

# ...from the heart

Published Quarterly by the Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

Fall 2013 



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  - Download sermons with accompanying notes
  - Bible Studies from Pastor Nick
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**Patchogue Church of the Nazarene Group**

## Giving Thanks, Receiving God's Grace

One night we were having dinner with the Herrmanns. They have been teaching their 2 year old son, Joshua, to pray. I usually say grace, but that night Josh wanted to pray. He started out as taught, then adlibbed a bit; it went something like this, "Dear God, thank you...softball?" We were all trying to hold back our laughter as his mom gently led him along by saying, "and thank you for the food..."

I'm already thinking about Thanksgiving Day. I love that holiday: great food, great time with the family, great leftovers, and maybe get to see the parade and/or some football, too. What I also like about this holiday is that unlike any other national holiday, this one is for the purpose of acknowledging God's goodness to us, and giving Him thanks.

Now, most people say "grace" on Thanksgiving Day, even if they don't usually pray before each meal any other time. At my family gathering on Thanksgiving, that responsibility usually falls on me. I'm always asked to pray; I guess the family thinks, "Let the 'professional' do it." I really don't mind; I'm glad for that opportunity to say "grace."

But do you know that grace is not just a prayer of thanks to God before a meal for all His gifts - it is also a gift to thank God for?

Grace is an unearned, undeserved gift of God.

Grace is favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it, and in spite of what that same person deserves.\* Grace is one of the key attributes of God, and is almost always associated with mercy, love, compassion, and patience as the source of help and with deliverance from distress.\*

Therefore, the grace of God is supremely revealed in the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. We are forgiven of sin, saved from hell, and gifted with everlasting life not by anything we have done to earn it, but only by faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. We don't deserve this gift of salvation: it's a gift offered to all who accept it by faith.

*(continued on back cover)*

# Forever Family Update



## Our Sympathy and Prayers:

Richie Barker  
(Willie's father)

### New Addition:

Timothy Jacob Herrmann  
Born May 29<sup>th</sup>



## Fall Weekly Schedule



Sunday	10am Worship Service 10am Children's Programs Teen Bible Study (during Sunday Sermon)
Monday	7pm M.E.N. (Men's Encouragement Network - Every other week)
Tuesday	7pm Ladies In-Touch at MaryAnn Malcolm's home, Bellport (286-2435)
Wednesday	7pm East End Home Fellowship at the Mercurio's home, Center Moriches (478-4852)
Thursday	11am Ministry at McPeak's Assisted Living (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday) 7pm Ladies Sewing Circle (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month) 7pm Church Board Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)
Friday	12-1pm Food & clothing distribution, at Terry St., Patchogue Village with Lighthouse Mission 6:30pm Café Cristo - College teens thru young adult (Fellowship Hall of Church) 7pm Friday Night Lights Teen Night - 9 <sup>th</sup> thru 12 grade at HPYC (His Place Youth Center - 65 Franklin St.)
Saturday	8am Men's Breakfast (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of month) 7pm Good News Bowlers (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of month) 8pm The Beta's - 25 - 40 year olds (Fellowship Hall of the church)

# On Our Calendar

*Holy Communion Served the first Sunday of the Month*

SEPTEMBER



- 9** 7pm CTMB Meeting (Christian Training and Ministry Board)



- 11** Patriot Day

- 22** Fall begins



- 10** 7pm Church Board Meeting



- 2** Prayer Retreat with the Springfield Gardens Church of the Nazarene (at our church)

- 3** Turn Your Clocks Back 1 hour before bed!



- 5** Election Day – VOTE!

