

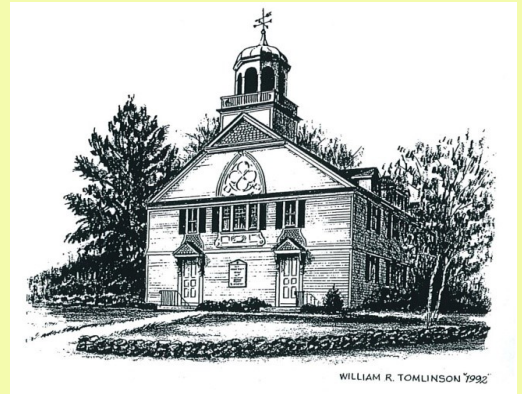
The Parish Visitor

The Federated Church of Orleans

162 Main Street - PO Box 761

East Orleans, MA

Phone # 508-255-3060



Welcome to the Parish Visitor May / June 2019 Edition

Dear Church Family,

While the Transition Team is hard at work gathering information on all of the gifts of our church and everything we have to offer, the Cabinet is beginning the process of putting together the Pastoral Search Committee. This Committee will be responsible for putting together the profile of our church and what we are looking for in a settled pastor. The committee will also be the group to review profiles from interested pastors and conduct interviews. The time commitment will most likely begin at the end of June or first of July 2019 and continue until a settled pastor is chosen. The committee will be chosen by the Cabinet, as per our by-laws, and will be a representation of the church.

If you are interested in being considered to serve on this committee, please email me at jenlreyn@yahoo.com by May 19. A slate of Pastoral Search Committee members who have been selected (nominated) by the Cabinet will be presented to the congregation for approval in a special meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any members of the Cabinet.

Please mark you calendar

**The 2nd Annual Awards Dinner
June 6 at 5:00 p.m.**

***“Agnes Hopkins Life of
the Church Award”***

and

***“Mary Lou Petitt
Community
Engagement Award”***

and

***“Reverend Doctor
Phil Mitchell
Inspirational Award”***

Honoring:

***Stewart Broatch
John Burlingame
Marion Kennedy***

***Ret. Brig. General Jimmy Dishner
and
Anita Mewherter***

*** Please note that a large portion
of the ticket sales to this event
further enhances
The Federated Church of Orleans
ability to support our
many vital missions.**

**For tickets to this event please contact
Kimberly in the church office at 508-255-3060**



For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Romans 12:3-5

Dear Church,

Each of us tend to like our coffee the way we like it.... decaf or regular, black or sugar or no sugar or with cream.... but in the past few years there are a gazillion ways we can have our coffee... from Salted Caramel Frappuccino and on and on. We want it our way and not just when it comes to coffee.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, describes being the church as one body with many members. One community with many individuals. And, not all the individuals are the same. They have different talents and tastes. They have different needs and knowledge. They come from different biases and backgrounds. But, despite everything that makes people different, they are one community. One family. Being the Church is not just about you, it's not just about me, being Church is about "we". Being Church is about all of us. Being Church is about living together as a community, as a family.

When we are together as church it isn't possible for us to always have it our way. Sometimes what we want is in direct opposition to what another wants or needs. Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers) once told a story of being miserable during what he thought was a less than adequate worship service... *"I remember so keenly one of the times I learned how individually the Spirit can work," Rogers said. "It was years ago, and Joanne [the concert pianist who married Rogers in 1952] and I were worshipping in a little church with friends of ours, another husband and wife. We were on vacation, and I was in the middle of my homiletics course at the time."*

"During the sermon I kept ticking off every mistake I thought the preacher — he must have been 80 years old — was making," he continued. "When this interminable sermon finally ended, I turned to my friend, intending to say something critical about the sermon. I stopped myself when I saw the tears running down her face." "She whispered to me, 'He said exactly what I needed to hear.' That was a seminal experience for me," Rogers remembered. "I was judging and she was needing, and the Holy Spirit responded to need, not to judgment."

When we come to a church or community potluck supper or go out to a Sunday Brunch Buffet we usually don't like everything offered. I take what I like and usually take note of what others are daring to try. There are things I pass by in the grocery store and wonder, "Does anyone ever buy this?" We pick what is nourishing to us and we leave the rest for others.

In the same way, in worship services, we should take what is helpful and leave what is not. It is no surprise, that everybody will not like everything about a worship service. On any given Sunday, we probably do not like something. Maybe, that hymn was not our favorite. Maybe you don't like organ music. Maybe, the sermon did not speak to you. The list could go on. And on. And on. We should remember, being Church is not just about you, it's not just about me, being Church is about "we". Being Church is about all of us.

Have you ever heard of the **75% Rule**? The 75% Rule states that when we gather together to worship on Sundays, everyone should be happy no more than 75% of the time. Yes, only 75% of the church service, should be what we like. Now, that sounds like a strange rule, right? But, the reasoning is that if we are happy more than 75% of the time, that means that the preferences of only one or a few are being dominantly fulfilled. In order to accommodate a diverse congregation, there needs to be something in the service for everyone. There needs to be something for the older folks, something for the youth and children, and even something for the newcomers and visitors. Being Church is about ministering to everyone. We are individuals. We are not going to always like the same things. Or even believe the same things. Let us take what is helpful and nourishing to us, and leave on the table what is not. Remembering that it's our 25%. Let us remember that while something may not be reaching you, it may be ministering to your friend in the next pew.

