

...from the Heart

Published quarterly by the Patchogue Church of the Nazarene Summer 2016



I read a quote recently that went something like this, “You are one decision away from a different life.” Do you agree with that? If you do then how you choose is very important. And, if a different life is what you need, why are you waiting to make that decision?

I recently reconnected with an old friend. I asked if he remembered me, he said he did and wanted to get together so we could “catch up” on each other’s life.

At one time I wanted to be just like him. He was successful, wealthy, and had everything a young man could ever want. It was during this time in my life that I gave my life to Jesus, then I wanted to be just like *Him*.

So I got together with my old friend and in the course of our conversation so many years later he said to me, “I want what you’ve got.” And I’m thinking to myself, “What? At one time I wanted what he had.” I wondered what he meant. Then he said, “You seem to be at peace, I don’t know, maybe I’ll have to wait until I’m on the other side to finally have peace...you know, death.”

I told him he was wrong, he could have peace now in Jesus, but he would have to surrender all to Christ and give Him full control of his life.

I use to share Jesus with my friend when I was a new believer; I asked him if he remembered that, he did. Then I reminded him of something he said to me so long

ago while witnessing to him, “I know you tell me about Jesus,” he had said one day, “because you care about me, but if I was to accept what you are telling me I’d have to change my lifestyle but I’m having too good a time right now and I’m not ready to do that.”

His decision at that time to keep the lifestyle he wanted had some tragic results; now he knows what Solomon also discovered, that for the most part it was meaningless; it never resulted in finding peace. But God never gave up on my friend and today God is offering him another chance. He is just one decision away from a different life. Don’t get me wrong, my friend is a good man, and tries to do the right thing, yet he is still not ready to give God full reign in his life ... and so his peace waits.

What about you? What needs to change? What do you still lack? What is weighing you down? Bring it to the Cross of Christ. Jesus died to bring you peace and by peace I mean, wholeness, completeness. But you will never have peace – wholeness, or be complete until you give your all to Jesus.

At the same time that I read the above quote that I shared in this article, I also saw this quote, “There is no born winner, and there is no born loser, only a born chooser.” What is holding you back? Guilt? Shame? Failure? Insecurities? Choose to give it to Christ and trust Him completely with your life. “You are one decision away from a different life.”

And that’s...

F.T.H.

Pastor Jerry



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Is published quarterly by the

Church of the Nazarene

Nazarene Way, Patchogue, NY
www.patchnaz.net

Church Offices and mailing address:

65 Franklin St., Patchogue, NY 11772

Phone & Fax – 631-289-3483

Sunday Service at 10 am

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jerry Bonfiglio

Associate Pastor: Rev. Nick Franco

Newsletter Editor: Linda Cucinotta

linda23.pcotn@gmail.com



Coming up this Summer ...

- June 4 Memorial Service for Tom Fordham
- June 5 Receive New Members
- June 18 9:30am - Ladies Brunch - in the Fellowship Hall
- June 19 Father's Day (gifts for the dads)
- June 26 Child Sponsorship Sunday
Baby Dedication:
Makaylah Boutsikos

July 4 Independence Day



July 24 Church BBQ after the service on the church grounds.
Invite a guest!



August 1 - 5 (VBS) Submerged - 6pm - 9pm
August 13 - Play for Peace Community Soccer Tournament - Sipp Ave. - Medford - Bringing together the cultures of our community through the game of Soccer. Volunteers are needed. Contact us if interested.

Weekly Events

Sunday

10am - Service - Nursery available.
10:45am - Children's Sunday School and Teen Bible Study

First Sunday of the Month - Holy Communion

Third Sunday of the month- Children's Missionary Workshop with Barbara Brennan.

Monday

7pm - First & Third Monday of the month - September through June- M.E.N. (Men's Encouragement Network) - Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday

7pm - Every Tuesday. Ladies - In - Touch at Mary Ann Malcolm's Home.

Thursday

7pm - Second Thursday of the month- September through June - Ladies Sewing Circle - HPYC Building.

Saturday

8am - First Saturday of each month- September through June - M.E.N.'s Breakfast - Fellowship Hall.

7pm - First Saturday of each month- September through June - Good News Bowlers at Bowl Long Island Patchogue.

With Sympathy



Our good friend and brother in the Lord, Tom Fordham went to be with Jesus on May 12, 2016. He has been a part of our church family for many years, and we loved him. I had the pleasure of working with him when he served at the church as a custodian. He was willing to do anything, and could do almost anything. He always found a way to survive or get done what needed to get done. During the time that he worked at the church we had many conversations and it helped Tom get closer to the Lord Jesus.

