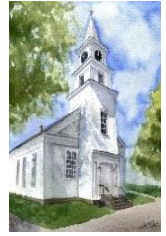




# The Church on the Cape Newsletter



December 2020

## Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape,

Some of my colleagues at Wesley By the Sea, a community for retired UM clergy and family, recently started a labyrinth project. It all began with my friend Becky asking the question "Can we have a labyrinth?" Then a group of people got together to select the location, pattern, process, and material, etc. They all contributed to the project by sharing their ideas and vision. Some were visionaries while others were pragmatists. Some came up with the plan while others cut the trees. Some designed the labyrinth while others moved the rocks. Knowing how slow a project like this can be developed, everyone was thinking the labyrinth will be completed maybe next spring. Yesterday I was at the site and found that it was halfway done! I even walked on the labyrinth. Along with the labyrinth at Conservation Trust, this will be another spot for meditation and mindfulness practice.

As I was thinking of the process of creating a labyrinth and how collaborative it was, the story of Advent and Christmas came to my mind. God designed the plan to save God's people and everyone contributed to the birth of Jesus. Elizabeth was pregnant with John who prepared Jesus' coming, the angel announced the news to Mary and Joseph, they each embraced God's plan and did everything they could for the birth and safety of the Messiah, the innkeeper allowed them to stay in a barn, the angels sang glory, the shepherds went to worship, the star

led the Magi to bring the gifts to acknowledge the birth of the special king. God orchestrated and each of them did their part and collaborated to complete the story of Jesus' birth.

It is the same for us. We each are part of the continued story of God's salvation. We have our own place on earth where we encounter God's invitations. God is the conductor and we bring our gifts and talents with willing hearts to contribute to the plan God has in mind for us. Some of us love to design for the future while others love to work for concrete outcomes for the present. Some of us are good at offering comfort with words and presence while others are good at cooking and baking and delivering. Every gift and strength contributes to the mission and ministry on behalf of Jesus Christ.

The story of Advent and Christmas is the beginning of the good news of God's salvation and it is a gift to all who believe. The story goes on through us as we keep telling the story of Jesus—who he was, what he did, and how he continues to live in and through us. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas, may we recognize God's continued plan to save the world, respond to the invitation be the partners for the work, and eventually arrive where we can fully embrace Emmanuel, God with us.

May you be richly blessed through the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

In peace,  
Ho-Soon

## DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

### December 6:

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

### December 13:

*3rd Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126 or Luke 1:46b-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 20:

*4th Sunday of Advent*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55 or

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

### December 27:

*1st Sunday after Christmas*

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

## ADVENT SERMONS

### November 29:

"Hope as a Lifestyle"

Mark 13:24-37

### December 6:

"Peace as a Lifestyle"

Mark 1:1-8

### December 13:

"Joy as a Lifestyle"

Luke 1:46b-55

### December 20:

"Love as a Lifestyle"

Luke 1:26-38

## SPECIAL NOTICES AND EVENTS

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

There will be a Blue Christmas Service on December 16 at 3 p.m. The service is to create sacred space for those who are finding this Christmas different than other years for many reasons. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus in a calm and reflective time together seeking for healing and hope in Jesus. It will be livestreamed on Facebook.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This year's Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. At this point we are planning for a virtual service for the safety of the congregation.

### CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Trustees are working on getting a new parsonage and there will be a Charge Conference to discuss and vote on the sale of the current parsonage on **Monday, November 30th at 5 PM**. The members of the church can attend for discussion, and the members of the Council will vote. If you'd like to attend, please contact the church office for a Zoom link. Contact Bob Metcalf or Jean Moulton for more information.

### ADVENT MEDITATIONS

During the season of Advent, you are invited to read *Preparing for Christmas—Daily Meditations for Advent* by Richard Rohr. There will be group discussion sessions on **Monday, December 7 & 21 at 7 PM**. Please contact the church office for ordering the book and/or joining the group.