Abundant Blessings, Tomi

In the coming weeks and months your Transition Team (TT) will be hosting several gatherings to collect insights and information from you—the members and friends of the Federated Church of Orleans—that will be used by the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC).

On **Sunday, May 5th** following worship at 11:30 a.m. and **Wednesday, May 8th** at 10 a.m. we will meet in the Vestry to explore the **Assets and Gifts*** of the congregation. This is the same experience the TT hosted with the Friday Morning Bible Study. It is actually easier and more powerful to experience Asset Mapping than to talk about it!

You only need to come to one Asset gathering—you are welcome to come more if you like. We are collecting data from you about your church that will help the PSC to create a Church Profile that will describe what an exciting place Federated Church of Orleans is. We need your input.

Once we have completed the Asset Mapping meetings, members and friends will gather for the next step which is **Appreciative Inquiry (AI)**. AI deliberately asks positive questions around affirmative topics to ignite constructive dialogue and inspired action. A positive focus around creating shared images of a preferred future is the goal of **AI** sessions.

These are the dates for our small group conversations on **AI**:
Wednesday, May 22 at 7pm at the home of Jan and Mike Brink
Thursday, May 30 at 2pm at the church
Monday, June 3 at 10am at the church
Tuesday, June 11 at 2pm at the home of Boots and Bob Gibson

Again we need and encourage participation by all members and friends of our church.

The TT is urging the Church Cabinet to begin the process of selecting the PSC. This committee will be responsible for selecting a candidate to be our next settled Senior Pastor. The Asset Mapping experience and the Appreciative Inquiry that we will have completed together will be some of the information that will assist the PSC.





“This is Home” - a refugee story

Film showing Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Orleans

“This is Home” is an intimate portrait of four Syrian refugee families arriving in America and struggling to find their footing. Displaced from their homes and separated from loved ones, they are given eight months of assistance from the International Rescue Committee to become self-sufficient. As they learn to adapt to challenges, including the newly imposed travel ban, their strength and resilience are tested. It is a universal story, highlighted by humor and heartbreak, about what it’s like to start over, no matter the obstacles.

A freewill offering will be taken. **Sponsored by the Refugee Support Team of Nauset Interfaith Association and Sustainable Practices.**

*Happiness
depends more
on how life
strikes you than
on what
happens.*

~ Andy Rooney



Seeking Summer Hosts for Refugee Families

The Refugee Support Team (Nauset Interfaith Association) is seeking hosts for this summer’s Welcome Weekends for refugee families.

The experience of hosting has brought rich and memorable opportunities over the last two summers. Providing a joyful vacation weekend at the Cape for refugees has been a blessing for them. For the hosts, it has been a rich time of cultural sharing and building relationships with persons whose journeys are remarkable stories of survival and resilience.

The two weekends chosen for this year are: **July 12-14** and **August 9-11.**

If you are interested in more information about hosting, contact Rod MacDonald (rodmac.ret@gmail.com).

LOCAL FLAVOR- PTOWN

A heartfelt thank you on behalf of all of the appreciative clients at the AIDS support group for the meal you sponsored & the delicious desserts made last month. We were so lucky to have Alice Clough represent our church in preparing a variety of nutritious and super delicious foods for everyone to feast on! A special thank you to Nancy Clough for spearheading the effort of getting donations from local stores to help to offset the cost of food.

The volunteer coordinator sent me a message that our dinner got the best response since he has been there!

Each and everyone of you that contributed helped to make this important mission a resounding success and I look forward to our next meal in the fall.

Amy Redihan



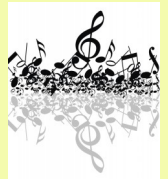
LOCAL MISSION COMMITTEE DONATIONS

In our quarterly meeting on February 22, the Local Mission Committee granted **\$1500** from the Virginia Cook Trust Fund to **Food for Kids**. F4K is a wonderful mission founded by and run out of the basement of the Church of the Holy Spirit here in Orleans. It provides simple free lunches, snacks, and even some free books to more than 500 children in all eight townships of the Lower and Outer Cape during summer months when free school lunches are not available. Members of our congregation have volunteered to help out every summer.

From the Federated Church's own Local Mission Outreach Fund, the Committee approved a grant to cover expenses for **the Easter Community Dinner** given at the Federated Church. The Committee also donated **\$1000 to Nauset Interfaith Association's Youth Outreach and Hospitality**. This money, though unrestricted, is intended primarily for scholarships given to homeless and at-risk youth from the Lower and Outer Cape.

Subsequent to the meeting, we approved an emergency grant of **\$2000** to the **Meeting House Pre-school**, a mission of this church housed in our basement. We also approved **\$300 for food cards** to be distributed as appropriate by the pastor and church office.

