



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



November 2021

Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape,

Once I read a bookmark that says:
"Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

There was something about that message that is hopeful as well as comforting, that makes me want to be courageous and to treat today differently.

I often prayed to God:
"Help me live today as the last day of my life in its fullness that I may have no regret."

Since I read the bookmark, my prayer has been changed to:

"God, help me live today as the first day of the rest of my life, with renewed hope, courage, and faithfulness."

Although both frames of today have their own inspiration, I have to admit that framing today as the "first day" gives a sense of excitement and a positive outlook on today.

It helps us imagine that we are taking a new step toward the rest of our life, which is connected to eternity with the new opportunities to act with our intention even if it means facing the same direction we always have.

This morning, as I woke up with the sound of rain, I gave thanks to God for the first day of the rest of my life. Throughout the day, while praying, reading, driving, meeting people...this new frame of today will serve as a reminder that no matter where things are there's always an opportunity to take a new step.

In this season of transition from autumn to winter, All Saints to Thanksgiving and Ordinary Season to Advent, may we live each day as the first day of the rest of our life with renewed hope, courage, and faithfulness.

Today may our life awaken and flow toward the mystery and wonder of God. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for the gift of today.

In peace,
Ho-Soon

November Lectionary Readings



November 7:

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Psalms 127 or Psalm 42

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 14:

25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20

1 Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 113

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 21:

26th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalms 132:1-12

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November 28:

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Special News and Dates

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Church Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 3rd at 7 p.m. on Zoom. SPRC will meet with the District Superintendent at 6 p.m. The members of the church are invited to join the annual celebration of the ministries. If you would like to attend, please contact the office for Zoom link.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 7th** we will remember and honor those who passed away since November 2020. Please sign up or contact the office to have your loved ones remembered.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

There is still space in the Holiday Workshop with Jean Moulton on **Saturday, December 18, at 10 AM** in Bartlett Hall. Come and make a holiday arrangement for your table. Jean will also share some holiday decorative ideas. All materials including flowers will be supplied. If you have a special container you would prefer to use, you are welcome to bring it along. Workshop is limited to 8 participants. Cost is \$50/pp. Call or email the church office to make a reservation.

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

The annual Veteran's Day luncheon will be delivered to your door again this year! The Education Committee will deliver lunches on **Thursday, November 11, around Noon**. Alisson's Restaurant will once again be donating their chowder. The menu will include a few other goodies as well. To receive your special Veteran's Day lunch, please call the church office, or sign up on the sheet outside Bartlett Hall, **no later than Monday, November 8**. Thank you for your service!

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are still needed to prepare the refreshments and host the fellowship time after service. A sign-up sheet is provided for your convenience on the table outside Bartlett Hall.

More Special November Days

- **Christ the King Day**, Sat. November 1, 2021
- **All Saints' Day** — Sat. November 1, 2021
- **Daylight-Saving Time Ends** — November 7, 2021
- **Veterans Day** — November 11, 2021
- **Thanksgiving Day** — November 25, 2021
- **First Sunday of Advent** — November 28, 2021

A VETERANS DAY PRAYER

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
—Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips

THANKSGIVING DAY THOUGHTS:

Invite someone in need for dinner....

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can “block out the cries of the denied ones ... so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God.”

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus’

coming? It’s a good time to ponder what hurts God’s heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can invite them to Thanksgiving dinner. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.

Send a note(s) of thanks to others

At Thanksgiving, we give thanks for things (food, home, clothing, work) and loved ones (family, friends, pets). But if the people we name aren’t present, they may never know how precious they are to us. This November, start a new tradition by writing a note(s) of thanks to people you appreciate. Expressing genuine thanksgiving to God and a person, you might write something like this:

Dear Judy, This Thanksgiving I’m thinking about special people in my life. You are one! I thank God for our friendship, for your strong witness for Jesus and for your willingness to lend a hand as a substitute teacher. (Your chocolate cookies are icing on the cake!) I praise God for you!
Sincerely, Joan

Continue to be thankful

After “turkey day” came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not “How was your Thanksgiving?” but “How is your Thanksgiving?” After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn’t always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of Thanks a Thousand, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? “Sometimes I’m just grateful I have arms.” That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being “thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice.”