- 8-10** Men's Retreat at Taconic Retreat and Conference Center



- 11** Veterans Day

- 28** Thanksgiving Day



## Good News Bowlers Christian League

**Teams are now forming for the 2013-14 Season!**



We meet the first Saturday of the month starting September 7 at 7pm at Long Island Bowl in Patchogue. The League runs through June. The cost is \$25 the first night and \$20 each month following (May be subject to change after first captain's meeting). The fee includes an end of year luncheon and prizes. See signup sheet at church or email [corinnechurch@verizon.net](mailto:corinnechurch@verizon.net)



Several months ago MaryAnn Malcolm sent me an email

about the "Dress a Girl Around the World" ministry and suggested we take this on as an outreach for our ladies sewing circle. It is supported by Hope 4 Women International - **a Christian organization bringing dignity to women around the world since 2006. Hope 4 Women International was formed for charitable and educational purposes. Specifically, they began to empower women in Uganda who are suffering from poverty, disease, and low self-worth to become self-sufficient with businesses of their own.** The "dress a girl" vision is that every girl around the world own at least one dress of their very own.

When MaryAnn first brought this idea to me, I wasn't sure what kind of participation we would have, but I knew we could make several dresses between us. We met one Saturday morning in May to have a basic tutorial in making a "pillowcase" dress. Our turnout was small, but these ladies went home and began creating perfect little dresses out of the simplest of materials - each one presenting our God's best efforts. We just imagined telling each little girl "I made this dress just for you because you are precious to me and to God." We concluded our efforts on the Dress a Girl project with a total of 47 dresses. They have been mailed



to "Angels of Mercy Ministry, Inc." in Rochester, NY. They will then be given to various mission teams who will distribute them to little girls waiting for a special dress of their own. MaryAnn also has started us rolling on dresses to be included in the "Samaritan's Purse" Christmas shoeboxes this year. Imagine the joy a little girl will have when she sees a new dress in her shoebox! If you would like to make one, just email me for the pattern

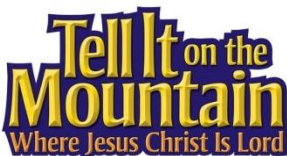
(corinnefchurch@verizon.net). I want to thank all the ladies of the sewing circle for their enthusiastic reply in taking on this project. Each dress more adorable than the other! We have a group of very talented ladies, and they are so giving of themselves. Also, thanks to those who donated pillowcases, notions & other materials towards this effort.

This isn't the first compassionate effort the "Loving Stitches" sewing circle has undertaken. We were involved in making blankets and quilts for seriously ill children with Project Linus. Our baby dedication blanket ministry is in full swing - with Geri Smith being our "speed crocheter" - she can really whip up a beautiful baby blanket in no time!

The sewing circle has taken a break for the summer, but will resume the third Thursday in September at 7 pm in the Youth Center building. Just bring a project to work on, I will put on some coffee, and there is always cake or cookies (for a little added inspiration ☺)

*Keep on Stitchin...*

*Corinne Franco*



# Vacation Bible School 2013

Our annual VBS program was held from July 22<sup>nd</sup> thru the 26<sup>th</sup> with the theme ***“Tell It on the Mountain”***.

At Tell It on the Mountain, the children learned about the Only True God through five mountaintop Bible accounts where God meets His people with clear messages of His might and power. God's message of salvation through Jesus our Savior is one to shout out and share from the mountaintops to the four corners of the world!

At the four corners that the children visited, they learned about:

1. Mount Sinai: God is with His people
2. Mount Carmel: God Shows He is the One True God
3. Mount of Transfiguration: Jesus is God's Son
4. Golgotha: Jesus Saves Us All

and on the final night, on a mountain, Jesus says ‘Go to All!’

Just as solid rock walls provide a secure anchor for climbers to ascend the mountain face, and strong knots in their rope hold them close to that rock, God's Word is rock solid truth. God Himself is present in His Word, providing a solid anchor, and holding us securely against the buffeting of sin, Satan, and death.

We averaged 28 children and 22 volunteers a night.

