



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



October 2022



FALL event

HOMECOMING/STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2022

Homecoming: the word itself conjures up a cornucopia of memories. Add a little imagination and you're there. Don't need to travel out of state or catch an airplane. Just simply go to Church on the Cape on Sunday, October 23 and you're there.

Maybe it is sitting in a little chair upstairs or wiping away a tear at a funeral or smiling at a wedding. Come to see old friends and maybe make some new ones. Stay for soup and/or gumbo, treats from Chefs Pregeant and Hidell.

Oh, if any of you can relate to any of the above, bring your pledge card so the next generation can have a chance at making these memories.

--The Evangelism Committee



Pastor Sammie's Thoughts

PHILEMON PRAYER

God our Creator, Jesus our Messiah,
Spirit our Advocate,

Inspire us to write to someone —
a dear friend, a co-worker —
and remind them that we are
attentive to you on their behalf.

Inspire us to recognize someone for
what we cherish most in them —
the aspects of their character that
most resemble you.

Inspire us to express our gratitude
for the impact someone has had
upon our life and the difference they
have made for others.

Inspire us to challenge one another,
calling upon our best and highest
selves for your sake.

Inspire us to send a gift that is close
to our heart and thoughtful of
someone's need, setting us all free
in the giving.

Inspire us to forgive —
to stand in front of another like a
shield
when there is wrong that needs
mending.

Inspire us to place our confidence in
you, and your people, and
everything that is of you.

Amen.

By Rev. Jill Colley Robinson, Green
Mountain District Superintendent

Paul's Letter to Philemon

Paul's letter to Philemon, consisting of only one chapter, is the shortest of all his letters. Philemon was a Christian, apparently converted by Paul, and presumably a leader of a congregation that met in his house. He had a slave named Onesimus, who was now with Paul serving him during his imprisonment. Most interpreters have assumed that Onesimus escaped, but it is possible that Philemon sent him to Paul. In any case, Paul was deeply attached to Onesimus, who had become a Christian, but now he sends him back to Philemon with the letter, addressed not only to Philemon but also the church.

Paul says he has the authority to command what he is about to ask but he prefers to appeal, on the basis of love, for Philemon to do his "duty" to Onesimus. Although he would like for Onesimus to stay with him during his imprisonment, he is sending him back with the hope that Philemon will receive him back not as a slave, but as a brother.

At that point he offers to pay any debt that Onesimus might owe Philemon. Then he reminds Philemon of his own debt to Paul, presumably his conversion, and states his confidence that Philemon "will do even more than" he asks. Paul clearly wants Philemon to see it as his Christian duty to receive Onesimus back and treat him as a brother in Christ, but there are additional implications. What is the "even more" that Paul mentions? Should Philemon send Onesimus back to Paul? And what would it mean for Philemon to receive Onesimus as a brother? In Christ, all persons have equal status as siblings in one family. Can Philemon treat Onesimus as a brother even though he remains his slave?

-Rev. Sammie

Finance Update

As the committee charged with overseeing the financial health of our church, and as the new chair of this committee, I want to thank you for your faithful support during this year of transition. As of September 11, 2022, \$180,108.83 of our estimated 2022 budget has been given; however, we have a long way to go financially before the year's end. In the days ahead, we will be figuring out what we absolutely must have between now and the end of the year, and of course, with items we can do without. Many necessities like salaries, electricity, local missions, mission shares, (world and New England) cannot be reduced. At this point we ask that you give as generously as you can.

If you would like to have an up-date of your financial gifts to the church through the month of August 2022, or if you would like to receive a pledge card, and envelopes for 2022, please contact either David Smith, Financial Secretary, or Jim Lennon, Assistant Financial Secretary. Again, thank you for your contributions. Ours is a blessed congregation.

Carol Olson, Finance Committee Chair

Ministry of Caring - an Outreach of Nurture

Our mission is to be aware of the needs of the parish and the wider community; to serve those who are homebound, hospitalized, and in nursing homes in a manner that shares the love of Christ, through acceptance and support to meet the individual in the moment.

This group was originally begun by Debbi Lord and Rev. Bill Gardei. Meetings are held once a month on 2nd Tues of the month,

at 9:00am in Bartlett Hall. Updates on needs as shared by our Pastor are reviewed. It is a spirit driven group designed to nurture and to maintain contact with parishioners in times of need. In the past two years, the pandemic has put many constraints on our "in person" caring and sharing, but we maintain contact by phone, sending cards, and notes of encouragement.

