



Building Bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility

## OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

### To Everything There is a Season

Very likely as soon as you read the title of my article a familiar melody sung by The Byrds came to your mind and probably to your lips. As a child I recall this song being sung at the Saturday evening Folk Mass at the church I attended. There is a calming nature to this piece for me. The words of this tune (all but 6 words that is) come from the biblical book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Seasons... seasons of the year, seasons of the heart, seasons of a lifetime all come to mind. This was one of the passages that were read at my father's funeral just a few short weeks ago. He wasn't a very religious man, so I thought it would be fitting for his service. It ended up being perfect.

I am in a season of grief and mourning. I am sure most of us have been through this season, probably a number of times. Seasons take time. They can't be rushed. They need to happen naturally and with patience. They can be confusing times as well. I totally related to this morning's weather report. It mentioned that this weekend will be perfect beach weather, yet in the same report it mentioned areas having a frost warning. You know what they say about New England...if you don't like the weather just wait a minute. I think that also applies to grief. One moment you are fine and the next your eyes might be filled with tears.

"Jesus wept" is the shortest verse in the King James Version of the Bible translated in 1611. It describes Jesus' response to his dear friend Lazarus' death. That KJV translation pales in comparison to what biblical scholars today believe that that same passage properly translated means... "Jesus was overcome with gut-wrenching sorrow". Jesus completely lost it at his friend's grave. This gives me great comfort. I hope that this gives you great comfort as well. If Jesus can lose it, so can I and so can you.



I am also greatly comforted knowing that this season will pass. My grief will lessen and joy will return. I can't tell you how much your outpouring of love has helped me through this season. Whatever season you are experiencing right now, whether it is one of joy, grief, melancholy, fear or happiness know that Jesus is with you. Jesus chooses to remain close to us through all the seasons of our lives. Now that is Good News!

God's Peace to you All, Tim

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though I die, will live". *John 11:25*

Gaudeamus +

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life  
we announce the death Ernest J. Rogers, father to Pastor Tim Rogers.  
Please keep Pastor Tim, and his siblings, in your prayers.



### **Brief update from the September 19<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**

Present: Pam Borgeson, Vicki Burke, Pat Gladbach, Audrey McNevin, Jeff Stone, Padre Tim

Minutes from the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting and the August Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports were approved.

Jeff reported on the Community Food Packaging Event for November 23 at Abington High School. Pam is coordinating this event along with Jerri Screnci and Maryanne Manzo.

Fundraising is going well with \$34,000 raised so far. Over 100 letters have gone out to local businessmen, politicians, and Abington alumni. An Abington Cable video is out and a Go Fund Me page is up. Four grants are pending. Members are encouraged to share the Facebook page. On Wed, Oct 2nd, Damien's in Hanson will donate 10% of all proceeds to the Food Packaging Event. Other fundraising events include a Pumpkin Patch at the church on Sunday, September 29 and Sign Making party at church on Nov. 8.

Lisa and Audrey are coordinating the December gift collection for families in need. The collection box is out now and gifts will be collected through November.

Jeff noted that we need to start thinking about service projects for 2020 in October and November. We need to ask what UCC, St. John's and All Saints have planned.

We spoke briefly about which societal issues we should bring before the congregation to discuss and possibly offer to the community. Jeff will work with a Tim on this topic.

A lively discussion ensued regarding: what is the best strategy for ensuring that Joy in Christ continues to be a place of worship in the future. Tim noted that worship does not need to be on Sunday. There is a popular service on Thursday at 6 p.m. in Boston. Another suggestion was Supper Church. Leeann stated that we should make the connection of Jesus and why we're feeding people.

Leeann spoke on re-imagining the upstairs worship space. It would cost \$9,800 to remove the carpet and replace with hardwood. We agreed that God gave us this space and we need to be good stewards and it is not fiscally responsible to leave it empty all week long. We will continue to investigate uses for this space.

A Church Council Retreat will be held at the Stone's on November 9 at 10:00 a.m.

The fall Stewardship program was discussed and Tim will work with Jeff on this.