### PLEDGE CARD REMINDER

This is a gentle reminder to return your Pledge Card in the envelope provided in the recent Stewardship mailing. If you need another Pledge Card, please contact the office. Your continued support is appreciated.

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR 2020

The Alternative Christmas Fair begins today. Visit [www.churchonthecape.org](http://www.churchonthecape.org) to learn more about this year's lineup of organizations and share the love of Christ through your holiday shopping.

## SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY JOY

Holiday season is here, and this year we all are celebrating in unique ways. Please submit a picture of your holiday decorations, family gatherings, holiday table, or any way you are making the holidays special. We will create a virtual Church Family Photo Album and share it on December 27, at the beginning of service. Email your submission to: [webmaster@churchonthecape.org](mailto:webmaster@churchonthecape.org) by **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

## ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Our Advent Daily Devotionals will begin on **November 29<sup>th</sup>**. Each year we ask our church family to select a passage and reflect on its meaning, to be shared in a daily email. Visit [www.churchonthecape.org](http://www.churchonthecape.org) to select your passage.

## "GIVE A REASON TO SMILE" PROJECT

Brighten someone's day by making an arrangement for someone in our community. Join this family-friendly online event for children 5-10 years old with adult supervision. This project will be led by Jean Moulton on **Saturday, December 5, at 10 AM** via Zoom. All supplies are provided and available for pick up on December 4, at Church on the Cape or may be delivered.

Call the church office to register.

Limited to 12 participants, so register early!

## NEW ONLINE GIVING TOOL

Are you an online shopper? Then you will love our new online giving tool!

- Send your tithe or pledge securely
- Split your gift between multiple funds and programs
- Set it and forget it when you select the recurring giving option
- Credit, debit or direct from your bank account

Full instructions for all the new options are available on our website: <https://www.churchonthecape.org/giving> along with brief video tutorials.

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## Socks 2020

The Church on the Cape has done it again.... Raised enough money to supply warm, woolly socks to the homeless in Portland for the entire winter. Individual donations were just over \$2000.... So with The Outreach Committee's matching funds, we raised over \$4000! That buys a lot of socks.... Over 2,500 pair to be exact! That's amazing in this difficult year of Covid 19!

I quote Pastor Jeffrey Logan of Grace Street Ministry ... "Thanks for letting us bring your love (and your socks) to the streets of Portland."

Just shows what The Church on the Cape can do when we all work together to accomplish something we really care about.

Thank you all,  
Beverly Bangs





# Thank You Veterans!

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, twelve veterans received a special Veteran's Day lunch. It was important to the Education Committee, which has hosted the lunch at the church for the past several years, to have some type of Veteran's Day lunch this year.

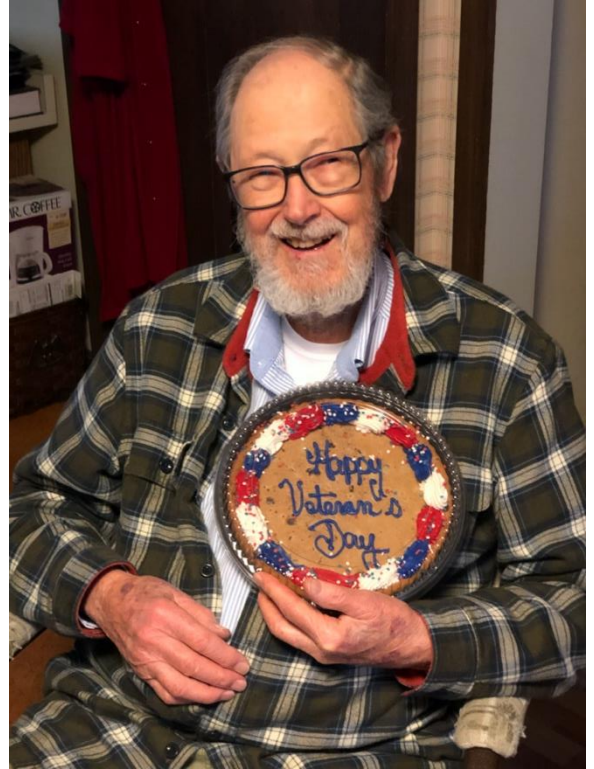
While Covid made it impossible to gather at the church, lunch was delivered to the following veterans: Jean Baracco, Roy Bruton, Ron Cadieux, Bob Cole, Beth Doty, Diane Hutchins, Maurice Hutchins, Terry Moulton, John Nelson, Gary Ridlon, David Smith, and Wayne Zorger.