Our next meeting is on May 10th. Please notify members of the committee if you know of worthy local charities in need of assistance. Dallas Jones, Bea Auty, Jean Colby, Suzanne Calsson, Carol Richardson and Margie Klonel.



THERE ARE **TWO** CHOIRS AT Federated Church or Orleans!!!
You hear the **Not Your Average Church Choir** every Sunday as *The Chancel Choir!* They're committed to weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. (sometimes 6 p.m. for special Sundays) and gather in the choir loft at 9 a.m. EVERY Sunday to be ready for the Worship Service at 10 a.m.

You have now heard our **Not Your Average Community Chorus** in TWO concerts: "I Wish You Christmas" last December and "Let There Be Music – The Music of Gordon Young" this past March. We invite other singers to join us to prepare a special concert for the faith community AND BEYOND. The plans for the NEXT EVENT are underway
"ALL JOIN HANDS!" – Friday, June 14 @ 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 16 @ 10:00 a.m. Get on board now and come join us. Or mark the performance dates on your calendar and plan to be here for BOTH! There will be some differences!

First rehearsal – Saturday, April 27, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. – FCO FELLOWSHIP ROOM

Music folders and rehearsal tracks will be available for the entire program at that rehearsal to aid in the "homework" necessary to bring it all together. The rehearsal will be a sight-reading ("fright singing?") exercise for everyone. Explore, experiment, get used to each other, get used to the music. Complete individual registration forms to make tracking and communication more efficient.

Second Rehearsal – Saturday, May 18, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. – FCO FELLOWSHIP ROOM

Accompanist on hand to work with the parts, sections, "putting it together". Assign any solos needed and gather information for the printed program. WORK is the operative word here!

Extra Wednesday Rehearsals – Wednesdays 5/22, 5/29, 6/5 – 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. – FCO FELLOWSHIP ROOM The Not Your Average Church Choir meets weekly on Wednesdays at 4:00 to rehearse Sunday's worship repertoire. The second hour of each of these rehearsals will be devoted to extra help and rehearsal with the concert repertoire.

Third (Dress) Rehearsal – Wednesday, June 12, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. – FCO SANCTUARY

In this 3-hour rehearsal we'll do touch-up review of each selection, take a break for snacks and refreshments, and do a complete run-through in the sanctuary.

ALL JOIN HANDS in Concert – Friday, June 14, 7:00 p.m. – FCO SANCTUARY

ALL JOIN HANDS in Worship – Sunday, June 16, 10:00 a.m. – FCO SANCTUARY

Singles Brunch

In February we enjoyed the hospitality of Jackie Stowell and in March, Jean Colby. As usual, great food and conversation!

Joanne Tripp will be our hostess April 28th. May is to be decided. Please check the vestry for details. Bon Appetit!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board welcomed Terry Miller as a new member. Terry and Sue just returned from Florida so in April he attended his first meeting; Terry will be a wonderful addition to the Board.

Pierre Denis has completed Allergy Awareness training as required by the Board of Health.

Steve Downs reported that there are no major repairs or issues for the church building or grounds. The elevator continues to have occasional malfunctions despite recent repairs. He will look further into this issue. The Emmaus House recently passed inspection by the Orleans Fire Department. All major repairs on the condo parsonage have been completed.

Treasurer Ernie Rogers presented projections for the church's funds, using different scenarios in terms of interest rates and withdrawal rates spread out over 20 years. This was done with input from the Cape Cod Five Bank where the funds are managed. At current and past rates of withdrawal each year to balance the church budget and the average rates of return over the past several years, the projection is that the principle in the funds will remain pretty constant.

The Finance committee and the Board of Trustees approved a recommendation by Ernie Rogers to form a Capital Reserve Fund in order to accumulate a reserve of money for expensive capital expenditures on any of the church's properties (Church, Parsonage, Emmaus House). This Reserve Fund will not be a budget item but approximately half of the money received from the town for the Emmaus House will go into this new fund.

The Trustees supported the recent action by the Board of Living Mission in Action to reinstate donating an additional \$5,000 each year from the Virginia Cook Local Missions fund to help support the Pre-School. Prior to 2004 the church provided \$5,000 to the school.

Mary Lee Mantz, Chair

*We are gearing
up for the
67th Annual
Summer Fair*



Hello Ladies,
If you are in the midst of spring cleaning, please keep the Annual Summer Fair's Jewelry Committee in mind. If you have an overflow of jewelry and wish to lighten the load, we would gladly welcome your -donation. Please contact Georgeanne at 508-255-5362 if you need her to pick up your donation. You may also leave your jewelry items with Kimberly in the church office. Thank you.



Church Security Cameras. There are a few security cameras in the church, mostly around the entrance doors. We have a number of outside groups using the church for a meeting place, and the cameras are for the security of the building and safety of the members and staff.

A Prescription for The Tired Church

Congregations are tired. Some very sincere, very likeable congregations are showing signs of serious fatigue. Not all congregations are tired. You know who you are. You look tired. You sound tired. When asked, you admit you are tired. -You do perk up a little when you dream of the unchurched people out there who would love your church. You are working to seek them, but they haven't found you yet.