This year, we had challenges that we haven't had before during VBS – ranging from car accidents to the weather. The week started off with a major accident on Sunrise Highway at the Route 112 bridge that closed a lot of roads in all directions, making most people late. We also had a couple of nights where rain played a factor, and another car accident later in the week. However, the Lord prevailed, and we were able to succeed despite the obstacles. Thursday nights have usually been our water activity night where the kids and parents are told on Wednesday to bring a change of clothes and a towel. Well, it rained this year on Thursday; one of the parents asked me if we were still doing the water night, and I said “Of course, but this year Jesus wants to play too, and He is getting a head start on us!”

Each year we have a mission project for VBS. This year we selected the NY Metro Nazarene District Sandy Relief Fund to assist those that are still recovering from hurricane Sandy last October. This year, we raised \$433.21 for the Fund.

I have been involved with VBS almost as long as I have attended the church, some 20+ years, and I have been directing it for at least half of those years. It is with sadness that I tell you that “Tell it on the Mountain” was my last as VBS Director.

I have enjoyed working with all of the area leaders and helpers over the years, and I want to thank all of them for their dedication and hard work bringing it all together every year. Without them, I couldn't have done it. I wish I could name everyone, but the list is long, and I am afraid I would inadvertently leave someone out. VBS has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful and fun way to bring the word of God to the children in our church and community. I will take with me many wonderful memories of all the fun we had together, and with the children - especially Thursday (water) nights - and the awesome closing evening with the kids singing for their parents and all of us.



A huge Thank You to Scott Smith for all of his years of dedicated service to our children! You will be missed!

God Bless,

*Scott Smith*

VBS Director

# Led by the Spirit

During Paul's journey in Acts 16, he and his companions all had a plan in mind, but the Spirit of God intervened and redirected their paths.

<sup>6-8</sup> ***They went to Phrygia, and then on through the region of Galatia. Their plan was to turn west into Asia province, but the Holy Spirit blocked that route. So they went to Mysia and tried to go north to Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus wouldn't let them go there either. Proceeding on through Mysia, they went down to the seaport Troas.*** (The Message)

We don't know exactly how the Holy Spirit stopped them from completing their own plan, but somehow He did. Paul and company had a plan in mind. I'm sure they prayed about it. It was logical, and even reasonable, but it was not God's will – at the time. The cool thing is that they realized it and obeyed.

How do you know God's will and direction for your life? Are you being led by the Spirit or by your own will? We like to be in control, in charge, making our own decisions, and leading our own way, but isn't that just pride, and maybe even some fear of failure thrown in? How hard is it for you to relinquish control and trust God, completely? I know how hard it is for me, and I can't be alone.

I think if we can get past step one, recognizing the will of the Spirit and obeying, we are then ready for some real leading by the Spirit.

<sup>9-10</sup> ***That night Paul had a dream: A Macedonian stood on the far shore and called across the sea, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" The dream gave Paul his map. We went to work at once getting things ready to cross over to Macedonia. All the pieces had come together. We knew now for sure that God had called us to preach the good news to the Europeans.*** (The Message)

When we get real with God, and He recognizes our full trust in Him no matter what, then really great things can happen. Look at Paul's words above... *"All the pieces had come together. We knew now for sure that God had called us to preach the good news to the Europeans."*

Before, they were planning and being reasonable, but moving, or attempting to move, in their own strength. Now, they were led by the Spirit of God and knew for sure what to do. I believe we have to go through the times of not knowing where we're going during the "learning to really trust God" phase, before we can get to the point where He can lead us and confirm our direction.

You may not be at this point in your walk with the Lord yet. This may seem like smoke and mirrors to you now. As we learn to be faithful in the little things, he can begin to show us, and entrust to us, the bigger things.

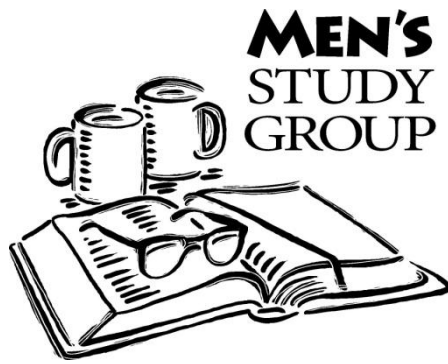
So develop your relationship with the Lord starting from where you are now, and knowing there is so much more for you to learn and experience, and He wants to take you there – in the Spirit. Allow Him to lead you by learning to trust Him right now in that little thing you are dealing with, and watch Him move in power and grace in your life and circumstances.

