

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. (Psalm 1:1-3 NIV)

The first Psalm is called the preamble to the book of Psalms. It is said to be the Psalm on which all of the Psalms make up a divine sermon. Psalm 1 captures a fundamental teaching found in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. In the Old Testament God teaches His people that one's choice will determine both the direction and the outcome of your life. In the New Testament, Jesus' teaches, through word and deed, that the right way of life is obedience to God and to God's will. It is the path of righteousness.

The psalmist suggests that choosing to walk the righteous path is demonstrated in what and who we choose to walk with. Our interpersonal connections, our associations and our friendships, make all the difference. Blessedness comes by developing friendship with God. Our appetite for God creates a thirst that only the presence of God and the Word of God can satisfy. This is why the psalmist calls us to meditate. Meditation involves a 24/7—"day and night"—focus on the Scripture. This means seeking to understand the Bible's meaning as well as its personal application. The Scriptures are "sweeter than honey" (Ps. 119:103) and "more to be desired [desirable] are they than gold" (Ps. 19:10).

The reason this way of life makes us so happy is that it fulfills the purpose for which we were created. God's first command to humanity was to "be fruitful" (Gen. 1:28). Psalm 1 describes the happy man as being "*like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper*".

Fruit bearing is the result of deep roots' finding an abundant supply of nourishment from underground streams of water. God's Word is an all-sufficient, eternal supply of empowering grace for all of life. Even during difficult, seemingly barren times, the God's word will sustain our lives. A fruitful life is a blessed life.

I love the poem "**IF**" written by Rudyard Kipling. Kipling's poem describes situations that we encounter throughout this journey we call life. They are both positive and negative circumstances and situations. He describes the challenging moments that most of us have to deal with. He points us to a way of life that ensures a blessed outcome. It is the calm and peaceful response that can only come from God! It is God's will! It is the blessed life!

Kipling's poem sounds a lot like Psalm 1.

IF

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a *Man/Woman*, my son/*my daughter!*



In Christ's service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. Natalie C. Wimberly



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As your new President, I want to welcome all the members and friends to the coming church year. We got off to a great start with Rally Day, planned by the Fellowship & Worship Committees.

A delicious Pot-Luck Brunch was enjoyed by all. We had fun playing Melissa's games, which were a good way for many to learn about Harrisena Church's facts and history (and for some of us, to recall many fond memories).

The new church year brings many new and continuing challenges. Two of the biggest ones are strengthening our church family, and meeting our financial needs. We can meet these and other challenges when we work together.

At our September Council Meeting, each committee presented their plans for the coming year. They will need all of our support to help Harrisena Church move forward. As your President, I am asking for your help in way possible to make this a successful year!

I am always available for questions and suggestions.

God Bless you all,
Susan Ogden



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!



FINANCE REPORT FOR OCTOBER

What a busy time for the Finance Officers. We are currently working on our Budget for 2023 to give to the congregation in October. This gives the congregation time to review the Budget before the **November Annual Meeting**.

Along with the PPRC, the Finance Committee is working to discuss our Pastor's contract which expires at the end of this year.

We are also discussing plans for our Stewardship Campaign which begins in October. This is a time for friends and members of Harrisena to pledge what they intend to give to our church. We are hopeful that everyone will give prayerful consideration to this important decision.

The past couple of weeks there have been envelopes in the church bulletins marked "Harrisena Supporter". Many of you have asked **"exactly what are these envelopes in our bulletins?"** They are to put whatever extra donation you might be able to give to support Harrisena. (This would be in addition to what you might pledge or give regularly.) The goal is to try and see if we can raise \$4,000 by the end of this year in an effort to whittle down deficits caused by increased prices for expenses.

Any amount you can contribute to this challenge is a great help and truly appreciated. Use the envelopes provided and put your name on them if you wish to have the donations show on your year-end statement, or write it on your checks. There are baskets in front and back of the church you can place the donations in, or simply put them in the Offering Plate (or mail to the church office). Give once, or every time you find a few extra bucks. Let's see what we can raise by 12/31/23!

