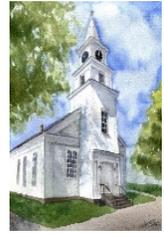




The Church on the Cape Newsletter



June 2022

Pastor's Letter

Dear friends,

One of the glories of life is that it is filled with new beginnings, and a new beginning will soon be taking place in our church family, and I am sure that it will be a great experience.

**This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.**

**This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.**

Brian Wren UMH 383

In a few weeks, I shall be leaving the pulpit and returning to the pew, and beginning July 1st, you will have a new Pastor, The Revd. Sammie Maxwell. It has been a pleasure leading you in

worship these past Sundays and I look forward to being one of Pastor Sammie's flock.

We thank God for new beginnings. The Prodigal Son who returned home. Peter who denied his Lord and yet found forgiveness and acceptance. Saul of Tarsus, who Christ found on his way to arrest Christians and so began a life of evangelism. All and many others, experienced a new and glorious beginning. It is my prayer that this new beginning will be one in which all of us will experience in various ways the richness of Christ's Grace.

May the God of new beginnings bless us all with abundant grace, now and forevermore.

God bless us all,

Desmond Parker

JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

June 5 - Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-32, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

June 12 - Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalms 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

June 19 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost - Father's Day

1 Kings 19:1-15a

Psalms 42

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

June 26 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

SPECIAL DATES

- Pentecost, *June 5, 2022*
- Trinity Sunday, *June 12, 2022*
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2022*
- Father's Day, *June 19, 2022*
- First day of summer, *June 21, 2022*

IN-PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL

In-person Sunday School is now offered with two different classrooms. We are looking for volunteers to work with our children. Please contact Carol if interested, and be prepared for her to contact you! Questions? Contact Carol Nason, Education Committee Chairperson: 207-502-7299 or at cgnason3@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

If you have a family member or loved one graduating from middle school, high school, college, higher education, or a program of any sort, please email or call the office with the name of the graduate, their relationship to you, and where they are graduating from, no later than June 6th. All names will be held up in prayer and recognized at Children's Celebration on Sunday, June 12th.

FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to set up for coffee hour after service. Please sign up on the sheet outside Bartlett Hall. Thank you!

OFFICE HOURS

Sharon Miesel has agreed to be the Interim Administrative Assistant until June 30, or until someone has been hired to fill the position permanently.

Next week the Interim Administrative Assistant's office hours will be Wednesday 1-4 pm, and 9-12 am, on Thursday and Friday. For the following two weeks, the office hours will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12 am.

Welcome Back Gelardi Family

How wonderful it is to welcome back the lovely Gelardi family. Adriana (now 3 ½) used to sit on her mother's lap in church, pre-Covid. Since then, Adriana has become a big sister to Anthony, who turned one recently. Both children enjoyed playing in the renovated and beautiful nursery. Kendra was able to sit and enjoy the worship service without the distractions of young children. In Kendra's words. " It is a relief to me to know my children are in good hands, and I have a beautiful space to learn about God." We are delighted to see them again.



Article and photos by Carol Nason

GOING THE SECOND MILE

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he teaches, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile" (Matthew 5:41, NRSV). Back then, Jews were subject to Roman rule and often compulsory service. Commoners could be forced to fetch water, carry baggage and perform other menial tasks. So Jesus suggests that rather than complying with gritted teeth and muttered curses, people offer to carry the pack a second mile as well.

These days, the second (or extra) mile denotes going beyond what's expected or required, whether in effort or kindness. In *Going the Second Mile*, Mel Blackaby describes the concept as "the difference between living as a good person and enjoying life as a child of God." He explains, "When you 'do your best' for someone, you go the first mile. When God does his best through you, you experience the second mile. This can happen only when you let Christ in you take over and empower you to accomplish what is impossible by your natural abilities. While others see you on the first mile, they see Christ on the second."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Women's Pot Luck Gathering Was Delightful!

A large group of women gathered on Friday night, May 20th, to visit and reconnect. It's been a long two years during the pandemic, and everyone realized how much they have longed for and have missed these gatherings. Bartlett Hall was buzzing with love, energy, stories, and delicious food. Fond and very funny memories were shared, laughter was heard, and all agreed that these events need to be ongoing. Many thanks to Annie Hidell and Paula Farnell for organizing this, and to Annie for preparing lovely flower arrangements for each woman to take home. Everyone left with a feeling of joy in their hearts.



