

# ...from the Heart

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*Summer 2015*



## **Our Father's Love**

Well, my favorite time of year is almost here – Summer! Summer brings another favorite time of year for me – Father's Day.

My son was born 35 years ago on June 4, just in time for me to celebrate my first Father's Day. Shortly after he was born, I remember sitting in a church praying. I began to think about how much I loved my son – unconditionally; how I always wanted to be there for him; and how I would do anything for him – even give my life. As I was contemplating these things, I heard God say to my heart, "That's how I love you." Nothing ever helped me more to understand God's love for me than having my son. No matter what we face in life, no matter how difficult life can get at times, God is always with us, and He always loves us.

Do you know the legend of the American Indian youth's rite of passage? His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him, and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own.

The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blows the grass, and the earth shook the stump, but he must sit stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man.

Finally, after a horrific night, the sun appears and he removes his blindfold. It is then that he discovers his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm.

Don't panic. I'm with you.

There's no need to fear for I'm your God.

I'll give you strength. I'll help you.

I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.

- Isaiah 41:10 (from THE MESSAGE)

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*Continued from front cover*

This Father's Day as you think about your children, also think of God your Father in heaven. If you, as imperfect as you are, can love your children so much, how much more does God, who is perfect, love you? Think about that. Oh, and have a great Summer.

And that's...

F.T.H.  
Pastor Jerry



### *"...From the Heart"*

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### **Stay Connected to Your Forever Family!**

Pastor Jerry's Good Morning message includes updates and announcements regarding church activities, prayer requests, a devotional, jokes (of course ☺) quotes, trivia, news, and so much more! To begin receiving "Good Morning", send an email address to: [pastor.jerry@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.jerry@verizon.net) to be added to the distribution list.

Check out our website at [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net) for sermons, contact information, Bible studies, and so much more!!



# Summer Events Calendar

*Communion served First Sunday of every month*



4

7pm

Christian Training and Ministry Board (CTMB) meeting

5

8pm

Prayer Meeting

6

7pm

Good News Bowlers at Bowl Long Island in Patchogue

7

10am

The First Holy Communion Class will be receiving the Lord's Supper for the first time with us.

11

7pm

Church Board Meeting

18

7pm

Ladies Sewing Circle

21

10am

Teen Challenge Choir



9

7pm

Church Board Meeting

19

10am

Rev. Bobby Lloyd of Long Island Citizens for Community Values (LICCV) will be our guest speaker



3 - 7

6 pm -9 pm

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

A great week of fun and Bible lessons for children

8

9:30am


Play for Peace Soccer Tournament at the Patchogue – Medford Youth Soccer Fields on Sipp Ave. in Medford

13

7pm

Church Board Meeting





## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In April, we had our second annual one day Ladies Retreat at our church. There were about 50 women in attendance both from our church and other fellowships as well. We worshipped together, listened to encouraging words from our guest speaker, and ate breakfast and lunch. From the comments, all of the ladies had a blessed time!


The Ladies In-Touch group will continue to meet on Tuesday evenings during the summer months for whoever chooses to attend. We will have a time of prayer and fellowship, but will not do a formal study. We have found that it is really important to "keep in touch" all year long. In September we will start a new book by Max Lucado. We will be having a Ladies Breakfast in September or October as well.

It is my prayer that as summer quickly approaches, we do not take a vacation from spending time with the Lord and in fellowship with other believers. With all that is going on around us, it is more important than ever to be available so that we might encourage others who are going through a difficult time.

Rest, relax, renew, be blessed and be a blessing.

In Christ,

Mary Ann



## The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship: God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists. We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc. Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see, or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work. That is the beauty of stewardship.

# Good News Bowlers



We will be concluding this year's league play with our end of year Awards Luncheon on June 7th. Each year we have many returning bowlers, and we always look forward to new faces. We are a church league, but not just our church; word has gotten around, and we have representation from many different local churches. We always have a good time, and the fellowship is great. We bowl the first Saturday of each month from September through June. This is a mixed handicap fun league. You must be 18 or older to join. If

you would like to join us in September for our 18th season as a league you can email me for more info (corinnefchurch@verizon.net). Start putting a team together now!

-Corinne Franco

## **DO YOU KNOW...WHAT WAS THE FIRST FOOD & LIQUID CONSUMED ON THE MOON?**

Forty-five years ago, two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. I'm talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took Communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine.

The background to the story is that Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt that he should mark the occasion somehow. He asked his minister to help him, so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of wine. Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the earth's orbit and onto the surface of the moon. He and Armstrong had only been on the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made the following public statement: "This is the LM pilot. I'd like to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John and took communion.

