

...from the heart

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Summer 2014



A Summer of Service

It is going to be a busy Summer:

1. Convoy of Hope

We will be partnering with Convoy of Hope and other churches in our area to bring a day of compassion to Suffolk County. On June 14th at Robert Rowley Park (Hoffman Ave., N. Bellport, NY) we are going to witness to thousands of people coming for help.

Tents will be set up in the park and each tent will offer a different service. We are going to give out free groceries, free shoes, there will be free health services, haircuts, and portraits. There will be a “kid zone”, music, and other entertainment. There will even be an opportunity to wash feet! And, in the prayer tent, we will offer to pray with all who come. In other words, we are going to spend a day offering the love of Jesus to all who attend.

This day is going to be a blessing, not just for those who come for help, but for all the volunteers who come to help. If you want more information about this event you can go to: <http://www.convoyofhope.org/outreach/longisland/>

2. Mission Trip

We will be taking our annual mission trip to W. Virginia. The group will be staying at and doing some work at the Storehouse of God. This is where the Caiazzos are now serving. It will be great to see them and maybe even have a chance to work on the house that is being built for them... maybe... could be... what a blessing that would be. There will be other work projects, and perhaps another opportunity to minister to children as has been done in the past.

Our group will be leaving on July 10th and will return on July 19th. Here are the names of those who will be going: Michael & Nicholle Messina, Danielle Neff, Rebekah Fileccia, Brandon Rodriguez, Zachary Schilling, Destiny & Jared Ivory, Jackie Creamer, Willie Barker Jr, and Jason Koontz. Please keep them in prayer: traveling, working, blessing, and to be blessed.

3. VBS

On August 4-8 we will have our annual Vacation Bible School (V.B.S). This year's theme is, “Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend” (1 Peter 3:15). Here is another opportunity to volunteer so that children can know how much God loves them. Be sure to bring your children and to invite children you know.

(continued on back cover)



Check out our website:

- > News and events in our church
- > Download sermons with accompanying notes
- > Bible Studies from Pastor Nick

And so much more!

www.patchnaz.net



Patchogue Church of the Nazarene Group

4. Church BBQ

The Men's Ministry will again sponsor our annual church BBQ this summer. A date has not been chosen yet, but we will get the word out as soon as we can.

5. Play for Peace

August 9 will be the 5th annual Play for Peace soccer tournament. From the first tournament in 2009 our teens (and some adults too) have served as the volunteers for this event. The idea for the tournament came in response to the killing of Marcelo Lucero on November 8, 2008. The purpose of the tournament was to bring together soccer teams of different ethnic backgrounds to unite the community and denounce racist acts. At the time I was serving on the "Unity Coalition" which was formed to address the problem of racism in our community. Through that I was asked by the Suffolk County Legislator to be a part of the tournament's planning committee.

At the very first Play for Peace our teens made such an impression that the second year one of the organizers refused to be involved unless our teen volunteers came back, saying, "they are the best volunteers I've ever worked with!"

Again this year our teens, and some adults too, will be the volunteers for Play for Peace. In the morning we need some tents, and pop-ups set up, as well as preparing coolers of water. Toward the end of the event, we will serve food to the players and workers, take down the tents, and clean up. If you would like to help please let me know. Also contact me if you know of a team (male or female) that would like to play, or if you would like to sponsor a team (or know someone who would).

If you would like to attend the event it begins at 9:30am with an opening ceremony. I will say a prayer as part of the opening ceremony. The first game begins at 10am. It will be held at the Pat/Med Youth Soccer Fields located on Sipp Avenue (north of Woodside Avenue).

As I said, it will be a busy summer. Of course we will still be meeting every Sunday at 10am to worship our God and there will be Bible classes for children through teens.

And that's ...

F.T.H.
Pastor Jerry 

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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 and he will add you to the daily distribution

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Forever Family Update



In Loving Memory of James “Jim” Brennan

With Deepest Sympathy

In March, Jim went to be with the Lord. I miss him *very* much. Jim was our Church Treasurer, a Church Board member, Director of the Men’s Ministry, and a good friend and Christian Brother.

Jim came to our church with Barbara and became a member of the Church of the Nazarene in October of 2002. I officiated at his wedding to Barbara on October 25, 2006.

He was a member of AA and was sober for 27 years. He always said that AA helped him get right with people, and our church helped him get right with God. Through AA, he sponsored and helped *hundreds* of people. In our church, he touched many lives as well.

After his AA meetings, he would usually stop by my office to chat. Sometimes he had a question we would discuss. Many times he would want my opinion on something he may have heard, or was thinking about, or was going through in his life at the time. We would discuss the Bible or a Biblical passage. He had great stories and was great at telling them, so I always loved his stories. I loved those times together, I looked forward to them, and I really miss those times.

