



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



Pastor's Letter

Dear family and friends of Church on the Cape,

Recently I read the book "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" written by Charlie Mackery. It's a beautiful picture book for adults and there are some interesting questions and answers.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
When is the bravest thing you've ever said?
What's your best discovery?

The questions seem to be simple and cliché and we all had these questions at some point in our lives. I wonder what your answers would be. The book answers as follows.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Kind.
When is the bravest thing you've ever said?
Help.
What's your best discovery? That I'm enough as I am.

I learned that these simple answers speak of some profound wisdom and truth. We live in a culture where people are expected to be driven by the desire to be successful, independent and self-sufficient, and to build lives for bigger, better, and more. And it is not easy to make kindness our ultimate goal. It takes courage to ask for help. It requires some significant mindfulness practice to find ourselves enough and valuable.

August 2021

The church is a place where people can shift the values of the culture. We can make our church a place where we make kindness a goal and practice it for one another. We can make our church a place where people are brave and willing to be vulnerable to ask for help. We can discover the ways in which our church is enough, and has enough then celebrate it and give thanks to God in every possible way.

God has blessed us with many gifts, talents, and resources we need to be a fruitful and effective congregation to please God and glorify God's name. In spite of the pandemic and all the challenges and obstacles it brought to us, the church has remained strong and our faith steadfast. Jesus' statement that he came that we may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10) has been affirmed among us.

As we are slowly increasing our attendance and steadily getting back to our Sunday morning routine, I am hopeful for the future of our church. And I am looking forward to the day when we all can see each other again in the sanctuary and give thanks to God as a community.

May God's strength and health be with you for the rest of the summer!

In peace,
Ho-Soon

AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS



August 1:

10th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 8:

11th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 15:

12th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 22:

13th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 29:

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or Psalm 72
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SPECIAL NEWS AND DATES

EVENSONG AT CHURCH ON THE CAPE

**Sunday, August 1st at 5:00 PM on
the Lawn**

This is a family friendly service. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. (Church chairs will be available.) Singing and guitar music will be led by Wendy and Ted Hagarty. Nonie Freeman will be directing a skit. (Hint: there will be mice!) There will also be scripture readings, a testimonial, and more! You won't want to miss this! Rain date: August 8th.

SUMMER FESTIVAL AND CONCERT

Saturday, August 21, 2021
Festival: 11 AM-2 PM, Concert:
2:30 PM

We are adding a pie table to our event so we are asking for donations of homemade pies. Please contact Sandy Day if you can contribute. Also Joan Lennon has volunteered to secure cookies for our lunch menu the day of the event. If Joan hasn't contacted you and you want to bake cookies please let her know. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to help but we are still looking for volunteers. Contact Sandy if you have any questions and want to help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to prepare the cold beverages and host the fellowship time after service in Bartlett Hall. A sign-up sheet is provided for your convenience on the table outside Bartlett Hall. Thank you!

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CHURCH ON THE CAPE

As I am spending the first night at the new parsonage, 1 Bristol CT in Kennebunk, I am moved by deep gratitude for everyone who worked hard to purchase and maintain the former parsonage at 121 Log Cabin Road in Kennebunkport, which has been a home for the pastors who faithfully served Church on the Cape for 20+ years. It has been not only a home of peace and comfort for the pastors and their families, but also a place of thinking of and praying for the beloved parishioners and the church, a place of designing worship and writing sermons, a place of envisioning and planning the future of the church, and place of encountering God that often visits us in the middle of the night with a still small voice. If you contributed in some way to make it a safe and comfortable home for the pastors over the years, please accept my appreciation on behalf of the pastors who left their footprints in the house. I give thanks to God for you.

Now the new parsonage will provide a home in a quiet neighborhood for the pastors of Church on the Cape in the years to come. I happened to be the first one, for which I am grateful. I am also well aware that this transition was made possible by many of you who have contributed financially over the years, and provided gifts and resources as well as time and labor in the process of this major event of the congregation's life. For those who provided leadership working on the main portion and those who supported by working out the details in this selling and purchasing process, I give thanks to God for you. I am especially grateful for the hard works of the Trustees. And for those who have prayed for this process, I give thanks to God for you as well. We couldn't have done this without all of your efforts combined together, and I am deeply grateful.

Once things get settled, there will be some opportunities to visit the new parsonage and offer your blessings. I look forward to having you come.

May God's blessings and peace be with you tonight and always!