Thank you and God Bless,

Your Financial Officers: Ken Zacharias, Janet Wilson, Bonnie Nadig



MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Mission Committee wants to thank all of you who brought in food items for Family Services! They are always grateful when we drop off these items. With your monthly contributions, we were able to donate \$400.00 to the Family Service's **School Supply Project**.

We continue to support **three International children** and **The Open Door** on a monthly basis.

We have started up the **Friday Night Meal Program**; and, as of September 15 have delivered 2540 meals. We have four teams who prepare and deliver meals to individuals in our community.

These teams are made up of: **Deanna & Hal Payne, Shirley Harney, Suzanne Cartier and Donna Davison Smith, Bonnie & Phil Nadig, Pam Loeb, Phyllis Straut, Mary Alice Clickner and Susan Ogden. Sandy Chambers** makes many delicious baked goods for our meals!

Your Mission Committee: Mary Alice Clickner, Pat Zacharias and Susan Ogden



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This Summer we brought back **the weekly Pie Raffle** on Sunday mornings. Our thanks to all the pie bakers, and the people who bought the raffle tickets. We made \$504.00.

We also received \$1,100.00 in donations from **Suzanne & Peter Cartier, Joanne Beck and Shirley Harney**. We thank everyone for their support!

The Scholarship Committee: Timothy McAuley, Bonnie Nadig, Susan Ogden, Cheryl Straut, Ken Zacharias and Laura Avent



Worship Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Church Bingo: S.E.R.V.E.

At Rally Day 2023, the Worship Committee introduced **Church Bingo** – an opportunity for us to better S.E.R.V.E. throughout the coming year. Each square of the Church Bingo card contains a church-related activity to complete (for example, volunteer to host/co-host coffee fellowship, usher, read Scripture, etc.). Modifications are available for those in need. Each “Bingo” earned (5 squares in a row) will be worth a trip to our prize basket. Those who complete ALL the activities on the card will be posted on our Wall of Fame in Robinson Hall.

Church Bingo cards are available in Robinson Hall. Be sure to write your name on your card and we will keep it on file in our Church Bingo binder. That way, it will always be available to note activities as they are completed.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Since 1992, October has been observed as Clergy Appreciation Month. We will be observing Pastor Appreciation Sunday on October 15th, since this will allow us more time to put together some special surprises for Rev. Natalie. **Please contact a member of the Worship Committee if you would like to be directly involved with honoring our pastor.**

WANTED: Scripture Readers and Lay Leaders

Is the “still, small voice of God” calling you to join the ranks of Scripture readers or become a Lay Leader at Harrisena Community Church? Are you on the fence about signing up to read scripture or getting special Lay Leader training? Just remember all the great things God was able to do through Moses, despite his initial reluctance to serve as God’s spokesperson.

Christine Burke has graciously offered to help anyone with a desire to approach the lectern with CONFIDENCE and SKILL.

For more information about special Lay Leader training, please contact Rev. Natalie.

Special Thanks to our FLOWER COMMITTEE!

The Worship Committee is grateful for our partnership with our amazing FLOWER COMMITTEE: **Phyllis Straut, Doris O'Rourke, and Janet Wilson**. The fall mums and wreaths are beautiful! Thanks also to Diane Henderson for the colorful seasonal arrangements on our windowsills.

As always, we welcome your participation and encourage your feedback!

Worship Committee Members: *Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy & Diane Henderson.*



**FLOWER COMMITTEE REPORT
Submitted by Doris O'Rourke**

Our September meeting was held on Thursday, 9/21. We began at 10 AM working in the **History Library** until noon, then we had our Business Meeting.

We voted to hold our **Christmas Women's Association Communion gathering on Saturday, December 2nd at 10 AM**. All women of our church and the community are welcome! More information will be forthcoming.