He was a great guy and so many have shared with me their sadness after hearing of his passing. Tom loved to joke around, had great stories, was a hard worker, loved people, and was very giving. He brought many people to our church.

Even after his move to Florida he often called and stayed in touch. He would always ask about my family and the church. When he was up visiting from Florida he made a point to come to church to see us. He will be missed.

Tom would always say, "I'm ready to go whenever the Lord wants to take me." Right now he is receiving the reward of his faith in Jesus. Now Tom is experiencing what... "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." - 1 Corinthians 2:9

There will be a Memorial Service for Tom at our church on June 4 at 11:30am.

Pastor Jerry

FINDING TRUTH BELOW THE SURFACE

SUBMERGED
Psalm 139:23-24

VBS 2016
August 1st-5th 6-9pm



Angelo Vitale went on a Mission trip to Haiti with other Churches of the Nazarene on March 4-11 to help rebuild a church that was destroyed by an earthquake over 5 years ago. This picture was taken by Angelo, and he describes it below.



This is a picture of their Church in current conditions which was effected by the earthquake. I got to witness their worship and church service. What a blessing!!! Nothing stopped these beautiful people from worshipping our great God!!! This Church has no walls, a dirt floor and just a tarp to semi protect them from the sun and rain, Yet they packed into it and poured their hearts out to God. What an unforgettable experience of unbreakable faith!!!!!! Please pray for these people.

Angelo Vitale

Buildings and Grounds Summer Update

Operation Face Lift, the project for church improvements is underway.

Estimates and investigation are ongoing for our sanctuary and lobby including replacement windows, carpeting, seating, painting, electronics and sound equipment upgrades.

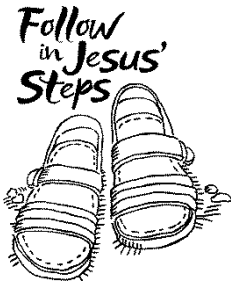
Exterior grounds: Attention is being given to main parking lot repair and renewal, to replacement of old and crumbling sidewalks and needed landscaping. We hope to make interior improvements by this fall. The Church Board is prayerfully considering the options we have for financing some of these projects.

Pastor John

Ladies Sewing Circle - - - - -

The Ladies sewing circle meets on the second Thursday of the month. Bring whatever project you may be currently working on. If you don't have a project, consider working on a simple project that we introduced at the April meeting through "Sole Hope." We are using simple materials - old denim jeans and plastic - that will be repurposed into shoes for Ugandan children who suffer from parasites called "jiggers."

June 18th after the Ladies Brunch we will be having a shoe cutting party! All you need to know is how to trace and cut. Just bring a scissors, sharpie and some old jeans if you have them. All shoes need to be complete and returned to me by the end of June. Now is the time to get rid of all those denim jeans that shrunk in your closet. I am also collecting clean plastic milk jugs. Anyone who would like to work on their own should contact me for pattern pieces and instructions. A \$10 donation is suggested to help complete the shoes.



If you know how to use a sewing machine ask me about "Dress a Girl Around the World." I have instructions for making a simple sundress. I am working with another group also and would like to send some dresses along with the next mission team to Haiti in August.

Helping others one stitch at a time, Corinne Franco

A Note From Men's Encouragement Network (M.E.N.)

The Men have been enjoying a 10 week study based on the book, *How God Makes Men* by Patrick Morley. Several men have stepped in to teach a session giving them opportunity for leadership as they bless the group with their own special gifts and personal insights including: Brian Callaghan, Will Barker (LW), Frank Donato, Pastor Nick and Joe Gardner.

Mark your calendars for Sunday July 24th for the Annual Church BBQ, a fellowship sponsored as always, by the Men's group. The BBQ on church grounds will start up after the conclusion of our morning service. This year we're inviting North Shore Nazarene Church and their pastor Vin Linguiti as well as Pastor Enrique and the Spanish church that shares our building every Sunday afternoon, to join us. Volunteer help is critical for success, so please contact Darrin Smith or myself as soon as possible if you're willing to help. Pastor John

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

What a blessed time we had at our Third Annual Ladies Retreat Day on April 16. The worship team prepared our hearts to receive the dynamic messages delivered by Joanna Fruhauf. We were fed physically and spiritually and enjoyed a sweet time of fellowship with our sisters. Hopefully, if the Lord directs us to have a Fourth annual next year, all those ladies who weren't able to be there this year will be able to attend then. Thank you also to all the men who stepped up and helped pick up the food, serve us and clean up. They were a real blessing.