Article and photo by Carol Nason

Make Someone Smile

May 21st was a gorgeous afternoon. The children gathered on the deck of the church to make flower arrangements with Donna Rooney. Each child picked out a little sand bucket or two, and Donna took them through the steps to make lovely arrangements. The children were discussing who they would give the flowers to, although it was clear they were going to have a little trouble parting with these beautiful flowers when they were all finished. They also made extras for the altar on Sunday. Many thanks to Donna for gathering all the supplies needed and sharing her talents and time with the children. It was a wonderful time to be together.



Article and photos by Carol Nason



Guidance from John Wesley's Sermons:

"Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity"

Guidance from John Wesley's Sermons has become part of your monthly newsletter and continues. However, this sermon on the Inefficacy of Christianity concerns me about how hard-hitting it is. Perhaps it hits so hard because of Wesley's writing style, which is clear, straightforward, and powerful. Or maybe it is because it is not always easy to honor the sanctity of the Bible

While reading this article, it is good to note that life was especially tough at the time of Wesley's ministry in Great Britain and Ireland in the seventeen-hundreds. Many years later, countless societies have done much to help the poor, although that does not mean that the job is done, especially in developing countries. Giving all you can starts with your church, as Wesley notes, and helping others find and grow in their faith. Further, there are still too many reports of children going to bed hungry and families without adequate housing, clothing, medical care, and opportunities for a good education. His message continues to be worthy of faithfulness.

Excerpts from Sermon 116 on the Inefficacy of Christianity

"To say with him, in all circumstances of life, 'Not as I will, but as thou wilt? I come not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me.' Why are not we 'crucified to the world, and the world, crucified to us;' – dead to the 'desire of the flesh,

the desire of the eye, and the pride of life?' Why do not all of us live 'the life that is hid with Christ in God?' O why do not we, that have all possible helps, 'walk as Christ also walked?' Hath he not left us an example that we might tread in his steps?

"But do we regard either his example or precept? To instance, only in one point: Who regards those solemn words, 'Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth?'

"Of the three rules which are laid down on this head, in the sermon on 'The Mammon of Unrighteousness,' you may find many that observe the First rule, namely, 'Gain all you can.' You may find a few that observe the Second, 'Save all you can.' But how many have you found that observe the Third rule, 'Give all you can?' And yet nothing can be more plain than that all who observe the two first rules without the third will be twofold more the children of hell than ever they were before.

"O that God would enable me once more, before I go hence and am no more seen, to lift up my voice like a trumpet to those who gain and save all they can but do not give all they can! Ye are the men, some of the chief men, who continually grieve the Holy Spirit of God, and in a great measure, stop his gracious influence from descending on our assemblies.

"Many of your brethren, beloved of God, have not food to eat; they have not raiment to put on; they have not a place where to lay their head. And why are they thus distressed?"

"Because you impiously, unjustly, and cruelly detain from them what your Master and theirs lodges in your hands on purpose to supply their wants! See that poor member of Christ, pinched

with hunger, shivering with cold, half-naked! Meantime you have plenty of this world's goods – of meat, drink, and apparel.

"In the name of God, what are you doing? Do you neither fear God nor regard man? Why do you not deal your bread to the hungry and cover the naked with a garment? Have you laid out in your own costly apparel what would have answered both these intentions? Did God command you so to do? Does he commend you for so doing? Did he entrust you with his (not your) goods for this end? And does he now say, 'Servant of God, well done?' You well know he does not.

"This idle expense has no approbation, either from God, or your own conscience. ... Can any steward afford to be an arrant knave? To waste his Lord's goods? Can any servant afford to lay out his Master's money, any otherwise than his Master appoints him?"

"A gentleman (a Methodist) told me some years since, 'I shall leave forty thousand pounds among my children.' Now, suppose he had left them but twenty thousand and given the other twenty thousand to God and the poor, would God have said to him, 'Thou fool?' And this would have set all the society far above want.

"But I will not talk of giving to God, or leaving half your fortune. You might think this to be too high a price for heaven. I will come to lower terms. Are there not a few among you that could give a hundred pounds, perhaps some that could give a thousand, and yet leave your children as much as would help them to work out their own salvation?"

"Now suppose this could be done; are we clear before God while it is not done? Is not the neglect of it one cause why so many are still sick and weak among you both in soul and in the body? That they still grieve the Holy Spirit by preferring the fashions of the world to the commands of God."