Be led by the Spirit,

Pastor Nick ☺







## Men's Encouragement Network M. E. N.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the men's ministry sponsored our annual church BBQ. Thanks to the hard work of all who helped with the set-up, cooking and clean-up, a good time was had by all! Special thanks to all who provided side dishes and desserts; everything was delicious.

After a summer recess, the M. E. N. Monday night meeting and monthly breakfast will be starting up again in September (watch the Bulletin for return dates). I urge the men of our church to join us for fellowship and for the study of God's word.

Once again, thanks to all those who helped make this year's BBQ such a success.

In loving service,

*Jim Brennan*

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE

### Three Main Projects:

- **Old office space conversion**

Two of the three rooms are now functional and operational. The overflow and crying rooms are up and running, but still need some adjustments. The usher area, though useable, still needs cabinetry storage installed and finished electrical and paint work.

*Special Thanks to all who have pitched in and donated their talents!*

- **Church Sign**

We are awaiting a landscaping design to instate final stages for sign completion  
It should be awesome!

- **Chair Lift installation**

Chairlift installed and operational!

☆ Dedication/Recognition Service is being planned, with attention to completion of all projects with thanks to God and congregants  
**Additionally...**

- Pastor Nick's office is in the process of moving to HPYC complex. His old office will be converted into a prayer room.
- HPYC Attic blanket insulation accomplished
- Flowers have been donated and added to our front grounds
- We are seeking LIPA incentives for replacement of overhead fixtures in Fellowship Hall

# **We Might Not Have Tomorrow, Church!!!**

In this country we are always in a rush; everything has to do with what we are going to do in the future. One might say we are future focused. We have our five year plans, goals, and dreams. Do we ever stop to thank God for waking us up in the morning? Or ask him what purpose he has for us this day? What was important enough to sustain our lives throughout the night? I know I have often taken life for granted. James 4:14 warns against this: *How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.* I am not much of a statistics fan because people are more than numbers, but have you ever heard something that stopped you in your tracks? I did when I heard this universal statistic: 10 out of 10 people DIE.

If there is one thing my grandfather's last days on earth taught me it was this: at the end of our lives, whenever that may be, we might not have the ability to speak. So, it is our duty to share with everyone we come in contact with about the Loving, Just, and True God: Jesus Christ. Many people might believe in "Jesus," but until they understand that they have personally sinned against God, and a payment must be made for the crimes they committed, they will never fully understand the true meaning of the Gospel - the good news - the fine has been paid. We have the cure for the dying world out there, if we truly believe the Bible and Jesus when he says no one comes to the father but through him; how can we keep quiet while our friends and families are possibly

headed for a Christ-less eternity? Romans 10:14-15 says this very well: *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*<sup>15</sup> *And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* We are those sent out to bring the Gospel. In Mark 16:15, Jesus tells us plainly: *"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."* The awesome part is, "all the world" starts where we live and work!



If you are like I was, right now you are probably thinking: I know that, but I don't know what to say. I don't want to make God look stupid. Cheer up, because God knew we would have this issue when he inspired these words to paper: *When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say,*<sup>12</sup> *for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say (Luke 12:11-12)*

God will literally fill our mouths with the words. In addition, never forget the power of your own testimony. After all, we learn in Revelations 12: 11: *We overcome the enemy by the blood of the lamb and the words of our testimonies.*

So I leave you with this challenge: ask God to use you today to tell somebody about Jesus, and be ready to speak when he does. If you do that, I guarantee your life will never be the same. I write this article with much love; I look forward to hearing the amazing things God is going to do through you all.