Tim presented some thoughts about joint services with St. John's. Parish Life will discuss this further at their meeting next week.

**NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
*Our Mission: To build bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility*

## Notes from September 25<sup>th</sup> Worship & Parish Life meeting

Present: Tim, Carol, Audrey, Vicki, Lee-Ann

Tim opened the meeting with a prayerful chant.

### RECAP:

#### Mass on the Grass Review:

Wonderful energy with the 54 people that gathered. Need to be a little more organized with the setting up of chairs, next time.

#### Homecoming Review:

Energy was felt to be low even though there were 3 children attending. Just a table full of people stayed for the coffee hour. It was discussed that sometimes people are there to hold the space. And so we did.

### Tweaks for the Liturgy/music.

There were many suggestions to the worship and liturgy. A spirited conversation was held offering concerns and questions.

### Blessings of Animals will be October 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Fall Worship Discussion

We will hold worship with St Johns at St John's on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Saints Alive (All Saints Day) we will post on social media, and constant contact, a sign on the door, and announcements in church. We will find someone to be at the door on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to inform all that come to worship at 11:00 a.m.

We will hold worship at Joy in Christ November 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. for a Thanksgiving Worship. We will post on social media, constant contact, and newsletter, put a sign on door, and announcements in church.

#### Follow Up

Pumpkin Patch - September 29<sup>th</sup>, help is needed that day from Noon – 4:00 p.m. Please see Pamela.

Sign Making Party - November 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Refreshments are needed and Pamela will have a sign-up sheet.

St John's Activities we are invited to join

October 26<sup>th</sup> Trunk or Treat. Bring your trunk filled with treats.

November 16<sup>th</sup> Holiday Fair

December 27<sup>th</sup> St John's Day

### NEXT MEETING

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 a.m.

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE DISCIPLES

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>:** Pat H calls Anita S; Ingrid sends Frank a card; Kathy contacts Harold & Helen; Audrey calls Martha

**Oct 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>:** Vicki contacts Helen & Harold; Pat G calls Martha; Candy calls Anita S; Lee-Ann sends Frank a card

**Oct 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>:** Kathy calls Anita S; Ingrid sends Frank a card; Pat H contacts Helen & Harold; Audrey calls Martha

**Oct 27<sup>th</sup> to Nov 1<sup>st</sup>:** Pat G calls Martha; Candy calls Anita S; Vicki sends Frank a card; Lee-Ann contacts Helen and Harold

## SUNDAY DISCIPLES

DATE	ASSISTING	READER	TECH	GRUSHER	WORSHIP SET-UP	COFFEE HOUR
10/6	Noreen Dionne	George Sullivan	Stephanie Burke	Vicki Burke	George Sullivan	Ingrid & Gordon Williamson
10/13	Emily Clairmont	Jeff Stone	Lee-Ann Trigler	Pat Hoey	Kathy Remes	Stephanie Burke and Lee-Ann
10/20	Pat Gladbach	Lee-Ann Trigler	Lisa Clairmont	Vicki Burke	Lee-Ann Trigler	Carol and George Porter
10/27	Noreen Dionne	Pat Gladbach	Jeff Stone	Candy Stone	Pam Borgeson	Lee-Ann Trigler and Kathy Remes
11/3	Le-Ann Trigler	Lisa Clairmont	Pam Borgeson	George Sullivan	George Porter	Pam Borgeson & Jeri Screnci
11/10	Lisa Clairmont	Kathy Remes	Stephanie Burke	George Porter	Bob Fehl	Candy Stone & Lee-Ann Trigler
11/17	Jeff Stone	Emily Clairmont	Lee-Ann Trigler	Kathy Remes	Mike Remes	Audrey McNevin & Jean Petersen
11/24	Emily Clairmont	Pat Hoey	Lisa Clairmont	Jean Petersen	Jeri Screnci	Vicki Burke & Stephanie Burke



(The church council voted to match up to \$200 given by congregation members for The Lewis V. Dorsey Post 112 celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary).  
Members donated \$300 so we ended up sending in \$500.