Additionally, depending on the situation, members may take meals, either from the church freezer or home cooked. This is typically organized to avoid duplication and to avoid overwhelming the person in need or those who are pitching in to help. Instances of need are many and include post-surgery, bereavement, and/or illness. Altar arrangements are also broken down each Sunday, then distributed to homebound parishioners.

Fun on The Lawn- Fun for Some



Though our crowd was small our fun was large! A special thank you to Will's Print Shop for many printings of our materials and to the Cargo Shop for the lawn items sold and extending their hours. We are Happy to share that \$666 was the income for the day, for the shop. Also, thank you to Rev. Sharon Miesel and Bruce Donath, pictured above, for all their time and energy.

Two articles above: Pastor Sammie,
photo Mike Kelly

CTOBER LECTIONARY READINGS



October 2

- Psalm 137 (UMH 852)
- 2 Timothy 1:1-14
- Luke 17:5-10

October 9

- Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
- 2 Timothy 2:8-15
- Psalm 66:1-12 (UMH 790)
- Luke 17:11-19

October 16

- Jeremiah 31:27-34
- Psalm 119:97-104, or Psalm 19 (UMH 750)
- 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- Luke 18:1-8

October 23

- Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 (UMH 789)
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
- Luke 18:9-14

October 30

- Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
- Psalm 119:137-144
- 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
- Luke 19:1-10

CHURCH NEWS ITEMS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 1:30 PM in Bartlett Hall.

SENIOR MOMENTS REHEARSAL

Senior Moments meets on Wednesdays at 3:45 in Bartlett Hall.

COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM NEEDS

VOLUNTEERS (Formerly Bon Appetit)

To volunteer or for more information, contact Kathy Johnson at kjohnjazz@yahoo.com

SENIOR MOMENTS CHOIR RETURNS

SENIOR MOMENTS WANTS YOU!!!

We are a fun chorus for Seniors who love to laugh and who love to sing! Come join us on Wednesday afternoons, from 3:45 -5 p.m. in Bartlett Hall at the Church on the Cape. Make new friends and warm your heart during the upcoming winter season. Need info? Have questions? Contact Wendy Hagarty via email: whagarty27@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Closed Monday– Open 9-2 Tues, Wed, Thurs.
Thursday Evening, by appointment
with the Pastor
Open Fri 9-12

SPECIAL DATES

- World Communion Sunday, *October 2, 2022*
- Homecoming/Stewardship Sunday, *October 23, 2022*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 30, 2022*



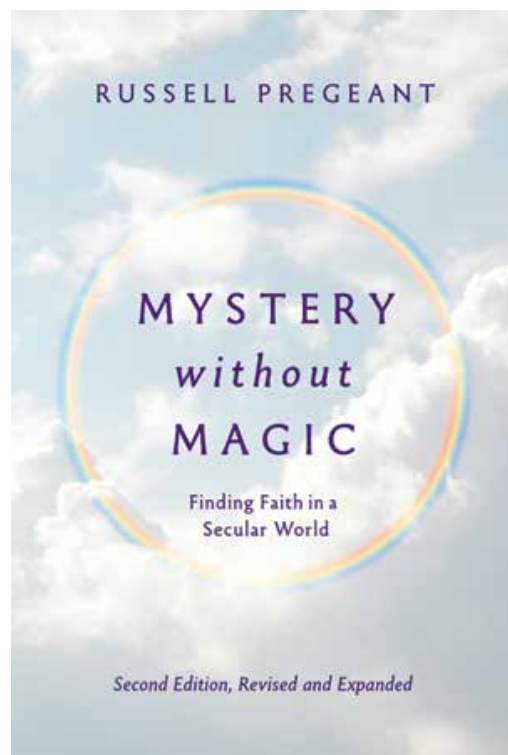
Process Century Press

“I know no better guide or help in finding one’s way to spiritual and intellectual health than this book offers.” ~ **John B. Cobb, Jr.**

Do we really need to choose between a religion that asks us to believe incredible things and a secularity that asks us to relativize value? Pregeant suggests that rethinking the traditional idea of God can lead us to a vision of the divine that makes sense and that unifies the various strands of our lives, bringing together our external knowledge of the secular world with our internal intuitions of meaning and value. With helpful diagrams to illustrate his ideas and putting-it-all-together study questions for each chapter, this book is perfect for church or spirituality study groups, as well as independent seekers.