Here is account of what happened: "In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages that contained the bread and wine and poured them into the chalice my church had given me. In the 1/6<sup>th</sup> gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the chalice. Then I read, I am the vine you are the branches. Whosoever abides in Me will bring forth much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. I had intended to read that on the radio but at the last moment NASA requested that I didn't. They were already in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare because the Apollo 8 crew read from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmastime. I reluctantly agreed. I ate the Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the Intelligence & Spirit that had brought men to the moon." And, of course, it is interesting that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ who made the earth and the moon and all of creation.



Matthew 24:35

## Signs of the Times

We have just experienced a really brutal winter. We lost all 12 of the pond fish that we've had for many years due to flash freezing. As March and April came, we looked at the trees daily hoping to see buds and some sign of life and the arrival of spring, but nothing. The dates on the calendar just didn't seem to coincide with expected weather conditions for this time of year. We know the signs of the changes of the seasons, but they just weren't playing out as expected.

Similarly, we know Jesus will return to the earth, but when? In many ways we look forward to His second coming. He gave us signs of His return that we should watch for. I think recently, there have been many signs that we could apply; things we've read in the Bible. After all, look at the recent number of earthquakes and other disasters just in the last five years or so. Most recently are

the earthquakes in Nepal and the huge loss of life there as a result. Certainly, this must be what Jesus told us about...

Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, <sup>5</sup> for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. <sup>7</sup> Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. <sup>8</sup> But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come." (Matt. 24:4-8 NLT)

I know of a lot of people who are suddenly very concerned about the end times due to all these signs. Jesus could return at any moment, but that would be a good thing for those who believe. Jesus told us about these things and the signs to look for as a comfort for us, not to make us panic. All these things must happen. They are all part of the plan of God. He is still in control. Jesus continues...

"So if someone tells you, 'Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,' don't bother to go and look. Or, 'Look, he is hiding here,' don't believe it! <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. <sup>28</sup> Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near. <sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken." (Matt. 24:26-29)

Jesus even uses the sign of a budding tree to recognize that summer is near, much like me looking for our trees budding to get a sense that spring was near.

"Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. <sup>34</sup> I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place." (Matt. 24:32-34 NLT).

So there will be signs of the times that Jesus gave us to look for. These should not be reasons for uneasiness. They are meant as an encouragement. Just as I look forward to spring and summer, I should also be looking forward to Jesus' return — and I do. Listen to the famous proverb ...

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Prov. 3:5-6 NLT)

The Lord wants to direct our lives and our hearts. He wants to lead us in peace not turmoil. It takes dependence on Him and not ourselves. Do you trust Him? Then you will have peace — no matter what.

Peace be with you always,

Pastor Nick

# Walking His Way

Last Sunday, I was teaching a lesson about praying and, as I was going through the verses in the Bible and the teachings in Jeremiah 29:11-13, I could observe how the kids in my class were grasping the ideas of faith, seeking the Lord with all your heart, and understanding His promises of love, protection, and help. What a blessing it is to see children growing and learning, being educated and nurtured in church, developing a relationship with Christ, and following His direction. It gives me great pleasure to see them being part of the discussion and participating in Sunday school.

It is amazing how insightful children can be, how they understand what the Lord has to say in such a simple manner, with uncorrupted faith. There is no “but”, “if” or “why” in their perception of God. There is just faith, open hearts and pure joy to know that He is always there for them. I have to confess I learn more from them than they learn from me. It humbles me to see their wonder and their pure acceptance of the Word. To teach them is a great responsibility and a privilege.

The role of Children’s Ministry is precisely to provide every opportunity for children to develop a personal relationship with God. They learn from the lessons provided every Sunday, their participation in the church’s services, the special programs, like Vacation Bible School, the First Communion Preparation Class, plays, even parties, and from our own example. Our calendar is full of these opportunities this year. I would like to invite every family in our church and our community to be part of the First Holy Communion Ceremony on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, during our regular Sunday service. Arianna Akel, Charles Carpenter, Joshua Cattell and Marquis Johnson will take communion with us this day as they commit to remember Jesus’ sacrifice and promise of salvation from then on. Let’s rejoice together and make a commitment to continue our support for these children and their families.