**Thanks to our Generous Sponsors  
for making tonight possible  
for Abington's Veterans**

Dr. Bernard Brannigan at Chiro-Associates  
The Jeff Coombs Foundation  
The Sgt. Daniel Vasselian Memorial Fund  
**Joy in Christ Lutheran Church**  
Lynch's Tavern  
Kenneth Kristianson at K. Kristianson Plumbing and Heating  
Cape Cod Lumber  
Rob Quealy at Quealy and Son Funeral Home  
Trufant Real Estate  
Shawn Reilly at Reilly Law Office  
Susan Ferreira-Emery at Cake Connections  
Abington Bank  
Abington Knights of Columbus Chapter 5254  
Fred Villa at Marin's Restaurant  
Jean and John Boutwell  
Abington Lions Club  
Abington Veterans of Foreign War Post 5737  
Michael and Barbara Franey

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# UPCOMING EVENTS



## FALL FUN EVENT FOR ALL!

Proceeds to benefit the  
**COMMUNITY FOOD PACKAGING EVENT**

Sunday, **Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>**, Noon – 4:00 p.m.  
Joy in Christ Lutheran Church  
21 S. Bedford St., Abington, MA



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE

Sunday, **Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00 a.m.  
Joy in Christ Lutheran Church  
21 S. Bedford St., Abington, MA



## FUNDRAISING EVENT AT DAMIEN'S

10% of food purchases will benefit the  
**COMMUNITY FOOD PACKAGING EVENT**

Wednesday, **Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Noon – 10:00 p.m.  
Damien's  
279 Spring St. (route 58), Hanson, MA



## TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, **Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
322 S. Franklin St., Holbrook, MA



## SAINTS' ALIVE: A Dixieland Jazz Eucharist

Sunday, **Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>**, **10:00 a.m.**

At St. John's Episcopal Church (one combined worship)  
322 S. Franklin St., Holbrook, MA

Bring a photo (will be returned) of a departed loved one to put on the  
Altar of Remembrance.

Join us for a Celebration of All the Saints and Festive Coffee Hour following worship.

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NO talent required! NO free-hand writing or drawing! NO messy stencils!  
 Friday, **Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
 \$30.00 per sign – proceeds will benefit the Community Food Packaging Event.  
 Joy in Christ Lutheran Church  
 21 S. Bedford St., Abington, MA  
 Please call for reservations: Pam (508) 942-1402 or Mary Ann (508) 361-1421

**IT'S A SIGN PARTY!**



**COMMUNITY FOOD PACKAGING**

The 2019 Food Packaging Event will take place at the Abington High School on **November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Last year we packaged almost 101,000 meals that were shared with local and national food pantries. This year our goal is 250,000. Please consider donating towards the purchase of the raw materials that are needed to package these meals. Did you know that 42,000 people in Plymouth County are hungry, 12,000 of which are children? Please visit our GoFundMe Page to donate. Your support is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/community-food-packaging-for-those-who-hunger>

**OCTOBER**

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Leia Williamson
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Josephine Rasche
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Liam Rogers
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Valerie Dionne
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Oskar Djusberg
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Richard Stone
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Jeri Scenci
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Liz Leadbetter
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Stephen Sawyer
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Ella Williamson



**NOVEMBER**

- 4<sup>TH</sup>: Ian Jazon
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Mary Ellen Sawyer
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Khloe McGettigan
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Paul Tupa
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Kim Nichols
- 13<sup>th</sup>: Stacy Kirby
- 14<sup>th</sup>: Antonia Solitro
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Anita Brady
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Jason Leadbetter
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rick Nichols
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Jameson Regan
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Amy Leadbetter

Harold & Helen Manson have a new address:  
 All American Assisted Living  
 1074 Washington Street – Rm. 225 (Helen)  
 Hanson, MA 02341

*This is a summary of Bishop James Hazelwood's email written September 20, 2019  
If you would like to receive his emails let him know by sending a request to: [bishop@nesynod.org](mailto:bishop@nesynod.org)*

## What's going on with Religion in America?

Is it the turning from summer to fall that brings out these stories? Many an autumn begins with cooler temperatures, kids heading back to school, and articles about the changing landscape of Religion in America. That's an odd combination, but so it goes.