In peace, Ho-Soon

WITH ABUNDANT GRATITUDE PASTOR HO-SOON FOR TWO YEARS OF BLESSED SERVICE TO US



Screen Shot thanks to Mike Kelly

Sandy Day presented Pastor Ho-Soon with a beautiful bouquet of flowers at the July 4th service - the two-year anniversary of her first sermon for us. "We would be remiss if we did not thank her for all of the her hard work she has done." "The future is very bright for our church."

MOVING DAY - TAKE TWO!

It was a rainy Friday afternoon (July 9th) and some of the able-bodied church family gathered to help with the move. The only thing missing was the truck and movers! Brian Nason was finally able to connect with the movers; they were stuck in traffic and unable to get to the parsonage that day. So back to Hampton Inn Ho-Soon and son Teddy went. Saturday morning, July 10th, brought sunshine and the movers!



Left to right: Teddy Lee, Ho-Soon, Shawn Lee, Cheryl Collazo, Aidan Connell, Brian Nason, and Ivan Collazo; photo by Carol Nason

Within a couple of hours everything was unloaded into the new parsonage. Ho—Soon and her two sons were left to unpack boxes and sort things out. In a few weeks she looks forward to welcoming people to her new home.

By Carol Nason

SONG SISTERS

If you haven't heard these three ladies singing, you have truly missed something special! Liz Phillips, Wendy Hagarty, and Susie Goodwin, AKA the Song Sisters. They are a blessing and gift to our church. Be sure to listen to "When They Call My Name" by Mosie Lister, sung on Sunday, July 11th. It is a rare treat! (Nancy Chamberlin looked so darn good next to them in the color coordinated outfits, it was too hard to pass up this picture!) By Carol Nason



Susie Goodwin, Nancy Chamberlin, Wendy Hagarty, and Liz Phillips

GETTING READY FOR FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Many thanks to Heidi Phillips and Amy Kading, and their beautiful children, for their time and help in getting Sunday School ready for fall. Heidi and Amy identified what materials should remain, what stuff should be donated, and the kids were on hand to give a thumbs up or down to the moms' decisions.

The plan is to create an infant and toddler room, free of small objects and excess stuff in the room that prior to Covid, had been the Sunday School room. A new space for older preschoolers and elementary age children will be set up in the room currently babysitting the ping pong table. Thanks to a generous donation from one of the church members, we will be able to purchase additional items that may be needed, to best prepare these two rooms.

By Carol Nason



Amy Kading, Heidi Phillips, and children Kinley, Isla, and Jackson

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, Creator of the universe, that I may see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; open my ears, that I may hear what the heavens are telling me about your glory, which transcends all material bounds and yet deigns to reside with human beings. May I ever marvel at your tender care for us, and give you thanks and praise forever. Amen.

—Prayer suggested by Psalms 8 & 19

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Jesus loves you, and so do I...

By Diane Hutchins, Finance Chair

As of June 30, 2021 our total year to date income was \$144,685, which represents 56% of our total 2021 budget of \$258,980. All areas of the budget have been on-target or outperforming our estimated projections, with the only exception being loose plate offerings, which is expected to increase with fewer restrictions for in-person worship services.

The best part of sharing this good news is the joy I feel and want to share with all of you.

Working together towards a common goal, we have made it up and over the proverbial fiscal hill of 2021. Now we can breathe deeply and look forward to the momentum that naturally occurs from summer through advent. It is a time of relief, mindfulness and thanksgiving.

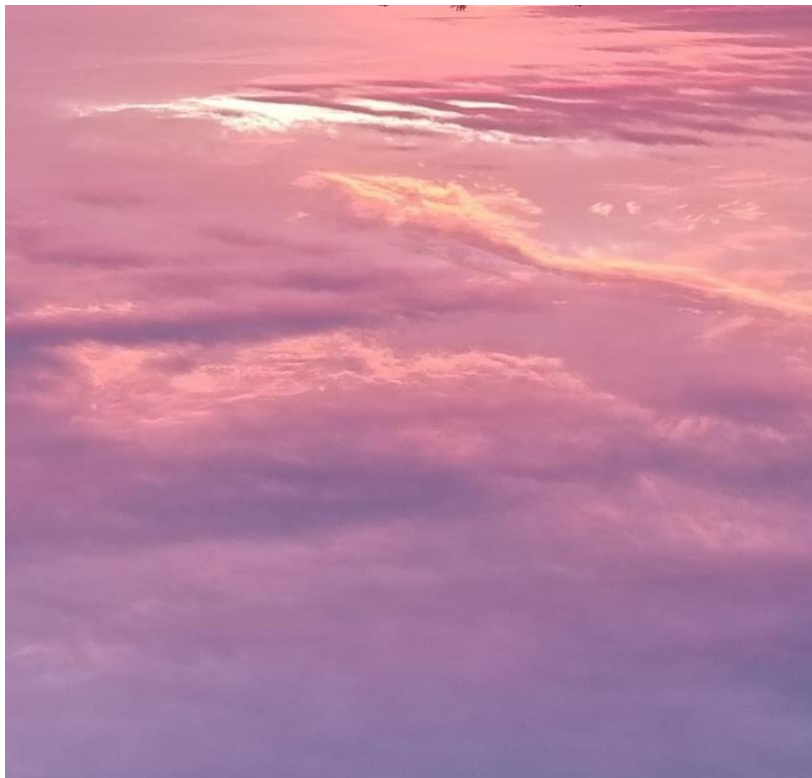
Jesus loves you, and so do I...