Source: Newsletternewsletter

“You’re a Shining Star, No Matter Who You Are”

Submitted by Diane Hutchins
Finance Chair

Sound familiar? For most of you, it should. “Shining Star” was a hit song by Earth, Wind & Fire, released in January, 1975. It was composed by Maurice White, Larry Dunn and Philip Bailey. Go ahead and sing the lyrics with me:

"Shining Star" lyrics, by Earth, Wind and Fire:

*Yeah, hey
When you wish upon a star
Your dreams will take you very far, yeah
But when you wish upon a dream
Life ain't always what it seems, oh yeah
What'd you see on a night so clear
In the sky so very dear*

You're a shining star, no matter who you are

*Shining bright to see what you could truly be
What you could truly be*

*Shining star come into view
Shine its watchful light on you, yeah
Gives you strength to carry on
Make your body big and strong
Born a man child of the sun
Saw my work had just begun
Yeah, found I had to stand alone
Bless it now I've got my own oh yeah*

*So, if you find yourself in need
Why don't you listen to these words of heed
Be a giant or grain of sand
Words of Wisdom: Yes I can*

*You're a shining star, no matter who you are
Shining bright to see what you can truly be
You're a shining star, no matter who you are
Shining bright to see what you can truly be
You're a shining star, no matter who you are
Shining bright to see what you can truly be*

*Shining star for you to see, what your life can truly be
Shining star for you to see, what your life can truly be
Shining star for you to see, what your life can truly be*

While most disco music was about having fun, Shining Star promoted a positive message that is still relevant today. **Everyone** has the ability to be a “Shining Star”! The song rose to No. 1 on both the Billboard Hot 100 chart and the Billboard Hot Soul Songs chart. The soulful lyrics and catchy rhythm are magnetic.

For the past six months, I’ve been drawn to this particular song, day after day, **every** day, singing it in my head, again and again. After a six-month ethereal loop of hearing, “Shining Star”, I have to assume the only logical reason I can’t let it go is because the Holy Spirit is asking me to share it with you.

Good timing, right? Stewardship season is here. It’s the ideal time of year to reflect on our blessings and pay it forward with our time, talent, resources and service. If you love our church, our church family, our many programs and outreach, then please consider submitting a pledge of support for 2022.

Pledging is an important part of our budgeting process for 2022. For this reason, I would like to ask you to please submit a pledge card by Friday, November 8, 2021.

You are a shining star. **Shine brightly my friends!**



*Kay Ellen Partner Parr
October 4, 2021
Sister of Ann and John Nelson*

*Joan Drazek
October 19, 2021
Mother of Susan Baracco*



COTC Outreach has resumed plans for the upcoming months.

As in other years, support will be offered for: Holiday food baskets, Sock Ministry, Alternative Christmas Fair, Bon Appetit, and Habitat for Humanity. The latter will be most visible as two homes will be built on Mills Road, Cape Porpoise next year. So there is a wait to sign up for painters, carpenters, etc. but we will be back for volunteers. There is hope for missions to safe sites in the United States next year also.

One new program that is in the planning stages is helping our neighbors with odd jobs: repair a railing, clean up a yard, paint, winterize and other small repair jobs. This will require organizing a "team" willing and able to join the effort.

Another program in conjunction with Community Outreach Services (COS) is providing children in need with a birthday party. My grateful thanks to the most amazing people on my committee. They are truly walking the Christian way.

Blessings to all, Priscilla



Habitat For Humanity Update

It has been a very busy year for Habitat. Working without the supervision of our Construction Manager has been challenging, but I am happy to report he is doing well and we hope to have him back on the job soon. The Saco home is complete, dedicated, and the

Thibault family have moved into their beautiful new home.

As you know, the foundations for two Habitat homes are in place on Mills Road. Finding Contractors has been difficult, in fact, near impossible but we are planning to begin building the first home in late December. It is our hope that it will be framed and closed in so volunteers can be working during the winter months. As I have said in previous reports, we hope to be able to organize some COTC volunteer workdays. As the time draws nearer to volunteer participation, we will be reaching out to share some ideas for a wider range of opportunities for folks that may not be interested (or able) to work on the actual build project. People that participated in past COTC building projects would agree I believe, that those days were productive, fun, and were great fellowship days!