Why do you want those new people in your church? "Because we are tired. We need help with the work of the church". You may dream of deploying your energetic new members to the tired places: the low-attendance Christian Education Committee; the unstaffed nursery; the church treasurer vacancy; or the Building and Grounds Committee, whose aged members are no longer able to do all of the maintenance and repair.

If anyone ever joined a church to be on a board or committee, they likely joined up with church before the 1970s. In 1974, President Nixon's resignation battered the national psyche with its shocking betrayal of our trust in institutions like the presidency that formerly inspired trust. About that time, people began to stop joining church simply because it was "the right thing to do". Church as "duty" – civic, personal, spiritual – lost its appeal. Those who do join church to "go to church" as a reliable institution to do "church work" are getting very tired.

You are tired of working *on* the business of church.

You may think – or you've been told – that being asked to add your name to a church organization chart is a good sign, an affirmation of belonging, a promotion. "You would be perfect for this job," you may have been told, without ever hearing your new job description. The less fortunate hear this plea: "We need someone to fill that slot. You are our last hope." (Yes, you did say that.) You tired church saints have worked on church business so long that your "church work" has become the work of the church. To say that the work of the Budget Committee and the Altar Guild is the business of the church is like saying that keeping the bathrooms clean and the creamer jugs full is the business of Starbucks.

You are tired of working on the business of church. Yes, maintenance and support work needs to be done in any business. Still, in order to serve the coffee hot and quickly to the masses, most Starbucks employees will be selling and serving coffee, most of the time. They will be working *in the business*, not *on the business*. What if you tired church workers spent more time working together *in the business* that God in Jesus Christ gave us to do? Call it a mission. Call it a purpose. Call it a call. The point is to get together and be clear about the business outcome.

The church birthed from the resurrection power of Jesus is in the business of transformation. The "product?" Changed lives – changed relationships – changed world.

Here's an interesting thing I've noticed about church committees: You really do want to be communities. In church meetings, sisters and brothers in Christ seem to naturally drift "off topic" and wander toward sharing one another's lives in a way that is life-changing. A business interruption can transform the ordinary into a holy moment that is day-brightening and spirit-enlightening and relationship birthing. And then someone stops it by saying, "We need to get back to business or we'll never get out of here".

No wonder you – we – get so tired working in church. The hardest workers dig ever deeper in their dedication to church community and church institution. The stalwarts (thank God for you!) are only too happy to work ever harder on the business. With fewer and fewer people to support outdated buildings and cumbersome organizational structures, no wonder everyone is so tired. You weary beloved church members have this in common with the new members you are hoping to meet: You all came through the doors of the church seeking changed lives. Because your next new member isn't looking for your church so they can relieve what ails us. You believe that life in Christ has saving power, and you are ready to partner with others in that "changed lives" business.

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Continued ...

A modest proposal to relieve church burnout: *More time working in the business God gave the church and less time working on church business.* Congregations, with God's help, can set that intention and make those changes for your future congregation.

Because your next new member isn't looking for your church so they can relieve what ails us.

Rev. Sharon M. Temple is a UCC pastor, parent of three adult children, and grandparent to two grandchildren. She has served congregations in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Louisiana as a settled pastor and as an interim specialist. Her essay 'The Good Samaritan Test' appears in 'There's a Woman in the Pulpit: Christian Women Share Their Hard Days, Holy Moments & the Healing Power of Humor.' She blogs at revmama.com.



Date: 08 Oct 2015

Easter Blessings and Thanks to all the folks who helped to make this years 6th Annual Community Easter Dinner a success. We served over 110 guests with many return visitors. Special thanks and shout out to Dot Walters, Leslie Nelson, Betsy Wagner, Bob and Carol Richardson, Jackie Stowell, Jean Kuhn, Ben Calsson, Rod and Cathy Mac Donald, Joan Christopher, Tomi and Jim Ziobro, Dallas and Liz Jones, Kimberly and Pierre Denis, and all the Church members who supplied all of the delicious deserts and side dishes. Only by the help and support of all of you a memorable and joyous Easter celebration was had by everyone.

Phyllis & Suzanne Calsson



By request, the Interfaith Justice Committee is again sharing its Mission Statement. If you would like to be part of this important work, please contact Rod MacDonald (rodmac.ret@gmail.com)

Justice Committee - Mission Statement

In keeping with the mandate of our faith traditions, the Interfaith Justice Committee was formed by members of the Federated Church of Orleans and Am HaYam Cape Cod Havurah, in response to the Biblical call to do justice and love mercy.

Our purpose is to identify the local, national, and global concerns of individuals and groups whose needs we feel are not being adequately addressed and/or who are facing injustice. Our aim is to strengthen the awareness of, and response by members of our two faith communities to the inequalities in power, wealth, and resources that exist in our world, through acts of education and advocacy developed and identified by the Justice Committee.

Because human need and vulnerability inevitably have political dimensions, as people of faith we understand the connections between faith and political action. We will be guided by our traditions as we seek to engage political leaders and others in the public square. Both our education and advocacy activities reflect *tikkun olam*: acts of kindness performed to repair our broken and unjust world.