We will be having a Ladies Brunch on Saturday, June 18th at 9:30am in the church Fellowship Hall. Immediately following the brunch, we will be cutting shoe tops for Sole Hope. This is a project that Corinne brought to the Sewing Circle that prepares packets for simple shoes to be sent to countries in Africa. Join us for the fellowship and opportunity to be a part of this wonderful outreach. Reminders will be given out as we get closer to that date.



Over the summer months, Ladies In-Touch will continue to meet at my home on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. During these months we don't do a formal study but continue to get together to pray, encourage and have fellowship with one another. All ladies are welcome to join us weekly or occasionally - whatever works for you!

As summer approaches, we look forward to longer days, warmer weather and vacations. No matter what your plans are during this time, please be sure to keep time with the Lord as your #1 priority. That is the least we can do for a God who is there for us 24/7 and never takes a day off!

Have a joy-filled summer,

Mary Ann



We Give to Grow Strong

When the world is at its worst, it needs the church at its best — a strong church. We strengthen the church by giving. We give because we care deeply for Christ and his kingdom, and for the hurting humanity of our time. We give our time, our money, our energy and our talent. We give to promote and develop programs, resources, leadership, family life, evangelism and more. We give guidance, encouragement and help to those in need. We give to establish new churches, new ministries and new missions. We give so the kingdom can grow — grow strong.

- Alabaster Offerings in February totaled \$331.58. The Alabaster Offering provides funds for property and buildings around the world. Alabaster coin boxes are available at the church. The next offering will be taken in September.
- Our Church Goal for the World Evangelism Fund in 2016 is \$3100. These funds are raised through Faith Promise Giving and both the Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings. Funds raised for the First Quarter of 2016 are Promise Giving \$275 and Easter Offering \$901. Thank you for your generosity.

Stay Connected to Your Forever Family!

Pastor Jerry sends out a daily email which 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”, please send your email address to:
pastor.jerry@verizon.net and you will be added to the distribution list.

Check out our website at www.patchnaz.net
Sermons, Bible studies, and Church Activities

A Jonah Revelation

Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-5

God called Jonah to a particular mission – to preach repentance to Nineveh. Jonah refused and ran the other way. Before we judge Jonah too harshly, let's look at our own lives and ministry areas. If God was prompting you to change up the way you do your ministry, would you be happy or rebellious?

Jonah liked things just the way they were. We like things just the way they are. The pastoral staff and CTMB have been discussing looking at our church and ministry areas with fresh eyes. What does a new visitor see and experience. Some of this is building and grounds related and some is individual ministry related. So – how do new comers see this church and your area of ministry?

If we look at the story of Jonah, we will see that God ultimately will have His way in everything. But, will it be with you on board or in spite of you not being on board? Every one of us is part of the ministry of our church. How far does your obedience go for God and His way in our church or in your ministry area?

We are soliciting input from different age groups, different ministry areas, and the congregation over all.

Walk into our church as a first time visitor. What do you see? Is it appealing? Does it put you off and make you uncomfortable? We want to know! Please say something to us.

If we implement some changes, will you be OK with that? Will they be accepted? Do we want to see things change? All these questions are important, and they need to be answered soon.

Our goal is to reach the 20 – 40 age group first and bring them into the church so they feel this is their church and want to take ownership of all aspects of ministry within our church. What would this impact? Maybe everything. Will it be the best thing for our church overall? We have to weigh everything and see how it impacts existing programs, leadership, events, etc.

We ask for your prayers as we try to introduce newness to our church in many areas including the building itself, the sound system, the projection system, and even the approach to every ministry area that already exists. Our Web presence is also an important factor. Many people check out the church's web site before attending or visiting our church. What are we presenting on the Internet?

Please pray as we enter this time of possible transition. We need to hear from God; we need clear direction and guidance. We need our church to be acceptable to those outside the faith and for our younger generation to take ownership of this vital ministry.

We need God, by His Holy Spirit to transform our outlook and outreach. We need Him to move among us and bring about the change that He is looking for. He has a plan. We just need to be receptive to it and learn to obey and implement it across the board of all our ministries.

Blessings and Peace,
P. Nick



The Source of the Song

As I came around the corner during my early-morning, late-March walk on the campus I noticed her. She stood there under the pine tree, head bent slightly to one side, as green in years as the lower half of her chestnut hair similarly colored. Looking up, listening, searching. I heard it too; and from my position on the sidewalk I could also see the source. A robin, full of life and song sang out its joyful sound in the tree opposite the pine. I stopped and asked softly, "Do you see him?" She silently shook her head. I motioned her to come out from under the pine and she hesitated for a second, but when she joined me I pointed up. The robin, overjoyed at such a rapt audience, went on trilling and chirping. We stood together in silent admiration as the song filled our souls.