As activity begins there will be frequent updates on the Habitat website,

(www.habitatyorkcounty.org)

Facebook and this newsletter, so stay tuned! Questions and/or comments are always welcome,

Beth Doty

Clothing Needed for Portland Families

Julie Chase contacted Portland's Resettlement Coordinator regarding winter clothes for families staying at hotels in the area. The response from Chelsea Hoskins follows:

"Good Morning All,"

"In the update from last week we discussed the clothing process. We would love your assistance in spreading the word for donations. I have already connected with many of you, but if you have already assisted a hotel family with winter items, please let me know so we do not

duplicate resources for a family since there are so many in need!

“Please assist us in spreading the word for donations of the following items:

-Clean new, or gently used and sorted clothing items: warm clothes (sweaters, pants, long sleeves), closed toed shoes, jackets, snow pants, hats, gloves, mittens, and boots for babies up to sizes XXL.”

After the last week of October, “we will have a new system for new families arriving and will likely divert back to accessing Maine Needs for new families.

“If anyone you know of may wish to order items for the clothing distribution,” please email me for further updates.

At this time, “all items are being stored at Quality Inn (QI) for families across all the respective hotels, so we will be collecting clothing forms for families who are at QI, Motel 6, etc. and then sorting them out of the QI space. Sorting date to make up the family bags TBD pending the amount of donations received, although the goal is the very end of October, or first part of November the latest ideally for distribution.”

Thank you all,
Chelsea

Please note that my phone line has limited access, I will respond to voicemails as I receive them. Email will be the best form of access for now.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."- Kahlil Gibran

Chelsea Hoskins (she/her/hers)
Resettlement Coordinator

City of Portland

196 Lancaster St. Portland, ME 04101

(207) 482-5133

Chelsea Hoskins <choskins@portlandmaine.gov

Church on the Cape Update

In response for the needs of our new Afghan immigrants in Maine, the Cargo Shop has pulled out winter wear for the families.

Many of our church family, I'm sure, would be willing to assist. Please drop off any clothing items at the Cargo Shop, or if you prefer, drop them off at the Quality Inn, 738 Main Street in South Portland Maine.

Priscilla

Happy Birthday Roy

Roy Bruton with his 90th birthday cake. Thank you to everyone who called, sent cards or dropped in. It was a special day and I feel very blessed. Thank You Joan and Jim Lennon for the surprise birthday cake.



Pumpkin Carving was Tons of Fun!

Bartlett Hall was bustling with excitement and energy on October 23rd as 11 children, a baby in a stroller, parents, and grandparents, settled into a morning of pumpkin carving, a candy hunt, a matching game with Halloween beanies and gourds, snacking, and lots of visiting. Three families from the neighborhood saw the poster on the lawn, advertising the event. It was a wonderful community event filled with love, laughter, and joy. The Education Committee looks forward to hosting another event, probably in early December. Thanks to Heidi Phillips who had the good idea to have a pumpkin carving party.



Article and photos by Carol Nason

FAREWELL TO THE NELSONS

October 24th was the last day Ann and John Nelson would be attending Church on the Cape. During the service Ho-Soon led the congregation in a beautiful farewell liturgy. Following the service, thanks to Sandy Day and Beryl Samia, there was a lovely farewell party during coffee hour. Presentations were made, tears were shed, and everyone felt a deep gratitude to John and Ann for their love and service to the church over the past 8 years. On behalf of the church, Sandy presented the couple with a lovely blanket covered with photos of their time at COTC, and Carol a treasured photo. Ann gave a moving farewell speech and each person had a chance to say their goodbyes to Ann and John. Instead of goodbye, let us say instead, “until we meet again.” May God be with you both as you move and settle into your new home in Virginia. We miss you already, and love you both so very much.

Article and photos by Carol Nason







A NOTE FROM THE NELSONS

October 24, 2021

We thank each of you for your kindness in giving us such a beautiful "Farewell" today!

We are reminded of the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 11:

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven; God has made everything suitable for its time;

Moreover, God has put a sense of past and future in their minds...."

This is something that all of us experience at one time or another,
and we feel it in our hearts and communicate it as we are able:

"Well, the time has come" and that can be expressed in many ways.

It was 8 years ago on a lovely September day when we arrived at
Wesley By The Sea and we were warmly welcomed by our loving neighbors,

The Reverend Dr. Don and Mary Elise Thomas.

(They almost immediately invited us to attend worship here with them
and to become members of the choirdoes that sound familiar?)

We were lovingly welcomed here and have been blessed by
your love for Christ which has been extended to us.