"I am distressed. I know not what to do. I see what I might have done once. I might have said peremptorily and expressly, 'Here I am, I and my Bible. I will not, I dare not, vary from this book, either in great things or small. I have no power to dispense with one jot or tittle what is contained therein. I am determined to be a Bible Christian, not almost, but altogether. Who will meet me on this ground? Join me on this, or not at all.'

"Why has Christianity done so little good, even among us? Among the Methodists - among them that hear and receive the whole Christian doctrine, and that have Christian discipline added thereto, in the most essential parts of it? Plainly, because we have forgotten, or at least not duly attended to, those solemn words of our Lord, *'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.'*

"I call God to record upon my soul that I advise no more than I practice. I do, blessed be God, gain, and save, and give all I can."

As an aside, it is reported that Wesley died as a poor man despite a profitable publishing business from his writings.

Looking Ahead

John Wesley has more to say on the perils of riches and not giving all one can. These are scheduled for subsequent newsletters.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

1. How does Wesley define rich?
2. In giving all you can, what are your financial obligations for your family after your death? Learn what Wesley would do if he had a fortune and children.
3. What are the dangers of being rich?

FOLLOWING NEWSLETTER MORE FROM WESLEY

1. Is money necessarily the root of all evil?
2. Can a rich man tread the eye of a needle?
3. What are the lessons of the Rich Man and Lazarus?

Your Editor

PENTECOST

On Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard the rushing wind, and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.

Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

GOING THE SECOND MILE

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he teaches, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile" (Matthew 5:41, NRSV). Back then, Jews were subject to Roman rule and often compulsory service. Commoners could be forced to fetch water, carry baggage, and perform other menial tasks. So Jesus suggests that rather than complying with gritted teeth and muttered curses, people offer to carry the pack a second mile as well.

These days, the second (or extra) mile denotes going beyond what's expected or required, whether in effort or kindness. In *Going the Second Mile*, Mel Blackaby describes the concept as "the difference between living as a good person and enjoying life as a child of God." He explains, "When you do your best for someone, you go the first mile. When God does his best through you, you experience the second mile. This can happen only when you let Christ in you take over and empower you to accomplish what is impossible by your natural abilities. While others see you on the first mile, they see Christ on the second."



Article and art source: Newsletternewsletter

CLYNK

For those of you who may not be familiar with it **CLYNK**, it is a program designed to help people turn their returnable bottles and cans into cash, either for themselves or for one of their favorite partner organizations.

In January 2019, The Church on the Cape (COTC) became a partner organization, giving us the ability to raise extra money throughout the year. All proceeds from the program are designated for outreach. Examples of outreach benefactors include the Bon Appetit Meal Program, Caring Unlimited, Community Outreach Services, Habitat for Humanity, Kennebunkport Public Health Emergency Fuel Assistance, and York County Shelter Programs.

As of April 25, 2022, we have raised over \$1,258 through the "CLYNK To Give" redemption program. To all of you who have participated, thank you so much!

Are you new to **CLYNK**? Would you like to participate in fundraising efforts that make a difference in our community? We've made it easy and convenient to pick up **CLYNK** bags 24 hours a day outside the church on the covered porch by the mailbox. Please feel free to take a bag, fill it with returnable bottles and cans, then drop it off at any Hannaford/CLYNK location.

How else can you help?

Share your love of recycling by taking an extra bag!

Unfortunately, many visitors to Maine do not know about the Clynk program. They may toss their returnable cans and bottles into the trash because it is not convenient to recycle during their vacation. This is very unfortunate, but you can help! Feel free to share a bag with family or friends visiting the area.



One of many Hannaford Outdoor **CLYNK** Drop-Off Center's

Questions? Feel free to contact Diane Hutchins by phone or text at (207) 808-3136, or via email at dianeanderik@yahoo.com

Article by Diane Hutchins

Summertime Splendor

One theme in Psalms is how nature reveals God's glory. That's especially evident during summer. "There is a signature of wisdom and power impressed on the works of God, which evidently distinguishes them from the feeble imitations of men," writes John Newton. "Not only the splendor of the sun, but the glimmering light of the glowworm, proclaims his glory."

That glory shines even brighter when we spend time in God's Word. Thomas Merton writes, "By reading the scriptures, I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God, and I feel fire and music under my feet."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. 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 risks, 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.

The Church on the Cape
3 Langsford Road
P.O. Box 2740
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Church Phone: 207-967-5787
Email address: office@churchonthecape.org
Website: www.churchonthecape.org
Reverend Desmond Parker, Interim Pastor
Email Address
desmondparker@aol.com
Phone
207 835 9030