A big **Thank You to Shirley Harney** who volunteered to be Secretary of the Women's Association

Susan Ogden and Doris O'Rourke continue as our Treasurers.



A joint meeting of the Worship and Flower Committees was held on Sunday, September 17th. We agreed that the Women's & Worship storage area was in dire need of attention. **Diane Henderson, Phyllis Straut and Doris O'Rourke** spent Tuesday morning cleaning and organizing the closet.

We are also in the process of improving the Christmas Tree. We all enjoyed working together to help Harrisena Church!



31ST ANNUAL NORTH COUNTRY FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Harrisena Community Church will participate again in the Annual Festival of Trees! The 31st Annual North Country Festival of Trees is presented by Berkshire Bank to benefit the Prospect Center, an affiliate of Center for Disability Services. The ballrooms of [The Queensbury Hotel](#) will be transformed into a holiday wonderland for the **31st Annual Festival of Trees!**

The General Festival includes decorated **trees, wreaths, kissing balls, stockings, centerpieces**, etc. on display. The public is welcome to enjoy artisan/vendor boutique sales, a raffle, and entertainment.

There will be **two breakfasts with Santa Claus** from 8:30am-10:30am on Saturday, November 26 and Sunday, November 27. Children can take pictures with Santa and take part in other activities like: **letters to Santa, holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, and face painting**. Pictures with Santa, and the children's activities, will also be available during the General Festival.

Contact Deanna Payne if you are willing to help with the HCC trees. We have two trees. If you would like tabletop trees, wreaths or centerpieces, **let Deanna know**.



October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion	2 5:30 am Prayer	3 5:30 am Prayer; Conversation @1	4 5:30 am Prayer AA @7:30	5 5:30 am Prayer	6 5:30 am Prayer: Mission Meal prep.	7 5:30 am Prayer
8 5:30 am Prayer Worship @9:30 Healing Circle	9 5:30 am Prayer	10 5:30 am Prayer; Conversation @1	11 5:30 am Prayer AA @7:30	12 5:30 am Prayer	13 5:30 am Prayer: Mission Meal Prep.	14 5:30 am Prayer
15 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30 Healing Circle	16 5:30 am Prayer	17 5:30 am Prayer; Conversation @1 Council @7	18 5:30 am Prayer AA @7:30	19 5:30 am Prayer	20 5:30 am Prayer Mission Night Meal Prep.	21 5:30 am Prayer
22 5:30 am Prayer Worship @9:30	23 5:30 am Prayer	24 5:30 am Prayer Conversation @1	25 5:30 am Prayer AA @7:30	26 5:30 am Prayer	27 5:30 am Prayer Mission Meal prep.	28 5:30 am Prayer
29 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30 Healing Circle	30 5:30 am Prayer	31 5:30 am Prayer Conversation @1				

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; 18) William Loeb; 25) Diane Matthews; 29) Bonnie Nadig

CELEBRATION FRIDAYS!!

Send your special events and celebrations to the church office for our CELEBRATION FRIDAY email publication. This is our way of sharing the blessings of God with each other as we live filled with gratitude for all that God is doing in our lives.

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
Francis Howard – Health & Rehabilitation Center
Manu Malkani – Fort Hudson Health Center
Art Norton – Slate Valley Center
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
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
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
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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Our Heartfelt Condolences to Joanne Beck and the Beck Family. Joanne's son, Brian, transitioned on October 5th. Brian was the son of Joanne & Bruce Beck, brother of Douglas Beck, and husband of Crystal Beck.

Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the friends and family of Richard G. Drew. Richard was the life-mate of Gigi Barrett.

Our prayers are with you all!



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.
Kaleb Parker (*Army*), grandson of Rev. Dr. Wimberly – serving in Germany
Griffith Parry (*West Point Military Academy*), relative of Griffith Parry- serving in Poland
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

Michael Gusek & Tyler Monroe, are Home and out of the Military!