"A good sign of spring, is it not?" I asked. We smiled at each other and parted ways. Not all appointments with the Lord look or sound officially religious, yet there is no mistaking His presence.

Some lessons happen in the spur of the moment and a door is opened to community and learning and blessing.

Especially for us of the 'mature' generation; are we willing to stop and take the opportunity when God presents it to help our green-aged youngsters (in physical or spiritual years) see the Source of the song they can only hear? Sometimes that means encouraging them to get out from under the soft pleasant to join you on the solid pavement. Don't just point it out and keep walking! Stop, and invite them to join you. It's a lot less scary for them, and an opportunity you wouldn't want to miss.

Romans 10:14

Sue C.



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Rules were made to be broken. As a history teacher I take interest in phrases, quotes and well known expressions, like the one just mentioned. I find myself wondering about the story that lurks behind them. I believe there is untapped treasure waiting for the person willing to dig a little deeper, break the seal or peek behind the curtain.

Were the portraits of George Washington always somber because, as legend tells, he had wooden teeth or was there something hiding behind that pained expression? We all know that Thomas Jefferson was assigned the task of writing the Declaration of Independence but did you know that he died on July 4th 1826 exactly fifty years later on the very day it was signed? Stranger yet, John Adams, the only other president to sign the Declaration died the same day just hours after him. Abraham Lincoln was the first American President to sport a beard but is it true that he was talked into it after reading the letter of an eleven year old named Grace Bedell? President William H Taft tipped the scales at 340 pounds but did he really need the help of secret service men to extricate him from the Whitehouse bath tub?

As a student of history and a disciple of Jesus Messiah, I want answers that are both historical and practical. I wonder how Paul of Tarsus (Paul the Apostle) would have handled the expression; *Rules were made to be broken*, as it relates to God's law and our human inconsistencies. In his letter to the Church of Rome he writes: "The Law code had a perfectly legitimate function. Without its clear guidelines for right and wrong, moral behavior would be mostly guess work. Apart from the succinct, surgical command, 'You shall not covet,' I could have dressed up covetousness to look like a virtue and ruin my life with it." Romans 7:7 (MSG) Yet in the same chapter Paul pinpoints his and our own frustrations.

"...What I don't understand is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise... I obviously need help. I know the law but still can't keep it ... I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but do it anyway. I've tried everything and nothing helps, I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me?" Romans 7: 14-20 (MSG)

As I listen to Paul's rant, I take a deep breath; inhaling and exhaling, thankful for the realization that I'm not alone in my daily struggles and neither are you. Even as believers who are forgiven and saved by God's grace, we all struggle with the same internal dilemma, the battle between base desires vs. pure spiritual intention.

Continued on Page 9



Was the person who coined the phrase, *Rules were made to be broken*, stating his or her defiance or were they also experiencing a moral struggle? Either way the writer is attempting to rationalize away the pain of a broken commitment to a promised standard.

I can identify with their pain, what about you? Most days we set out in the morning with the best of intentions. We desire to act and think in a noble pleasing manner as God's representative but before the morning light has even changed we find ourselves knocked off our white steed by our own short comings and failures. We intend to put others first but end up thinking of how our actions will impact our own well being. We pledge undying loyalty to God, to put away our preoccupations with money, things and addictive behaviors, only to feel the sharp pang of our own shortcoming and broken promises yet again. We work too hard or not hard enough making and breaking promises with frequent regularity until finally, we throw up our hands in despair asking the same question that Paul did ... "Isn't there anyone who can help me?" Thank God the answer is an affirming YES! In Romans 8:1 Paul writes, "With the arrival of Jesus Messiah that fateful dilemma is resolved ... Jesus personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all." (MSG)

As we continue to read we discover that our real source of power isn't our ability to finally understand and apply the truths locked away in the scripture nor is it by doubling our efforts to finally get things right. The one who gives us the ability to read and understand who Jesus really is also the one who breathes new life into us, God's Holy Spirit. The formula for successful living has remained consistent for thousands of years from Old to New Testament.

"This *is* the word of the LORD ... 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit ...' Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

Our battle is an ongoing one but God is either in control or He isn't. It comes down to a personal decision or more correctly a personal relationship between you and God. When we turn our heart back over to Him, letting His Spirit Pilot, not copilot our life, we discover the secret ... we never were in control we only fooled ourselves into thinking we were. How amazing is it that victory comes out of surrender? Is there anyone who can truly help me? Yes and always He's only a prayer away.

Serving Him Together,

Pastor John