Approved 11-16-17

Youth StreetReach - Cape Cod Council of Church's

Confirmands Experience's

My experience at StreetReach opened my mind and eyes to what hard times there are in people's lives. Not everyone's life is always positive. When you talk to the people at StreetReach you really get to know what happened to them, who they are, and get a sense for where they are on their life's journey. Making any of the people I talked to smile always made me feel great because they are all going through tough times in their lives. Sharing a simple daily event like breakfast with the homeless made this issue real to me. It has inspired me to do more service work in our community. Thank you Federated Church of Orleans for providing this opportunity to serve with my confirmation class.

- Ethan Boyle

My experience at street reach was good. I really enjoyed helping the people and getting to know them. Also seeing how people really need help out there and when they got the help they needed and the food seeing the happy smile on there faces.

- Ben Calsson



Justice Committee reports gun violence prevention legislation

Fact: In 2017, gun violence caused 20% of deaths among 15-24 year olds.

Fact: Since the Parkland school shootings in February, 2018, more than 1200 children have died from guns.

The Interfaith Justice Committee has been tracking current legislation meant to alter these deadly results. In the 2019 **U.S. Congress**, two major bills have passed the House and been introduced in the Senate: *Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019* would prohibit a firearm transfer between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check.

This has been introduced in the Senate as S.42 and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019 would close the "Charleston Loophole" - extends to 10 days (rather than 3 days) the time allotted for FBI background check before gun transfer can take place.

A number of bills have been introduced, or are being developed, for the **Massachusetts legislature**. Although our commonwealth has the second lowest number of gun deaths among the states (Hawaii is lowest), more can be done. Here are two under consideration:

H.2045 / S. 1388 Crime Gun Data Reporting and Analysis (Rep Decker) - It is known that most guns used in MA crimes come from states with weaker laws. This bill calls for establishing a university or non-profit to study sources of all guns used. *The specific data points for the reporting include: statistics on firearms crimes, arrests, and prosecutions; aggregate data on the sources of crime guns; purchase and sales patterns as they relate to crime guns; and reporting on the usefulness of the existing requirement to notify law enforcement if guns are lost or stolen.*

H.2092 Universal Background Checks for Private Gun Sales -Closes the private gun sales loophole. Would require that any sale or transfer shall take place at the location of a licensed dealer who is required to conduct background checks.

Both of these bills have been referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

- Rod MacDonald

AN AWARDS DINNER REQUEST



Are you planning on attending the Second Annual Awards Dinner on June 6th? We sure hope so!

Do you happen to have a bow tie or know where you can find one? If so, we hope you will consider wearing one to the dinner in honor of John Burlingame.



The Flowers for Easter Sunday were donated by the following members and friends:

Bea Auty in loving memory of Robert Auty

Meeting House Preschool Committee in honor of the MHP, Maureen and staff

Bob and Boots Gibson in honor of their family

Louisa and Russ Allen in honor of their five grandchildren

Pat Hayward in loving memory of Dirk Barron and Josie Sequelia

Jennifer and Chloe Clark in loving memory of Virginia Parr

Anita Mewherter in loving memory of Duncan Mewherter

Jimmy Dishner in loving memory of Linda Dishner

Bob and Lyn Oleksiak in loving memory of their parents

Jackie Stowell in loving memory of Bill Stowell

The Wilson Family in loving memory of Rick and Janie Wilson

Dinny and Phil Goodwin in honor of their loved ones

Anita and Ernie Rogers in loving memory of their parents

Emily Whittemore in loving memory of Rev. and Mrs. BB Whittemore

Kimberly and Pierre Denis in loving memory of their departed parents: Francois, Germaine, Barbara and Earl

Steve and Glenda Downs in loving memory of their parents

Virginia Crozier in memory of the lives lost from flooding

The Heyelman Family in loving memory of Thelma N. Heyelman

Sue and Terry Miller

Mike and Jan Brink in memory of Mary and Gunner Brink and Richard Keppler and in honor of Polly Keppler

Georgeanne and Richard Barnes in loving memory of Bob Peifer

Mary Lee Mantz in loving memory of Mary Eleanor Walker

Mike, Eileen and James Violette in loving memory of their parents and James' grandparents: James and Rosalie Violette and Robert and Genevieve Connaughton

WHAT IS INTERIM MINISTRY?

Reverend Dr. B. Leslie Robinson, Jr.

Three words are associated with the interim period in a congregation: ¹change, transition and transformation. Change can be defined as the inevitable movement of life's forces. Inevitable means it is going to happen whether we like it or not. We can choose to resist it or fight it or be angry about it or even deny it, but change is going to occur. This is true for churches as well as individuals. It is a given that during the interim time, the congregation will struggle with the concept of change.

Transition is the process by which individuals and congregations will deal with change. What are the options? What can be done that will create the best opportunity to handle this change in a healthy way?

Transformation, then, is the new shape that grows out of this time of transition. Transformation is the result of individuals and congregations struggling with change. Transformation is what gives the church new life and new possibilities and new energy as the people claim their place and purpose in God's Kingdom.