- I love the abundant generosity of our church family, be it financial, time spent volunteering or your prayers.
- I am thankful for the sacrifices I have witnessed by church leaders who voluntarily reduced their 2021 budget for the greater good of the church.
- I am proud of the efforts of the finance committee who have worked very hard and have exceeded my expectations.

With heartfelt gratitude, thank you.

***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever. Psalm 118:1***

**Sunrise,
Goose Rocks Beach
July 10, 2021**



WHY I BELIEVE IN GOD

By Charlie Benore

In an earlier article for your newsletter, I addressed my faith journey noting that in my younger years I was too focused on worldly ways regarding personal comfort and security for my family – and at the expense of what was most important, or God’s will for me. I believed in loving God and His Commandments, but not with my whole heart, soul, and strength – and my neighbor as myself. Over time with the help of the Holy Spirit, clergy, study, and church family, I have been strengthened in my faith, and now fully recognize that as Jesus stated: *“I am the way and the truth, and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through Me.”* John 14:6.

What follows as my faith journey continues is a deeper understanding of why I believe in God the Father, Son Jesus who died for my sins, and the Holy Spirit.

First Is the Prophecies in the Old Testament that Foretold the Coming of Jesus, and Eyewitness Confirmation in the New Testament that He Did.

a) The Bible of course is the most printed and read book of all time. In it are several Old Testament prophecies many years before the earthly life of Jesus that tell of His coming, and sacrificing His life for our sins so that those who believe in Him will have everlasting life.

It is important to avoid revisionist history in testing the prophecy outcomes, and we are blessed in this regard to have the Dead Sea Scrolls. There are reportedly 800 plus manuscripts in the Dead Sea Scrolls’ Qumran discovery according to experts with about 220 from the Hebrew Bible. Except for Esther, each of the books are present, and although almost all are in a fragmented condition with missing pieces, they lend credence to the reliability of our present-day Bible. These books are said to date between 150 BCE to 70 CE. One of the found books, Isaiah, however, is said to be virtually complete.

Isaiah 53 is especially important to me, because it foretells the suffering Jesus incurred in fulfilling God’s plan for our salvation many years before Jesus resided on earth. Selections from the New King James version follow:

- *He was “wounded for our transgressions....” “The “Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all....”*
- *He was utterly silent in His suffering and “cut off from the land of the living....”*
- *“ They made his grave with the wicked - But with the rich at his death because He had done no violence....”*
- *He “shall see of the labor of his soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge, My righteous Servant shall justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities.”*
- *And: “Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*

b) According to several sources, there are over 100 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus that are noted in the Old Testament. The Old Testament prophecies range in time from 500 to 1200 years before Jesus’ birth, and some are very specific such as *“a Child is born.”* (Isaiah 9:6); *“...the deaf shall hear” ... “the blind shall see.”* Isaiah 29:18; *“Behold, your king is coming to you, he is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey....”* Zechariah 9:9; Soldiers *“divide my garment...and for My clothing they cast lots.”* Psalm 22:18; *“...his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day....”* Deuteronomy 21:23.

The Old Testament references were fulfilled reference for reference in the New Testament. The New Testament like the Old Testament also has an early archeologic foundation testifying to its authenticity. Reportedly, the first complete copy of a single book in the New Testament goes back to around 200, and the earliest complete New Testament copy, the Codex Sinaiticus, dates to the 4th century.

The New Testament, covers the life of Jesus on earth, along with his teachings, miracles, and resurrection. It clearly describes the life of Jesus with us thanks to the apostles and others who served Him, experienced His miracles, and saw Jesus after His resurrection.

c) Moreover, there are records of Jesus' time on earth from several historians. Tacitus (AD 55-120), a leading historian of his time reportedly writes; "Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus...."