“Pregeant uses process philosophy to embrace a this-worldly grounding of value and meaning, while rejecting a magical other-worldly religion. He opens the doors of the imagination to the possibilities of mystery and meaning deep within religious symbols.” ~ **Helene T. Russell, Associate Professor of Theology Christian Theological Seminary**

“Instead of calling readers to embrace atheistic materialism or a supernaturally intervening God, Pregeant offers an attractive alternative: a process-panentheistic-relational God. This vision provides an ultimate ground for the values we need to live well in a troubled but beautiful world.” ~ **Thomas Jay Oord, author of *God Can’t*.**



Purchase from [AMAZON](#)
or your local
Independent Bookseller

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Russell Pregeant is Professor of Religion and Philosophy and Chaplain, Emeritus, at Curry College in Milton, MA and was frequently Visiting Professor in New Testament at Andover Newton Theological School. He is a long-time member of the Center for Process Studies,

Process and Faith, and the Society of Biblical Literature. Among his previous publications are *Christology Beyond Dogma: Matthew’s Christ in Process Hermeneutic*, *Reading the Bible for All the Wrong Reasons*, and *For the Healing of the Nation: A Biblical Vision*.



WHY I BELIEVE IN GOD

by Charlie
Benore

During an earlier bout of Covid, our newsletter readership fell, and some of our readers may have missed this article detailing reasons for believing in God. Whether or not God exists is, to me, the most important question one can think about. I reread it for healing whenever I have any faith concerns.

Including it again with minor edits and additions, I sincerely hope, will be helpful to you and especially for those who missed it earlier. An outline of the article is in the adjacent column.

FOUR REASONS FOR WHY I BELIEVE IN GOD

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 is the most printed and read book of all time. Several Old Testament prophecies many years before the earthly life of Jesus tell of His coming and sacrificing His life for our sins so that those who believe in Him will have everlasting life.

Continued at the bottom of the adjacent column.

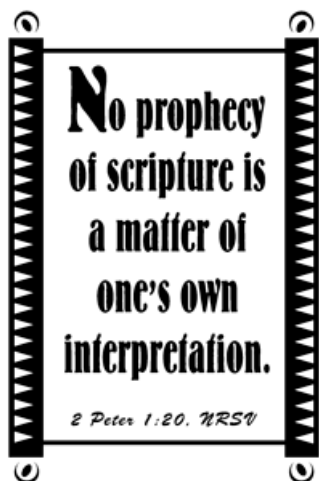
REASONS FOR WHY I BELIEVE IN GOD

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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. According to experts, there are reportedly 800 plus manuscripts in the Dead Sea

Scrolls' Qumran discovery, with about 220 from the Hebrew Bible. Except for Esther, each of the books are present, although most are in a fragmented condition with missing pieces.

The ability to trace Old Testament Scripture back to original events lends strong credence to the reliability of our present-day Bible. These books are said to date between 150 BCE to 70 C.E. One of the found books, Isaiah, is said to be virtually complete.



Among these books, Isaiah 53 is especially important to me because it foretells the suffering and death Jesus incurred in fulfilling God's plan for our salvation many years before Jesus resided on earth. Selections from the Common English Bible follow:

- *"He bore the punishment that made us whole; by his wounds, we are healed."*
- *"Like sheep, we had all wandered away, each going its own way, but the Lord let fall on him all our crimes."*
- *"The Lord's plans will come to fruition through him."*
- *"...my servant will make many righteous and will bear their guilt."*
- *"Therefore, I will give him a share with the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong in return for exposing his life to death...."*

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 prophecies were fulfilled reference for reference in the New Testament. These prophecies, inspired by the Word of God, were proven and affirm God's Word in Scripture.

b) The New Testament clearly describes the life of Jesus with us, thanks to those who authored it, including several who served as eyewitnesses.

Like the Old Testament, the New Testament also has an early archeological 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.

There are those who question that the New Testament authors were eyewitnesses of Jesus' ministry. Nonetheless, there is direct testimony supporting eyewitness authorship of it. For example, the apostle Peter writes: *"We are witnesses of everything he did in Judea and Jerusalem,"* Acts 10:39. Further, *We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to*

**"This Jesus
God raised up,
and of that all
of us are
witnesses."
Acts 2:32, NRSV**

the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts: 10: 41-43

Also, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, written by the apostle Paul, notes: *...Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures. He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve, and then he appeared to the more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once – most of them are still alive to this day, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me....*

c) Moreover, there are records of Jesus' time on earth from two historians and artifacts confirming the events, people, and places depicted in Scripture.