First, there was Dwight Zschiele's provocatively titled "[Will the ELCA be Gone in 30 years?](#)" This article appeared on the Luther Seminary Faith Lead Blog. Based on findings that were released by the denomination's Research and Evaluation Office, the report describes the factors that have contributed to a 30-year decline and the likelihood of continued decline.

Then on Tuesday, I attended the opening lecture of the [University of Rhode Island's Colloquia](#) presented by Alan Cooperman. Dr. Cooperman is a research fellow at the Pew Research Center. His plethora of slides and charts confirmed the narrative most readers are already familiar. Namely, religion is in decline in America, but not around the world. A few stats for you:

Christians were 78% of the US population in 2007; today they make up 65%

Nones\* were 16% of the US in 2007, today they make up 26%

\*Nones are persons who select "No Preference" when surveyed in the Pew Research. What's striking is that 61% of all Nones say they believe in God. They are Spiritual but not Religious, after all.

Younger generations are less likely to identify. The long term trend is toward a less religiously active US American society.

In my interview with Dwight Zscheile, he cites the work of the Canadian Social theorist Charles Taylor who describes a shift in how North Americans find meaning. An article on the 30-year decline of the ELCA reveals that the top three places where people find purpose in life are Family (by far the highest), then career followed by money. Faith or Spirituality show up as number four. That's a dramatic shift from earlier in the mid and late twentieth century where many people found meaning in the organizations they belonged. Church, the Grange Hall, and the Bowling league were community-building connections. Now, not as much, and certainly not so much for the younger the generation.

As my wife and other pastors have noted, increasingly younger generations are coming to worship and then leaving. They don't stay for social time or a BBQ. They have their social connections elsewhere. They are coming, if they are coming, for a specific reason, namely spiritual growth and nourishment in worship.

I want to close with one other finding from Pew - the impact on the broader cultural and civic well being of a less religious society.

According to Pew, less religiously engaged persons also participate in less vigorously in civic life. They volunteer less, they are less generous, and they are less civically involved, including lower frequencies of voting. Even if your Uncle Harry is of the mindset that a less religious society is fine so we get rid of all that superstition. They should be concerned if for no other reason that less religion means less participation in democracy. And that should concern all of us, from the atheist to the agnostic to the faithful churchgoer.

**Joy in Christ Lutheran Church**  
**21 South Bedford Street, Abington, MA 02351**  
**(781) 878-3394**  
[jicchurch@outlook.com](mailto:jicchurch@outlook.com)

**Padre Tim is usually in the office on Wednesday and by appointment. It is always best to call the church phone first as visits and meetings sometime alter the schedule.**

Tim's email address is: [padretimjic@outlook.com](mailto:padretimjic@outlook.com)

Tim can be reached for pastoral emergencies at: 617-755-5236

## OCTOBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6:00 p.m. TOPS	2 12:00 - 10:00 p.m. COMMUNITY FOOD PACKAGING FUNDRAISER DAMIEN'S Pub Hanson, MA	3	4	5
6 17 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>WORSHIP &amp; BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS</b>	7 7:00 p.m. YOGA	8 6:00 p.m. TOPS  6:00 -7:30 p.m. BROWNIES	9	10	11  cleaners	12
13 18 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>WORSHIP</b>	14 <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>  7:00 p.m. YOGA	15 6:00 p.m. TOPS	16	17 <b>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	18	19
20 19 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>WORSHIP</b>	21 7:00 p.m. YOGA	22 6:00 p.m. TOPS  6:00 -7:30 p.m. BROWNIES	23	24	25	26 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat St. John's Episcopal Holbrook, MA  cleaners
27 20 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <b>WORSHIP</b>	28 7:00 p.m. YOGA	29 6:00 p.m. TOPS	30	31 <b>HALLOWEEN</b>		



Don't forget to turn back your clocks before going to bed November 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
 One combined worship service at St. John's Episcopal (**10:00 a.m.**) on  
**November 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

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