause.

What are other ways I can support Harrisena?

Join a committee, read scripture, usher, help with meals we make and deliver (now on Tuesdays), offer assistance using any skill you may have, share ideas for fundraisers, share your ideas for any part of the Harrisena experience. Be a disciple by living and loving as Jesus taught us to do.

When do we vote on the budget and what happens if it does not pass?

We are scheduled to vote on November 10, 2024, at our Annual Meeting to be held after the regular church service. Copies of the proposed budget will be distributed prior to that date. The proposed budget for 2025 has been prepared by comparing what we spent last year against what was budget for in 2024. Much time and effort were spent creating the budget to meet the “bare bones” needs of our church.

Should the members vote to not approve the budget, the Finance Committee will go back and attempt to change items in dispute. A new vote would be taken when the new budget is completed.

Your Finance Committee:

Ken Zacharias, Sue Ogden, Bonnie Nadig, Dr. Natalie C. Wimberly
Trustees: *Nancy Willett, Hal Payne*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Happy New Year!

Rosh Hashanah (The Jewish New Year) begins on Wednesday, **October 2nd**. It marks the start of the Jewish High Holy Days. During the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and **Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement,)** which begins on Friday, **October 11th**, our Jewish brothers and sisters are called to spend time in **prayer, personal reflection and fasting**, as they begin a new year in faith.

I wonder what Jesus thought as he observed these High Holy Days. Did he realize he would be *fulfilling* the Day of Atonement with the ultimate sacrifice of his life?

The **High Holy Days** of Judaism (the religion of Jesus' upbringing) - offer an excellent opportunity for US to spend time in prayer, personal reflection and (perhaps) fasting at the start of OUR new year in faith. *Where is God leading YOU at the start of this new year?*

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Since 1992, October has been observed as **Clergy Appreciation Month**. We will be observing Pastor Appreciation Sunday on **October 20th**. We have a special surprise scheduled for morning worship that day, and we look forward to everyone's active participation! (Don't worry – it will be easy and fun!)

Is God Calling You to Help?

- Reading Scripture*
- Ushering/Greeting
- Providing fresh flowers
- Transporting the "Light of Christ" to and from the altar
- 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 located in Robinson Hall at the Education Building.

2024-25 Worship Committee Members: *Melissa Ferrie-Healy and Diane Henderson.
Doris O'Rourke: Flowers.*

We are here to serve God and our parish! We welcome and encourage your active participation!

Flower Committee:

Thanks to Melissa Ferrie-Healy who guided us in establishing a schedule that will reflect the worship seasons of the church year for the Worship and Flower Committees.

This will help us to coordinate the activities of both committees.

As in past years we will accept donations for Christmas and Easter plants. Sign up forms will be made available at those times.

Fellowship Committee Report

Shelley Durkee, Ron Henderson and Pam Loeb

The Fellowship Team has organized an **OUT TO EAT event for Thursday, October 19 at 5:30 pm.** Come and join us at **The Tavern** in Sokol's Plaza on Aviation Road, Queensbury. The Tavern is giving us a private room, at no extra charge. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall and get further details from Ron Henderson. *Hope to see you there!*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As proud chair of Membership, I have been happily kept busy in giving out **welcome bags to new visitors** during our services all summer long. So nice to see the smiles on their faces when they see a gift along with my handshake. When walking out of front door, the gift bags are kept up on shelves.

To quell your curiosity, inside each is a small decorative cross from Hobby Lobby's collection, a wallet card of the Irish Blessing; a blank journal book; the flyer which invites public to our services & lastly, one of our postcards. In future will include a handmade custom HCC bookmark.

Adhesive name tags have also been offered to these visitors.

I am ever so pleased to see these folks come a 2nd and & 3rd time asking me about a name tag for that day.

Our church DIRECTORY is in its final phase before print. Thanks to Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Janet Wilson & Bonnie Nadig, we have included all our new folks & continued a FRIEND page. With the help of these fine ladies, this has been a labor of love.

Finally, In a council meeting with Worship, they would like to begin a "**Prayer Partner Program**". I love this concept & have offered to work with Melissa on it. An exciting project for sure, and it can be anything we all want it to be. It is my hope that our research develops something wonderful, that can bring each one of us is closer relationship with our Lord. Can you tell I'm delighted & eager?! Well, I am!

In your service, Christine M. Burke

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Twelve of our members enjoyed an outing to Gardenworks in Salem, NY on September 14. After a delicious lunch everyone was free to enjoy the farm, pick produce or flowers or visit their gift shop.

At our September business meeting we discussed the three critical repairs desperately needed in our Ed building. The vote was unanimous to fund the repairs to the waste line, the furnace drain and the elevator. The total amount of \$6,300.00 was designated to pay these costs. The Women's Association is grateful to be in a position to support our beloved Harrisena Community Church.