Before retiring, Jim was a Federal Treasury Agent, then a Special Investigator for the Suffolk County DA’s office – investigating racketeering cases. Though the cop in him tried to keep a tough exterior demeanor, I / we saw an emotional side of Jim, especially at our Men’s Encouragement Network (M.E.N.) meetings on Monday nights. He was a caring, kindhearted, and compassionate man. He helped and made a difference in the lives of many people; he did it with humility and without looking for recognition.

Do you know what a “foxhole” is? It’s a shallow hole dug by a soldier in combat for refuge against enemy fire. Often people are asked who they would want next to them in a foxhole. Jim was the kind of person you would want with you in a fox hole. At least he is who I would want with me.

I am so thankful that we are brothers in Christ, and because of that, I will see my brother Jim again in heaven, but until then I really miss him. – PJ

Peace for Today

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul
the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us. —St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)

Patchwork of Friends

The Ladies sewing circle has been meeting for a several years now. Each lady that comes brings her own special piece to our little group of stitchers. We form sort of a patchwork, each with our own set of skills and knowledge of stitchery, but the best part of our meetings is the opportunity to get to know each other a little bit more - our interests, our hurts, our joys. We each come together and make a beautiful patchwork of sisterhood bound together with threads of friendship ☺

You are welcome to join us Thursday, June 19th at the Youth Center at 7pm. Bring any project you are working on. We will be taking a break for the summer months of July & August from our regular meetings.



Do you think it is too soon to be thinking about Christmas? I am contemplating meeting with a small group during the summer months to work on a "paper pieced" quilted table runner called the "Women of Christmas" (Elizabeth, Mary & Anna). **You must have a sewing machine and some quilting knowledge and experience.** You will also need to spend some time working on your own. I will provide a materials list. If anyone is interested please let me know.

Keep on stitchin'

Corinne

This Side of Heaven



A little girl who'd grown up in the city spent some of her summer vacation out in the country. One starlit night, she and her dad stood gazing up into the sky without any harsh streetlights obstructing the view.

The girl, amazed by the sparkling view, exclaimed, "If heaven is so pretty on the wrong side, I wonder what it looks like on the right side!"

Teen Ministry

This has been a long cold winter. I'm sure everyone feels the same. I have been looking forward to Spring. Longing for it, actually. To open my bedroom windows, hear my birds singing outside and feel the breeze blow the stale winter air out and breathe fresh, clean air back in! I love the sound of my wind chimes. The different notes they play.

This has been a busy winter. I'm happy to report that our first Teen Ministry Spring Craft Fair was a success. There were a few glitches, as I suspected there would be. While there wasn't snow, there was rain. And our rain date turned out bright and sunny, but blew away some vendors with some high gusty winds that no one anticipated. However, our fair raised over \$1100 for our teens and mission trip and I along with the teens look forward to our next one. The teens were involved in every aspect the day of the fair. They sold goodies, painted faces, did tattoos, helped run the baked goods table along with helping the vendors bring their things out of the cars and set up. Next year I would love to see more of our church family take part in the craft fair . I know we have some talented people here & you could help out the teens while also making some money for yourself & make new friends while having a good time. I hope some of you were able to enjoy the beautiful Easter lilies we were selling for the mission trip. They were big, glorious plants and the blossoms were gorgeous. The fundraising group members were very nice people to deal with, and my local contact, coincidentally, has a lot of connections to Patchogue & his mother is good friends with Kathy Lloyd. Small world, and there really are no such things as coincidences are there?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have so graciously and unselfishly helped out my family by bringing us meals over the past few months.

What a blessing ! Nereida Gazzo, Lynn Schilling, Evelyn Pokorny, Maria Mahler, MaryAnn Malcolm, Kelly Dieters, Evie Noor, Milly Ungerer, Maria Fileccia. They were delicious, much needed & very welcomed. Thank you to Lorraine Stone for reaching out to everyone & coordinating the meals for me and my family. Thank you also to Vicki Ortiz and Lauren Barker for cleaning a couple of times for us. It helped take a little bit of burden off the kids' shoulders. Thank you. The beautiful blanket sewn with love by the ladies sewing circle has kept me so warm and cozy during many, many naps.

Of course for all the cards, calls and hundreds of prayers I've received from everyone. They lifted my spirit and have given me strength and hope. Thank you all for praying so fervently. I'm so blessed to be a part of this wonderful family.

As we head into Spring and Summer I am looking forward to finishing up my treatments. I'm going to plan some outings for the teens, have another Teen Ministry sponsored Ducks game day and get our Missions Team out on their way for another safe, God guided trip to West Virginia. Please keep Michael & Nicholle Messina in your prayers as they lead the group for the first time!