Summer is around the corner and it will come sooner than we think. VBS is a great evangelistic tool for churches to provide a sound and safe environment for children to learn about God’s promises and direction. This year’s program is Lifeway’s “Journey Off the Map: Unknown to Us, Known to Him.” Based on Isaiah 30:21, “And whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: ‘This is the way. Walk in it,’” this program provides Biblical guidance for children to learn to follow God wherever they go and whatever they do. VBS will take place this summer, August 3-7, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Bring your kids, invite their friends, and volunteer to help. I believe it is going to be a great journey for all of us.

Every one of us in Children’s Ministry appreciates your support and involvement in all the programs that we provide for the children in our church and community. I, personally, hope to see you walking with us and with Him every step of the way.

Bendiciones,  
Nereida

## Ladies Sewing Circle



The Ladies will meet on June 18th and then take a break for the months of July & August. Many of us are working on our PhDs - *Projects half Done* - which any good crafter has plenty off. We will resume in September on the third Thursday of the month. I will be planning a group outreach project for the fall, there are so many worthy organizations out there. Right now I have been working with an organization called "Quilts for Kids" (<http://www.longislandquiltsforkids.com/>). They provide

comfort blankets to children with life-threatening illnesses and children of abuse. If you have a sewing machine and some basic quilting knowledge, perhaps you would like to make a blanket. They will provide the materials. No matter what project you are working on, we would love to have you join us (7pm at the Youth Center). We always have a good time of stitching, learning and sharing.

-Corinne Franco



# The Family Resemblance



I was visiting my son and daughter-in-law for Mother's day. After lunch, three adults, two children and three dogs spilled out through the kitchen door into the back yard. Their yard is a child's imagination palette. Abstract and unstructured, no matter where a child may have a thought or an idea, there is something nearby to execute it. Creativity runs freely.

My 32month old granddaughter Sheridan dragged her Little Tykes slide into a suitable spot and slid down it a couple of times. It wasn't positioned to her liking so she moved it. She slid down some more but something still wasn't right. Frowning, she looked around and saw an open-end socket wrench lying conveniently nearby. Tool in hand, she proceeded to lie on her back and wriggle herself like a mechanic under the slide. Knees bent and touching, bare feet apart and toes curled inward she gravely

assessed the situation for a few seconds. She then put the wrench to one of the plastic sealed bolts, gave it a couple of "twists" and confidently announced:

"I fou' pob". (Did you get that? "I found problem.")

Her daddy said, "You found the problem?"

"Uh huh," came the reply.

"That's great Sheridan!" he said. The barefoot princess wearing a new pink striped shirt adorned with a silk pink rose on the left pocket and new denim shorts wriggled herself out from under the slide and went off to other adventures.

We adults had all to do to keep from howling with laughter. Looking at each other, we agreed there was no doubt whose family she was part of. At that moment she looked, sounded, and acted just like every male, and some of the female, relatives in our family. Even her diagnosis- "I found the problem"- was so similar. I've heard my sons, their dad, my dad and my brother say the same thing. Something I observed in the interaction between Sheridan and her parents: They didn't demand she not get her clothes dirty. They didn't assign rules to follow, nor did they jump in to show her the "correct" way. They didn't belittle her actions. They allowed her to practice what was innate and learned (through observation). Her daddy applauded her efforts to see a problem, and then find a solution for it on her own terms. Jesus does the same for us! As Christians we should always applaud and encourage each other as we grow. God gives great freedom of choice within His rules for living. We know rules and discipline are important and a necessary part of learning, but there are times when both should take a back seat for the sake of learning.

As Christians we are part of God's family. Growing in faith should make us look, sound, and act more and more like our Father, and our spiritual family. When we are observed by others, it should be apparent whose family we belong to. There are several scriptures in which Paul exhorts his fellow-believers to imitate him and God. This wasn't arrogance on Paul's part to speak this way. He was fully committed to Christ, and he knew with certainty he was an example to follow. We are trained so we may train others. As we learn, we are expected to teach. God wants us to mature for that reason: So others will have an example worthy of following in the lives we live, especially the growing youngsters.

Do you sound like Jesus? Do you act like Jesus? Is the desire of your heart to grow more and more like Him? As you learn what it means to mature in faith, and you are putting into practice what you've learned, you will bear an unmistakable resemblance to Jesus and the family of Christ. When your brothers and sisters in faith watch you, they'll say with joy, "No mistaking whose family she belongs to!--You can tell what family he comes from! They belong to ours!"

[1 Corinthians 4:16](#) I beg you...be imitators of me. [1 Corinthians 11:1](#) Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ. [Ephesians 5:1](#) Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. [Philippians 3:17](#) ...be imitators together of me, and note those who walk this way, even as you have us for an example.

In His Love,  
Suzanne Cerruto