The presence of these three elements – change, transition, transformation – is why the interim time in a church is referred to as a “wilderness journey.” Three biblical characters immediately come to mind when thinking about the wilderness journey.

The Exodus story is about what happened during the 40 years the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness. The story is about a transition from the end of one experience (slavery) to the beginning of another experience/setting (freedom). In the process of going from Egypt to the Promise Land, the people are seeking and discovering and clarifying God's will, direction and movement in their lives. During the journey, they often move off course. But, that is where Moses makes his contribution. He continues to redirect them and to challenge them to refocus their energy to God's glory.

The second biblical character that comes to mind when thinking about a wilderness journey is John the Baptist. In the Gospel of Matthew we are told that this individual came to prepare the way for Jesus. John has a purpose. He believes that God has given him the responsibility for pointing people to Jesus. He moves about in the wilderness with a consistent and urgent message. Others try to redirect him and Jesus even confuses him by asking John to baptize him. Nevertheless, throughout the entire journey, John continues to seek and discover and clarify God's will, direction and movement.

The third person who comes to mind is Jesus himself. Also in the Gospel of Matthew we learn that early in his ministry Jesus is led off into the wilderness. He spends 40 days and 40 nights in prayer and fasting. He is earnestly seeking and discovering and clarifying God's will, direction and movement. This is not a simple task and it does not come without challenge and pain. Jesus is confronted by Satan and tempted to go a direction other than that ordained by God. Jesus emerges from the wilderness, but not before he has clarity about what God is calling him to be and to do.

Notice that Moses dealt with change and transition, but not transformation. He led the people through the process of facing those inevitable movements of life's forces, but he did not get to see the new shape that takes place. Moses did not enter into the Promise Land. Moses was the interim leader. He helped the people become clear about their purpose. He helped them to rethink their relationship with God and how that would impact their future. He stayed with the people until the permanent leader emerged. John the Baptist announced the change that was going to take place and introduced the transition that would have to happen for transformation to occur. Before the transformation really took hold, however, he was beheaded. Those who objected to his message of change fought against him. They wanted to keep things the way they were. They were afraid of what would happen to their traditions. They were comfortable with who they were and heard John's messages as a threat. John was the interim leader. His purpose was to encourage the transition that was required in order to transform the world. He was not the light, he only pointed to the light.

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Jesus, on the other hand, dealt with change, transition, and transformation. Yet, the transformation also cost him his life.

You cannot transition through change and experience transformation without giving up the old and taking on the new. In Matthew 9:17, Jesus is credited with saying, "Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

This time period called the "interim" provides congregations an opportunity to put new wine into the fresh wineskins. It gives a church the chance to leave behind the enslaving behaviors and attitudes that keep them focused on the past instead of the present and the future. It is a time when the people can objectively decide what meaningful parts of their history, tradition and practice will continue to be carried with them and what will be left behind.

Interim ministry also is about seeking effective ways to organize for ministry, recruit, train and develop new leadership. It involves assessing the way decisions are made in the church and determining if there are more inclusive ways to handle this task. This is a time to look at how the community of faith relates to one another, the surrounding neighborhood, and the wider church. Finally, this is a time for a congregation to discover their identity apart from the pastor of the church. This is an opportunity to develop a vision that will help meet the spiritual needs of members and enhance their ministry beyond themselves. With this kind of clarity, the congregation can find a new leader who will equip them to follow what they believe to be God's will, direction and purpose.

¹ I am indebted to Warren Schulz for introducing me to the Distinction of these three words. (Nicholson, Roger S. *Temporary Shepherds (A Congregational Handbook for Interim Ministry)*. Alban, 1998, p. 121.)

On March 3rd, Georgeanne read the following passage after lighting the Peace Candle. Several parishioners requested a copy of the passage so we are printing it below. This prayer was read during a 60 Minutes interview years ago by an officer who had fought in Vietnam. During the course of combat, he lost three of his limbs. He was so inspiring because he still maintained such a strong faith and positive attitude:

I asked God for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for help that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.
Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered.
I among all am most richly blessed.



CALENDAR ITEMS

May 5 Cinco de Mayo

May 12 Happy Mother's Day

May 18 Suicide Prevention Walk - Orleans

May 27 Happy Memorial Day - Church Offices Closed

June 6 Annual Awards Dinner

June 14 Flag Day

June 16 Happy Father's Day

Flower Donors for the Month of March

- Anita Mewherter - great joy for our church family
- Betsy Wagner - In loving memory of her husband
- Jackie Stowell - In loving memory of her parents
- Flower Ministry - Nature's Journey through Lent

Kudos to our Flower Committee!

Our flower committee this year gave us a wonderful gift- a series of thoughtful altar displays, each one using examples from the natural world to express the solemn meanings and moods of Lent as we approached the grave events of Holy Week and the joyfulness of welcoming the Risen Christ at Easter. We began with a few stones and twigs, building up each week to a more complex and colorful arrangement. Each week in the bulletin was a helpful explanation of the reason for the display, giving us much spiritual food for thought and meditation.

Thanks so much to Jan Brink, Louisa Allen and Russ Allen for the inspiration, and for all their work bringing this about.