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" ~ Philippians 3:12-14

With a grateful & joyous heart
Peace always,

Annette Neff

Teen Ministry Director


"I will shout for joy and sing your praises, for you have ransomed me." Ps72:23




On Our Calendar

Holy Communion Served the first Sunday of the Month



- 2** 7pm Christian Training & Ministry Board (CTMB) meeting
- 9** 7pm Children's Council Meeting
-  **12** 7pm Church Board Meeting
- 13** Convoy of Hope volunteers rally
- 14** Convoy of Hope at Robert Rowley Park, N. Bellport
- 15** Father's Day (Gifts for all the Men)
Bake sale after church for the West Virginia Mission Trip
- 21** Summer Begins!
- 22** 10am Baby Dedication: Damon Boutsikos



- 4** Independence Day – office closed
- 6** Bake sale after church for the West Virginia Mission Trip
- 10** 7pm Church Board Meeting
- 10 – 19** Mission Trip to West Virginia
-  **13** Summer Sunday School begins (through August 31)



- 4 – 8** VBS – Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend (1 Peter 3:15)
- 9** Play for Peace (soccer tournament for unity, our teens serve as volunteers) at the soccer fields on Sipp Ave



****Church BBQ hosted by the men's Ministry (TBA)**



A Day of Honor

June is upon us, and 2014 is half way behind us ... where did the time go? June marks a seasonal changing of the guard, with warm weather weddings a plenty. June hosts a plethora of commemorative holidays including: D Day, Flag Day, the summer solstice and my personal favorite, FATHER'S DAY. Even though Father's Day seems like it's been around forever, it's a relative newcomer to the calendar. A Father's Day Proclamation was signed by President Nixon in 1972 - 58 years after Mother's Day. During the 1920s and 1930s, annual rallies were held in New York City's Central Park with designs on scrapping Mother's Day and replacing it with, "Parent's Day." The reasoning was that both Mothers and Fathers should be honored together. The Great Depression derailed that effort, as struggling businesses pushed for a Father's Day holiday, to create demand for neckties, hats, socks, pipes and golf clubs.

Commercialism aside, the 4th Commandment makes it crystal clear, "*Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*" Exodus 20:12 Father's Day took a long time to come about, and though its passage into law might not have had the purest of motives, it was the right thing to do. Isn't that the way this life often is? There are times you want something so badly, you can almost taste it! You ache for it to happen. It might not be for you but for someone you care about. Your purpose is unselfish; your prayers are true, your heart dedicated to the proposition of bringing the thing about. Not wanting to leave personal effort out, you do everything you can think of, but after trying to move heaven and earth, it still doesn't happen.

Abraham, the Old Testament Patriarch and spiritual father of both Jews and Gentiles, wasn't always so highly regarded. For most of his life, Abraham wasn't the father of anyone. He was Abram, a successful businessman, a wealthy landowner, loved by his wife Sari. But the couple had a problem, no children. Without offspring, Abram saw his life as an empty dead end. He had no heir to pass on his wealth, or share his wisdom or life's experiences. He would not live on through a son or daughter. God knew Abram and Sari's greatest desire, and early on in life, made a

covenant with Abram promising him an inheritance of land and children. *Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"* Gen 15:5 NLT

Though God swore it was a done deal, the child of promise was delayed; Abram and Sari didn't have offspring like the sand on the sea shore, they had no children at all! Sari remained barren, unable to bear children. At the age of one hundred, everything changed, including their names; the impossible occurred, and Sarah named her only son Isaac, which means Laughter.

How long has it been since you had an unreserved, no holds barred, belly laugh? How long have you been carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders, with the thought, *this is just the way my life is now*. Abundant life and the joy of the Lord seem like distant memories, as you trudge through your daily existence. Like The Natural's Roy Hobbs, life didn't work out the way you expected ... not the way you believed it would. Or even worse, you were convinced that God gave you a promise a while back, maybe years ago, but it never happened.

Father's Day is more than just a day of honor. For Christians, it is also a reminder that even though hopes and dreams might be delayed, they're never late in God's time frame. *"For the vision is yet for an appointed time ... though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."* Hab 2:3 (NLT) Father's Day is a time for revisiting memories, for looking back and reminding ourselves of where we are and what God has brought us through. It can also be a moment of epiphany, when the past and present come together as you realize that you didn't get to this point of your life alone: God's faithfulness brought you here. Since He has proven Himself trustworthy in the past, you know you can depend on Him for the present and future. That's what *the Joy of the Lord is my strength*, means! So this Father's Day, enjoy a deep cleansing breath and know that your Heavenly Father wants to enjoy the day with you.



Serving Him Together,

John Mercurio