On behalf of all of us at Church on the Cape, we give thanks to each and every veteran for their service to this country. It is because of our veterans that we live in this free and great nation. God bless each one of you.

Thanks also to Alisson's Restaurant for the donation of their delicious chowder; to the drivers who delivered the lunch: Sue Cayford, Beryl Samia, and Jane Smith; and to the Education Committee for overseeing this event. God willing, we will be hosting this lunch back in Bartlett Hall in 2021.

**Article by Carol Nason**

**Roy Bruton with his Veteran's Day cookie,  
delivered by Sandy!**



**Team Veteran's Day - Beryl Samia, Jane Smith, Carol Nason, and Sue Cayford**

## Lullaby for the Christ-child

First published in 1539 in Germany, the Christmas hymn “From Heaven Above” recounts the angels’ message to the shepherds and then the spiritual journey of the baptized Christian to Jesus’ manger-bed.

Welcome to earth, thou noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
Thou com’st to share my misery;  
What thanks shall I return to thee?

Ah, Lord, who hast created all,  
How weak art thou, how poor and small,  
That thou dost choose thine infant bed  
Where humble cattle lately fed!

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for thee.



Somehow, not only for Christmas,  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others,  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart’s possessing  
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

Newsletternewsletter

## MORE ON VETERAN’S DAY CELEBRATION



Jackson, Isla,  
Olivia and  
Henry

## OUTREACH UPDATE

The Church on the Cape Outreach Committee continues to be busy spreading the love of Christ through faith in action. Many of you have donated to the sock outreach for Grace Street Ministries and the homeless population in Portland. We are so very thankful for your generosity and compassion.

Church on the Cape has sent a donation to Community Outreach Services to be used for Thanksgiving baskets for those in our community who are in need. This year in particular, the need is greater than ever. We have partnered with CS3 to provide Christmas gifts for our “adopted family” so that this little family can know that they are loved.

Please continue to keep this family in your prayers. The Alternative Christmas Fair is up and running on the Church website’s giving portal. Look for the link that will bring you to the organizations we are supporting this year. Nonprofits have been especially hit hard this year and your donations will be most appreciated. The needs in our community are great, but our God is greater. Thank you all for your continued support of our community through your donations to Church on the Cape Outreach. Your love and care are meeting the needs of many.

By Robin Bibber



## Part 2 of Church History (Part 1 appeared in the Sept. 2020 Church Newsletter)

### Church Steeple Guide and Guardian

A church, of course, is more than a structure. Among its many services to the community, The Church on the Cape helps guide the hearts and souls of those at sea as well as on land. In the early days of our church, many members earned their living by fishing at sea, and some still do. The church has shown its welcome to them in many ways including hanging their personal lobster buoys in the church narthex.



In turn the fishing community has shown its appreciation as noted in the beautiful poem written by Caleb Prescott.