Flower Donors for the Month of April

- Georgeanne Barnes in loving memory of her father George and his birthday and for her parents, Bernice and George, and their wedding anniversary.
- Nancy, Patty and Janet (Stowell) in honor and celebration of their mother, Jackie Stowell, on her 90th birthday.
- Easter Flowers donated by members and friends
- Lyn and Bob Oleksiak in honor of Lyn's aunt and uncle, Alice and Ronald Jacobs.
- Flower Ministry - Nature's Journey through Lent



May Birthdays

Sylvia Reese	May 8
Bill Stoeckert	May 9
Joanne Tripp	May 9
Bob Williamson	May 9
Jan Laster	May 12
Bill Secor	May 12
Moo Smith	May 13
Paul Washburn	May 15
Howard Kucks	May 16
Lee Lindeman	May 21
Alan Estabrook	May 24
Lois Racz	May 27
Glenn Starner-Tate	May 27
Sandy Stockwell	May 30

June Birthdays

Amy Redihan	June 2
Alexandra Calsson	June 5
Glenda Downs	June 15
Marion Kennedy	June 15
Jane Anderson	June 20
Erik Jorgensen	June 26
Christopher Wright	June 28
Mark Lindblad	June 29



*Stuff your eyes with wonder;
live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds.
See the world.
It's more fantastic than any dream made
or paid for in factories.*

~ Ray Bradbury

Federated Admin, Federated Top 5, Holidays in United States

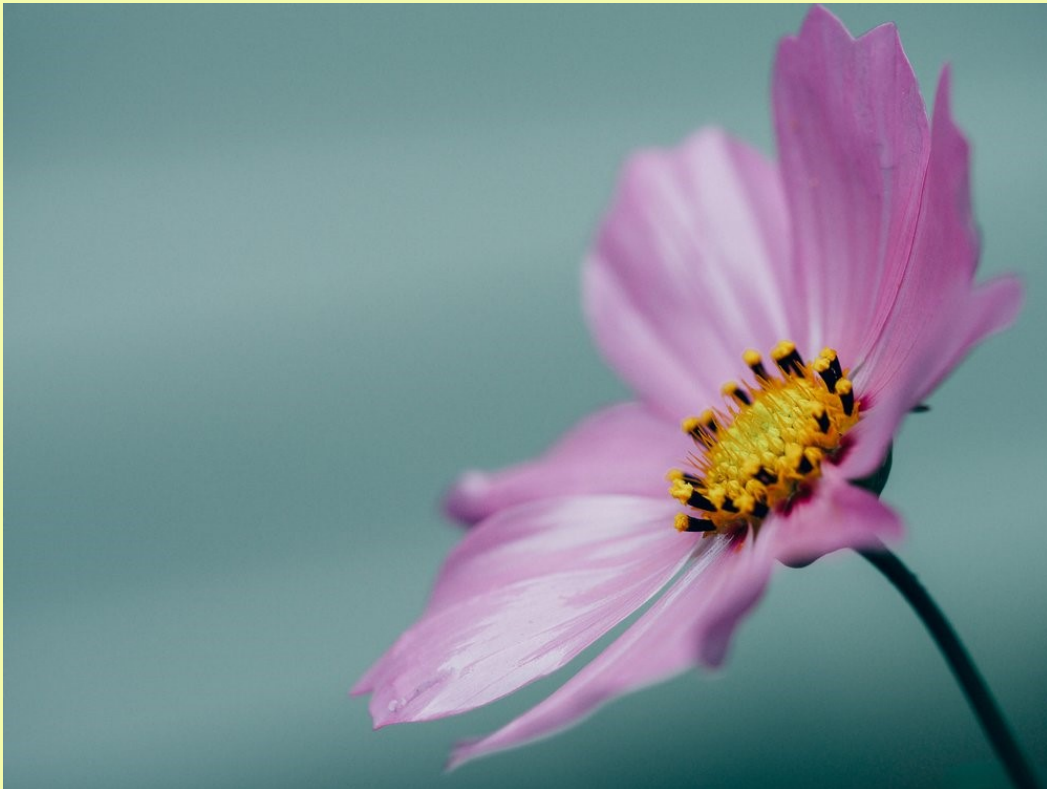
May 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			2pm - Explori 3:15pm - Tran 4pm - Chancel	9am - Tomi	8:15am - Bibl 10am - Strong 7pm - Am	2pm - N.A.M.I.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cinco de Mayo 8:30am - Nau 9am - N.Y.A. 10am - Sunda 11am - Coffee	1:15pm - Note 6pm - Nauset 7:30pm - AA	8:30am - CC 10am - Strong 11am - Tinker	9:30am - Com 10am - Transito 2pm - Explori 3:15pm - Tran 4pm - Chancel		8:15am - Bibl 10am - Strong	2pm - N.A.M.I.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day 9am - N.Y.A. 10am - Sunda 11am - Coffee 11:30am - Car	1:15pm - Note 6pm - Nauset 7:30pm - AA	10am - Strong 11am - Tinker 3pm - CCC Safe 6:30pm - Trus	12pm - Minist 2pm - Explori 3:15pm - Tran 4pm - Chancel	9:30am - Refu 9:30am - Refuge 1:30pm - Justi 2pm - Worshi 3pm - Finance	8:15am - Bibl 10am - Labyrinth 10am - Strong 7pm - Am	Suicide 1pm - NYACC 2pm - N.A.M.I.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am - Nauset 9am - N.Y.A. 10am - Sunda 11am - Coffee 11am - Potluck 3:30pm - Confir 7pm - Am	1:15pm - Note 4pm - Emmau 6pm - Nauset 7:30pm - AA	9:30am - Emb 10am - Strong 11am - Knitters 11am - Tinker 3pm - BLMA @ 3pm - Cheri 4pm - Deacon	2pm - Explori 4pm - Chancel 5pm - NYACC 7pm - Positive	1pm - Transiti	8:15am - Bibl 10am - Strong	2pm - N.A.M.I.
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9am - N.Y.A. 10am - Confir 11am - Coffee	Memorial Day 1:15pm - Note 6pm - Nauset 7:30pm - AA	10am - Strong 11am - Tinker 3pm - CCC Safe 5:30pm - Cabi	2pm - Explori 4pm - Chancel 5pm - NYACC	1pm - Transiti 2pm - Positive	8:15am - Bibl 10am - Strong	2pm - N.A.M.I. 6pm - Am