Tacitus (A.D. 55-120), a leading historian of his time, writes, "Christus (Greek for Christ), 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 Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a 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, has still to this day not disappeared."

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

Josephus also wrote of James: "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ."

From another historical perspective, several important artifacts support people, places, and events in Scripture. Several of the most important include: The Dead Sea Scrolls, already mentioned, which is described as the most remarkable discovery, with minimal differences between the Scrolls and Old Testament Hebrew texts. These differences, according to experts, do not alter the meaning of God's Word in the Bible.

And there are two scrolls named the Ketef Hinnom Scrolls with citations of biblical texts in Hebrew that are reportedly even earlier than the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Tel Dan Inscription reportedly refers to the House of David, Israel's king and ruler. Also among the many findings is The Pilate Stone, which mentions Pontius Pilate, the Prefect of Judea.

SECOND IS INTELLIGENT DESIGN

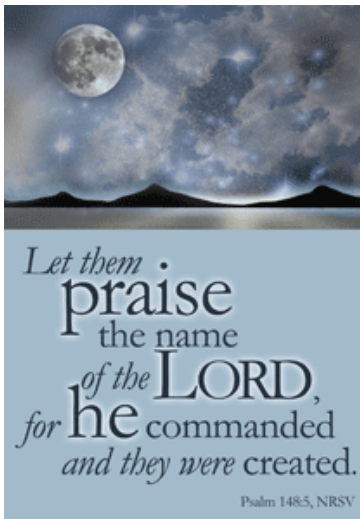
Intelligent Design professes that the universe and humans are so complex that they cannot be explained except with an intelligent cause. I know no one or what, for example, could have created the planets where we on earth have

adequate temperatures, water, gravity, ozone protection, proper orbit, and the like that provide for human life. Who or what force other than God 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 an explanation for how gravity and other forces were present that created the universe along with the laws of nature to control the universe's growth and keep it intact and functioning.

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, I believe, is God.

On another scientific front, Darwin's "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection" suggests that humans were the result of biological evolution where all life on earth evolved over time from a single ancestor in contrast to the beginning of mankind as Adam and Eve. The study of the first replicating molecule's evolutionary path, according to this

theory, ultimately led to different animal types and human beings.

There are objections to this theory, such as Intelligent Design, where it is held that only a supernatural force could accomplish the biological diversity of life and complexity of the human anatomy.

Notably, there also needs to be a "first-order event" to explain how the first molecule got here. A beginning organism from somewhere needs to be present for evolution to occur.

Intelligent Design by God is, I believe, a more compelling answer to how we got here. Science is useful for showing how natural law works, but not about the origin of our planet and its inhabitants. 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 away from temptation.

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 is, where did this recognition come from?

In my studies, I especially liked the Gospel of John, and there I found that my conscience extender was the Holy Spirit.

"I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you." John 14:25

Jesus, I believe, planted into our minds a helper – the Holy Spirit – that He sent to us soon after His ascension so we would know right from wrong.

FOURTH IS THE EARTHLY REWARDS OF PEACE AND JOY

Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and since I sincerely believe, love, and have faith in Him – and endeavor to follow His commandments – I have forgiveness of my sins and, in turn, peace in my mind and joy in my heart.



He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103: 10-12

My faith strengthened over time from grade school to much later in my life. Initially, I believed in God based more on what I had been taught versus what I understood and deeply believed. Subsequently, attending church, being inspired by several ministers and church families, studying the Bible, and reading books by biblical scholars, my faith in God steadily increased.

Then one day, as I was walking on my way to church meditation, it dawned on me why I was doing so. I was doing so because I could say with sincerity and truthfulness from my whole mind, heart, and soul that 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 sums it up nicely: "I rejoice, in Him, who, of his own unmerited love, of His own free and tender mercy, hath called me into this state of salvation, wherein, through his power, I now stand. I rejoice because His spirit bears witness to my spirit, that I am bought with the blood of the Lamb; and that, believing in Him, I am a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven."

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."*



IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER
JOHN WESLEY'S "UPON ON LORD'S SERMON
ON THE MOUNT," DISCOURSE ONE ON
BEATITUDES ONE AND TWO

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.

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