Another is Josephus' record published in his "Jewish Antiquities" in the year 93. "About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to the cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, have still to this day not disappeared."

While Josephus' record is controversial to some in part because it sounds too Christian, it is nonetheless, at its core, supportive of the earthly existence of Jesus.

Second, Is Intelligent Design for Our Universe and Us.

Intelligent Design professes that certain features of the universe and living beings are so complex that they cannot be explained except with an intelligent cause. I know no one who, or what, could have created the planets, where we on earth have the right temperatures, water, gravity, ozone protection, proper orbit, and the like (intelligent design or fine tuning) that provided for human life. Who or what force has that creative power?

Noted theoretical physicist, Stephen Hawking in "The Grand Design" offers an answer. He believes that the big bang, or universe creation, was inevitable because of laws such as gravity, and occurred spontaneously out of nothing.

His theory of creation has been criticized for not having a first order event, or that for the Big Bang to occur it was necessary that there first be a ball of matter to create the stars and galaxies present today instead of nothing, and the laws of nature to control its growth and keep it intact and functioning. How out of nothing could there be a spontaneous eruption creating the universe? Or could there be a force beyond our scientific comprehension that did so?

The vastness of space, the complexity of the solar system, and that at least one of the planets supports life point to an Intelligent designer. The intelligent designer in my view is God.

On another scientific front, evolutionary theory according to Darwin's "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection," suggests that humans were the result of biological evolution in contrast to the beginning of mankind as Adam and Eve. Study of the first molecule's evolutionary path ultimately led to different animal types and then to the formation of human beings.

There are objections to this position such as Intelligent Design where it is held that the biological diversity of life and complexity of the human anatomy could only be accomplished by a supernatural force. Again there needs to be a first order event, or a beginning organism from somewhere, in order for evolution to occur.

There is plentiful evidence of evolutionary forms drawn from the natural world. Fossils supporting evolution for humans, however, lack the detail that would be convincing to me. For example, can the creative power of the human brain be explained by pure chance over time?

I respect science for natural causes where there are answers beyond the "nothing" in creation of the universe, and reliance on human fossils to explain how we with a brain unlike any others came to exist by chance over time.

Again, Intelligent Design by God is a more compelling answer to me. Psalm 19:1 proclaims, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

Third, Is the Conscience, or Moral Guide, that Each of Us Has.

"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." James 1:14. Fortunately, we have a moral compass to guide us.

As far back as I can remember my Mom and others would guide me to what was right and wrong in the normal course of being a youth, but as I grew older, it became apparent that my sense of what was right and wrong was much broader and deeper. The question was where did this come from?

In my studies, I especially liked the Gospel of John, and after several readings, it dawned on me that my conscience extender was the Holy Spirit. In John 14:7: *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...."*

Fortunately for me, my parents sent me to a Catholic grade school, and there I learned God's Commandments and the importance of practicing them. And when doing wrong, I would sometimes feel remorseful and understood that I had not pleased God. Jesus, I believe, planted into my mind a helper – the Holy Spirit – that He left with us right after His ascension so we would know right from wrong. Now being older and hopefully wiser, I pray for continued guidance from God - our Father, Son Jesus, and Holy Spirit - each day for righteousness so that I can hopefully be pleasing to them.

Fourth, Is the Earthly Rewards of Peace and Joy.

Finally, because I sincerely believe, love, and have faith in God, I have forgiveness of my past

sins, and in turn, peace in my mind and joy in my heart.

On faith, Hebrews 11:6 states: *"Without faith it is impossible to please Him for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* Hebrews 11:6.

For me, my faith built up over time beginning in grade school to much later in my life. In a weak way, I believed in God in these years based more on what I had been taught versus what I understood and sincerely felt and believed.

Then one day as I was walking on my way for church meditation, it dawned on me why I was doing so. It came to me rapidly; I was doing so because I was able to say with sincerity and truthfulness from my whole mind, heart and soul that it was because deep-down I believed in God. I could feel a smile coming to my face along with a wonderful feeling of being close to God and acceptable to Him. It was a glorious experience for me.

John Wesley notes: "...he is conscious of a peace which passeth all understanding. He feels the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost which is given unto him; and all his spiritual senses are then exercised to discern spiritual good and evil."

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

As my faith has grown, so has my trust. "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation." Isaiah 23:3.

Closing, there is comfort in Matthew 11: 28-30. ***"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."***

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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