Amen, Shalom,

*Jason Koontz*



# *Daily Bible Readings*

- ☐ Ephesians 2.1-10
- ☐ Ephesians 3.14-21
- ☐ Ephesians 4.17-24
- ☐ Ephesians 5.6-20
- ☐ Ephesians 6.10-20
- ☐ Philippians 2.1-11
- ☐ Philippians 3.12-21
- ☐ Philippians 4.4-9
- ☐ Colossians 1.9-23
- ☐ 1Thessalonians 4.13--5.11
- ☐ 1Timothy 2: 1-8
- ☐ 1Timothy 6: 3-10
- ☐ 1Timothy 6: 11-19
- ☐ 2Timothy 2: 1-13
- ☐ 2Timothy 2: 14-26
- ☐ Titus 2.11-15
- ☐ Titus 3.1-11
- ☐ Philemon 1-25
- ☐ Hebrews 4.14—5.10
- ☐ Hebrews 12.1-13
- ☐ James 2.1-13
- ☐ James 3.1-12
- ☐ James 5.7-20
- ☐ 1 Peter 1.3-12
- ☐ 1 Peter 2.1-10
- ☐ 1 Peter 3.8-22
- ☐ 1 Peter 5.1-11
- ☐ 2 Peter 1.3-15
- ☐ 1 John 2.7-17
- ☐ 1 John 4.1-21
- ☐ 1 John 5.6-12

- ☐ Revelation 5.1-14
- ☐ Revelation 21.1-8
- ☐ Revelation 21.9-21
- ☐ Revelation 21.22—22.5
- ☐ Jeremiah 3.12-20
- ☐ Jeremiah 7.1-15
- ☐ Jeremiah 23.1-8
- ☐ Jeremiah 29.1-14
- ☐ Jeremiah 31.31-37
- ☐ Lamentations 3.1-24
- ☐ Ezekiel 11.1-13
- ☐ Ezekiel 34.1-16
- ☐ Ezekiel 37.1-14
- ☐ Ezekiel 47.1-12
- ☐ Daniel 6.1-24
- ☐ Hosea 11.1-11
- ☐ Joel 2.18-23
- ☐ Amos 5.10-15
- ☐ Amos 7.1-9
- ☐ Jonah 1.1-17
- ☐ Jonah 2.1-10
- ☐ Jonah 3.1-10
- ☐ Jonah 4.1-11
- ☐ Micah 2.1-11
- ☐ Micah 6.6-8
- ☐ Nahum 1.1-6
- ☐ Habakkuk 3.1-15
- ☐ Zephaniah 3.8-13
- ☐ Haggai 2.1-9
- ☐ Zechariah 8.1-17
- ☐ Malachi 2.1-17
- ☐ Malachi 4.1-6

Eph 2:4-5

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

Grace is...

G od's  
R eward  
A t  
C hrist's  
E xpense

So when you say grace (pray) on Thanksgiving Day, and thank God for His many blessings in your life (family, food, shelter, etc.), don't forget to thank Him for grace – the undeserved favor of God – that saves you through Christ. And then, live in the blessing of grace – God's favor. Finally, give grace – undeserved favor – to others all year through!

*And that's ...*

F.T.H.  
Pastor Jerry  


Pastor's daily "GOOD MORNING!" message includes updates and announcements on church activities, prayer requests, a devotional, of course some jokes, quotes, trivia, news and some other things of interest. To begin receiving "Good Morning" send an email address to: [pastor.jerry@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.jerry@verizon.net) and he will add you to the daily distribution.

### *"from the Heart"*

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**Senior Pastor: Rev. Jerry Bonfiglio**

**Associate Pastor: Rev. Nick Franco**

### **His Place Youth Center**

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631- 758-9525

Newsletter Design Editor: Suzanne Herrmann



*"Blessing and glory and  
wisdom and thanksgiving and  
honor and power and might  
be to our God  
forever and ever! Amen."*

*Revelation 7:12, NRSV*