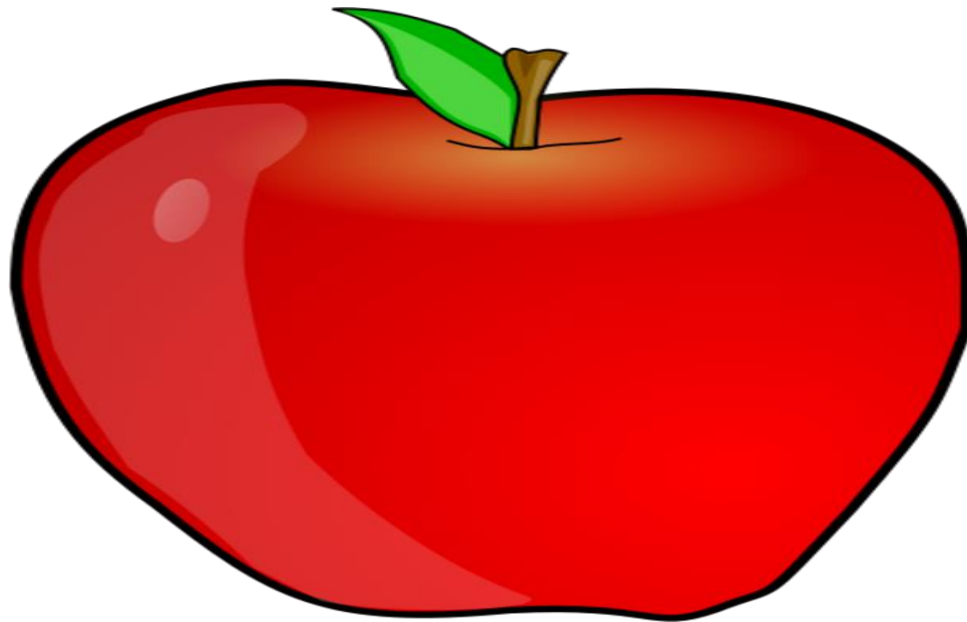
Our October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9th. Our future meeting times will be the second Wednesday of the month.

ALSO:

Twelve of our members enjoyed an **outing to Gardenworks in Salem, NY on September 14.** After a delicious lunch everyone was free to enjoy the farm, pick produce or flowers or visit their gift shop.

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APPLE FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 12, 2024, Robinson Hall
10 AM – 3 PM**

**Join us for: *Silent Auction, Lunch,
Craft Vendors, Basket Auction,
Bake Sale and Much More!***

**HCC EDUCATION BUILDING (Robinson Hall) WILL BE OPEN FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 11TH AT 9:00 A.M. for APPLEFEST PREPARATION & SET
UP!**

Harrisena Church
1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804
Shirley Harney (518) 832-7306 or Email sjhruby2@outlook.com

OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10-Oneida Bible Study; 1-Conversations	2 5:30 am Prayer; <i>Lectio Divinia</i> @10 7:30 AA	3 5:30 am Prayer 9-4: School CoOp	4 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: School CoOp	5 5:30 am Prayer
6 5:30 am Prayer Worship @9:30	7 5:30 am Prayer	8 5:30 am Prayer; 10-Oneida study; 1-Conversations 7-COUNCIL	9 5:30 am Prayer; <i>Lectio Divinia</i> @10; Women's Mtg @12	10 5:30 am Prayer 9-4: School CoOp	11 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4: School CoOp	12 5:30 am Prayer 10-3 – Apple Festival
13 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30	14 5:30 am Prayer	15 5:30 am Prayer; 10-Oneida study; 1-Conversations	16 5:30 am prayer; <i>Lectio Divinia</i> @10; LGCC-12; 7:30-AA LGCC @12	17 5:30 am Prayer 9-4: School CoOp	18 5:30 am Prayer 9-4: School CoOp	19 5:30 am Prayer
20 5:30 am Prayer Worship @9:30	21 5:30 am Prayer	22 5:30 am 10-Oneida study; 1-Conversations	23 5:30 am Prayer; 10- <i>Lectio Divinia</i> 7:30- AA	24 5:30 am Prayer 9-4: School CoOp	25 5:30 am Prayer. 9-4: School CoOp	26 5:30 am Prayer
27 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30	28 5:30 am Prayer	29 5:30 am Prayer: 10-Oneida study; 1-Conversations	30 5:30 am Prayer; 10- <i>Lectio Divinia</i> 7:30- AA	31 5:30 am Prayer 9-4: School CoOp		

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.

October Birthdays:

9) Aleana Martin; 10) Valerie McGilpin; 11) Ashley Staunches; 15) Brian Kibling; 18) William Loeb; 25) Diane Matthews; 29) Bonnie Nadig

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 – October

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
Manu Malkani – Fort Hudson Health Center
Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village

At Home

Laura Avent – Member of Harrisena
Walda Blanchard – Member of Harrisena Church
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
Ann Malkani – Neighbor of Joanne Beck
Robert Marshall – Friend of the Straut family
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena Church
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Fran Tucker – Mother of Robert Tucker

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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends who lost Loved Ones this past month: **Francis Howard**, Uncle of Melissa Ferrie-Healy; **Sally Busted**, friend of Suzanne Cartier and **Jean Meyer**, long-time Harrisena Member.*



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 – stateside

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