Each of the pastors has also blessed us and we would not be the people we are today without them.

Thank you so much, Pastor Ho-Soon and all of you,

for sending us to our new home with liturgy and prayer this morning.

On October 30 we will take this step in faith and you will be carried in our hearts.

You will always be our loving sisters and brothers in Christ.

God is faithful and in your caring ways you follow in God's footsteps as we all
continue to share richly and lovingly here, and beyond.

With our love in Christ,

John and Ann

Getting to Know Rev. Desmond & Mary Parker



Rev. Desmond Parker

I am a native of Nottingham England, home to Robin Hood and William Booth (Founder of the Salvation Army). I grew up in the Methodist Church and entered Seminary in 1957, graduated in 1960, was ordained in 1963, and transferred to American Methodism in 1966 being appointed to the New Harbor and Round Pond Methodist Churches, (United Methodism came into being in 1968). I have two children, Kathryn and Christopher by a previous marriage, and was married to Mary on June 25th, 1995. I served various UMC Churches in Maine before retiring at the 2000 Annual Conference. Since retirement, I have held four interim appointments besides doing guest preaching.

Mary Parker

My first family relocated from Long Branch, NJ to a little village called Purgatory in Litchfield Maine during the summer of my ninth year. I have been a Methodist since birth. My first husband and I raised four children, one of which is in Heaven; the other three are all still in Maine. I graduated from Orono with a degree in education, but the bulk of my career was spent as a Children's Librarian at Lithgow Library in Augusta, Maine. When Desmond really retired after serving four churches after his first retirement, we bought a home in Gorham and worshiped at the nearby Buxton UMC for nine years before moving to Wesley By the Sea where we are now.

I published a memoir a couple of years ago. It is called *Joy, Sorrow, and Abiding Hope*. It is mostly my story but there is one chapter titled God in Desmond's life.

GIVING THANKS TO ALL THAT HELPED MAKE THE FOLLOWING EVENTS OCCUR



Jean Moulton presented the Fire Evacuation Plan for the congregation. Thank you, Jean!



Bruce Donath's birthday was celebrated at the Church Family Picnic



Newly paved parking lot welcomes worshipers and visitors.



Choir is back with their love and enthusiasm to praise God.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

Our annual Christmas Fair is fast approaching! There is a lot of work to do, but many hands make light work. Your help is important to make the fair a success.

**SIGN UP SHEETS ARE ON THE TABLE
OUTSIDE BARTLETT HALL**

Donations of the following items are needed:

Jewelry: In good shape; include boxes if you have them.

Brand New Items: Consider donating new items you have not used or cannot use.

Crafts: Handmade Christmas ornaments and items of any kind including knitted, crocheted, sewed, painted, etc.

Christmas Decorations: Lights (that work), ornaments, tree skirts, wrapping paper, etc. Cookie tins are also needed to pack the cookies for sale.

**MARK DONATIONS "FAIR" AND BRING THEM IN
STARTING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, BUT NO LATER
THAN NOON ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2.***

Cookie Sale: Home baked cookies. Please bake 5 dozen of one type of cookie. ***Bring them to the church by 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 2,*** so they can be packaged. There is a signup sheet on the table outside Bartlett Hall. Please include the type of cookie you are baking to help avoid duplicates.

Baked Items and Food: Cakes, candy, jams, pickles, etc. ***Bring these to the church no later than noon on Friday, December 3.***

People will also be needed to help set up on Wednesday through Friday, December 1-3, and break down after the fair on Monday, December 6. All signup sheets are on the table outside Bartlett Hall.

The **Cargo Shop** will also be open.

"Sounds of Christmas"

Concert by the musicians of Church on the Cape, Cape Porpoise, ME

Friday, December 10, 5:00 PM
Village Baptist Church, Kennebunkport, ME

and

Saturday, December 11, 2:30 PM
Church on the Cape, Cape Porpoise, ME

Come and enjoy this free concert full of inspiring Christmas music by Choir; Song Sisters Trio & Quartet; Wendy Hagarty, trumpet; Ted Hagarty, clarinet; Megan and Antonia Grassi, violins, Nancy Chamberlin, piano and director Janice Stover on piano and organ.

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and life styles. We are young, old, and middle aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families. Above all, we are people who take risk, make mistakes, confess, repent and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus the Christ whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community, or just passing through; we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; you are among persons like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual, Hymn Sing, and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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