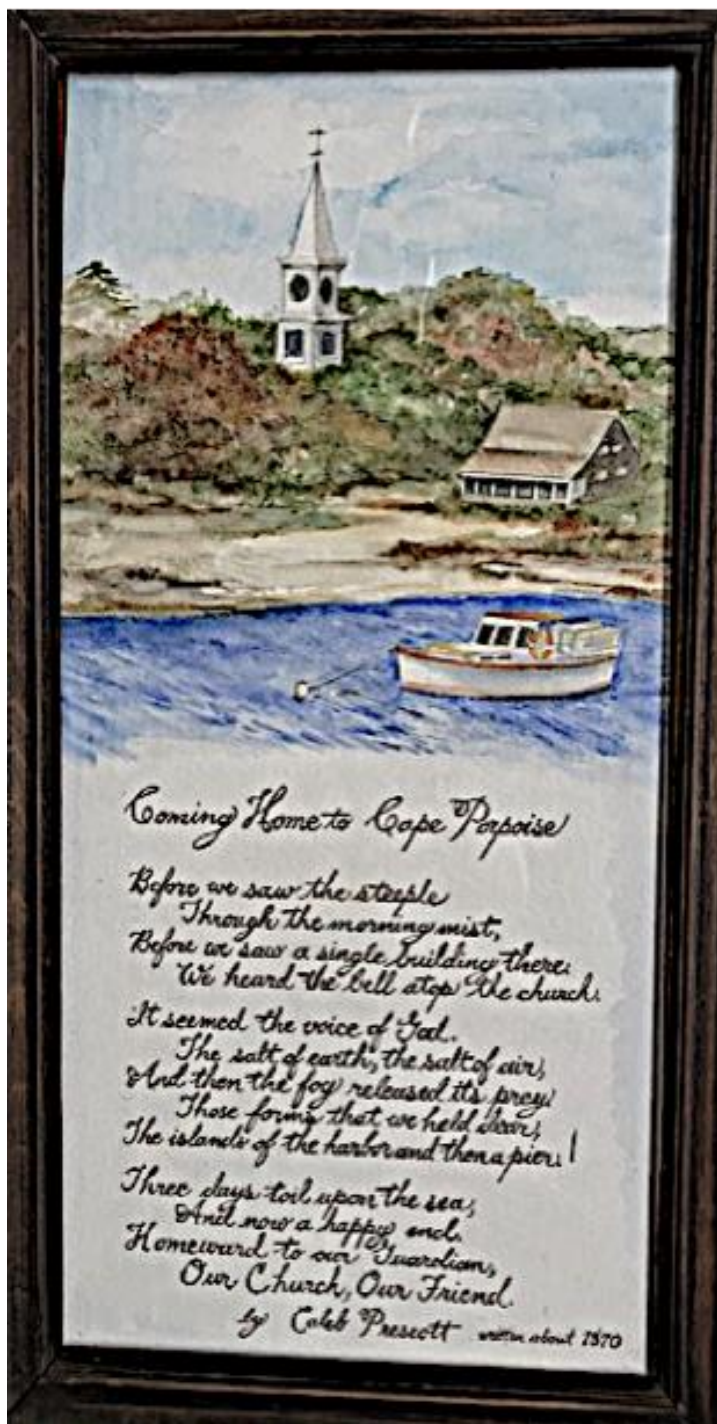
### Coming Home to Cape Porpoise

*Before we saw the steeple  
Through the morning mist,  
Before we saw a single building there,  
We heard the bell atop the church.*

*It seemed the voice of God.  
The salt of earth, the salt of air,  
And then the fog released its prey.  
Those forms that we held dear,  
The islands of the harbor and then a pier.*

*Three days toil upon the sea,  
And now a happy end.  
Homeward to our Guardian,  
Our Church, Our Friend.*

### Framed Drawing with Poem in Church Narthex



Continued on next page

## Church Drawing by Anne Thompson

Turning to the present, a popular rendition of The Church on the Cape today is the drawing below done in 1994 by the late Anne Thompson that appeared as the cover page of our church bulletin for many years.

The drawing shows the Treadwell Wing on the left (Bartlett Hall has not yet been constructed, and sits today directly behind the Treadwell Wing), the main body of the church with steeple in the middle, and the Parlor addition on the far right. The original of this drawing was recently donated to the church by Roy and Alice Bruton along with the church bulletin covering the consecration of the Treadwell Wing. Roy was also able to identify each of the those who posed for the drawing. They are from left to right: Natalie and Don Lloyd, Roy and Alice Bruton, Reverend Sherwood Treadwell and Carl Bartlett, Brendan Bartlett, Nicholas Bartlett, Teri and Alan Bartlett, and Courtney and Shelia Edmands.