Federated Admin, Federated Top 5, Holidays in United States

Jun 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>9am - N.Y.A.</div> <div>10am - Confir</div> <div>11am - Coffee</div>	<div>Memorial Day</div> <div>1:15pm - Note</div> <div>6pm - Nauset</div> <div>7:30pm - AA</div>	<div>10am - Strong</div> <div>11am - Tinker</div> <div>3pm - CCC Safe</div> <div>5:30pm - Cabi</div>	<div>2pm - Explori</div> <div>4pm - Chancel</div> <div>5pm - NYACC</div>	<div>1pm - Transiti</div> <div>2pm - Positive</div>	<div>8:15am - Bibl</div> <div>10am - Strong</div>	<div>2pm - N.A.M.I.</div> <div>6pm - Am</div>
<div>9am - N.Y.A.</div> <div>10am - Sunda</div> <div>11am - Coffee</div>	<div>10am - Positiv</div> <div>1:15pm - Note</div> <div>6pm - Nauset</div>	<div>8:30am - CC</div> <div>10am - Strong</div> <div>11am - Tinker</div>	<div>2pm - Explori</div> <div>4pm - Chancel</div> <div>5pm - NYACC</div>	<div>1pm - Transiti</div> <div>5pm - Annual</div>	<div>8:15am - Bibl</div> <div>10am - Strong</div> <div>7pm - Am</div>	<div>2pm - N.A.M.I.</div>
<div>9am - N.Y.A.</div> <div>10am - Sunda</div> <div>11am - Coffee</div> <div>11:30am - Car</div> <div>3:30pm - Confir</div>	<div>1:15pm - Note</div> <div>6pm - Nauset</div> <div>7:30pm - AA</div>	<div>10am - Positive</div> <div>10am - Strong</div> <div>11am - Tinker</div> <div>3pm - CCC Safe</div> <div>6:30pm - Trus</div>	<div>2pm - Explori</div> <div>4pm - Chancel</div> <div>5pm - NYACC</div>	<div>1pm - Transiti</div>	<div>8:15am - Bibl</div> <div>10am - Strong</div> <div>7pm - All Join</div>	<div>2pm - N.A.M.I.</div>
<div>Father's Day</div> <div>9am - N.Y.A.</div> <div>10am - Worsh</div> <div>11am - Coffee</div>	<div>1:15pm - Note</div> <div>4pm - Emmau</div> <div>6pm - Nauset</div> <div>7:30pm - AA</div>	<div>9:30am - Emb</div> <div>10am - Strong</div> <div>11am - Knitters</div> <div>11am - Tinker</div> <div>3pm - BLMA @</div>	<div>12pm - Minist</div> <div>2pm - Explori</div> <div>4pm - Chancel</div>	<div>9:30am - Refu</div> <div>9:30am - Refuge</div> <div>1pm - Transiti</div> <div>1:30pm - Justi</div> <div>2pm - Worship</div>	<div>8:15am - Bibl</div> <div>10am - Labyrinth</div> <div>10am - Strong</div> <div>7pm - Am</div>	<div>2pm - N.A.M.I.</div>
<div>9am - N.Y.A.</div> <div>10am - Sunda</div> <div>11am - Coffee</div>	<div>1:15pm - Note</div> <div>6pm - Nauset</div> <div>7:30pm - AA</div>	<div>10am - Strong</div> <div>1:30pm - Am</div> <div>3pm - CCC Safe</div>	<div>2pm - Explori</div> <div>4pm - Chancel</div>	<div>1pm - Transiti</div>	<div>8:15am - Bibl</div> <div>10am - Strong</div>	<div>2pm - N.A.M.I.</div>
<div>9am - N.Y.A.</div> <div>10am - Sunda</div> <div>11am - Coffee</div>						



The Federated Church of Orleans

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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