We are most grateful to those before us for their faith in God, kindness, and generosity. Their spiritual gift to us has helped us come closer to God and is deeply appreciated. The Church on the Cape is a community treasure for all.

For your editor, The Church on the Cape, as it is for most of us I'm sure, is my spiritual home where I learn God's Word, Deepen my Faith in Him, and Cherish being among Saints who are Very Dear to me.

Sources: Adrien Baracco, Lillian Bartlett, Tom Bradbury, Alice and Roy Bruton, Ann Nelson, Nancy Treadwell, early church newsletters, and "Notes on the History of the Village of Cape Porpoise and its Houses," by Mrs. Clement Stone Perkins.



## DAPPER SHARES HIS CHRISTMAS POEM

(Interpreted and transcribed by the Rev. Ann Nelson; reprinted from Dec. 2017 church newsletter)

I stepped outside the other day and a bird was singing far away; and then I looked upon the ground and saw a squirrel twirling 'round. As I dug deeply in the snow I heard the chipmunks down below.

When again I looked up high I saw an eagle in the sky; and then I looked far down the road and saw a donkey with its load, and, yes, a cow was standing guard within her field.

All this I could hear and smell and see with my senses sharp as sharp can be. But I thought about these wondrous things and suddenly my heart had wings and I began to sing! My squealing sound was my own carol with my brisk gait, and tail dancing!

Something was happening in my world, something warm and very special: I saw a brightly colored being and sounds burst forth, none like I'd heard; A clear, sweet call to me, and all, and I responded, running.

I ran as quickly as I could and soon arrived within a wood; (I'm fast, you know!) and there within that quiet place I found a tiny child sleeping, a man and woman kneeling.

I stood back and waited, as I often do, until I looked again and saw the donkey and the cow, then I also saw other birds and animals I knew.

I jumped with joy and then crept closer until, at last, was near enough to give the baby's hand a little kiss. His parents looked at me and smiled; my heart was light! I waited with my friends, as much in awe as they.

Before too long we started home to den, and fold, to nest, and house, and field. We had beheld a sight we'd waited for from stories told us long ago, and we felt new!

Thank you very much for letting me share my poem with you. I hope everyone has a very blessed Christmas. With my loving Wuf and paw, hugs and kisses, I remain your canine friend, **DAPPER**



## HISTORICAL NOTES ABOUT ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

**ADVENT**-is a season of preparation prior to Christmas consisting of 4 weeks including 4 Sundays. The word **advent** is derived from the Latin **adventus** which means "coming." The season proclaims the "comings" of Christ: 1. whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again; 2. who comes continually in Word and Spirit; 3. and whose return in final victory we anticipate. The traditional color for Advent is purple which symbolizes penitence and royalty. (Blue, a color for Hope, may also be used.)

**CHRISTMAS**-is both a day and a season of praise and thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus Christ! It begins with **Christmas Eve or Day** and continues through January 6, the **Day of Epiphany**. The word **Christmas** comes from the season's first service in the Roman Catholic tradition, the **Christ Mass**. The title, **Christ**, is derived from the Greek **christos**, which means "the anointed." The traditional colors are white and gold with materials of a fine texture. The actual date of Jesus' birth is not known but Christmas has been celebrated since the 300's on **December 25**, a few days beyond the Winter Solstice when the shortest, and darkest day of the year occurs. By **December 25** the days have begun to be longer and the "light" returns, thus bringing the celebration of the birth of **Jesus Christ, the "Light of the World."** (**John 8:12**)

(Submitted by Ann Nelson, Church Historian; Reference: UM Book of Worship pp. 226, 238, 269.)

## **The 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](http://www.churchonthecape.org).

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