

# ...from the Heart

*Published quarterly by the Patchogue Church of the Nazarene  
Spring 2016*



## And They Lived Happily Ever After

Remember when all the children's fairy tale stories began with, "Once upon a time" and ended with, "And they lived happily ever after"? Well, not all stories have happy endings.

Not too long ago there was a special on TV about Frank Sinatra. It mentioned one of his most successful movies, "Von Ryan's Express." It said that he rewrote the ending of the film. Evidently, ole blue eyes did not get along very well with the director. Not wanting any chance of a sequel, Sinatra changed the upbeat ending of the novel and had Col. Ryan killed at the end of the movie.

I had heard of rewriting movies for happier endings, but this was the first time I heard of a rewrite for a sadder ending. Of course in real life there can be happy and sad endings.

The story of the suffering of Jesus began from the Last Supper, and continued to His prayer then arrest at Gethsemane, His trials, flogging, mocking and the story seemingly ended with His crucifixion. But Jesus rewrote the ending of His passion and death by rising from the dead on Easter Sunday morning.

It was the time of the Jewish Passover. This was when the Jews remembered their deliverance from slavery by the blood of the sacrificial lamb being applied to the door frames of their homes. It was Friday. Jesus was the only sinless, innocent person to ever live. Yet He became every sin ever committed, was tortured, nailed to a cross and died. His disciples (followers) must have been so confused. How could this be happening? They lost hope; I wonder if the guilty thief also lost hope. Certainly the many who mourned His death were disillusioned.

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Then...Easter morning dawns and there is an empty tomb where the dead body of Jesus had been laid. He is not there! He has risen from the dead. Death was defeated and the power of sin was broken. The end of the story was rewritten.

Did you know that the resurrection of Jesus can rewrite your story? Perhaps you can relate in your own life to the need for deliverance from slavery, or guilt, or shame. Perhaps you can recognize in your own life, confusion, disappointment and loss of hope. You might be disillusioned by the death of a loved one you mourn, or by other events in your life. Whatever the story, you will find that the ending can be rewritten when a life meets with Jesus.

Jesus is alive. The grave could not hold Him. His resurrection is the proof that He is God. His resurrection was the proof that His death on the cross was effective for the forgiveness of our sin. His resurrection was proof that there is always reason to hope. His resurrection was proof that there is life after death.

If deliverance, forgiveness, salvation, hope, entrance into heaven depended on us our story would have a sad ending. But the wonderful news is that Jesus rewrites sad endings. It is what He did for us, not what we do or achieve. A happy ending is found by putting faith in Jesus. Your story too can be rewritten by the Easter Story.

And that's...

F.T.H.  
Pastor Jerry



### *...From the Heart*

Is published quarterly by the

## **Church of the Nazarene**

Nazarene Way, Patchogue, NY  
[www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net)

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**Sunday Service at 10 am**

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## Spring Events



12<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am - Ladies Brunch  
12<sup>th</sup> - DON'T FORGET TO PUT  
CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE BED  
(Daylight Savings Time begins the  
13<sup>th</sup> and you don't want to be late for  
Church!)  
20<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday  
25<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Good Friday Service  
27<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday:  
8:45am Easter Breakfast



16<sup>th</sup> - 8am to 3pm Ladies Retreat at  
the church



5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> - District Assembly in  
New Jersey  
8<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day  
15<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost Sunday

### Weekly Events

#### Sunday

10am - Service - Nursery available during  
service.

10:45am - Children's Sunday School & Teen  
Bible Study

First Sunday of the month –  
Holy Communion

Third Sunday of the month –  
Children's Missionary Workshop

#### Monday

7pm - Every first and third Monday our  
M.E.N. (Men's Encouragement Network)  
group meets in the Fellowship Hall. Right now  
the men are discussing a book called "How God  
Makes Men" by Patrick Morley.

#### Tuesday

7pm - Ladies-in-touch meets every Tuesday at  
Mary Ann Malcolm's home. All ladies are  
invited to attend.

#### Thursday

7pm - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, the  
Women's Sewing Circle meets in the  
HPYC Building. In June they will take a  
summer break and then resume meeting  
in the fall.

#### Saturday

8am - First Saturday of each month,  
M.E.N. Breakfast held in the Fellowship Hall.  
7pm - First Saturday of each month, Good  
News Bowlers at Bowl Long Island, Patchogue.

## Our Deepest Sympathy:

Our beloved Grace Karstendick went to be with the Lord on December 13. She was 90 years old. She has been a loved, faithful part of our church for 60 years.

Grace was born in Patchogue, in a house on the same block where she was currently living. She graduated from Patchogue High School, which at that time was located on So. Ocean Ave. (the current Middle School) and worked at the Lace Mill (now the location of Briarcliff College) toward the end of WWII when they were making clothes for our soldiers. Her husband passed away in 1966 and she became a single mom of five small children.

She was a quiet, sweet woman, with a gentle spirit. Though she had very little herself, she was very generous, and always wanted to help others.

Grace served our church in many ways over the years, including serving on the Church Board, cleaning the church, a substitute Sunday School teacher, and even recently still sending letters and cards out to our missionaries all around the world. But she is probably best known for serving in our nursery for many, many years, and the kids and their parents loved her. One of those parents whose son is now in his 20's said she has fond memories of seeing her son peacefully asleep in Grace's arms when she would come to get him from the nursery.

We will miss our dear sister Grace until we are united once again with her in heaven.



## *Child & Baby Dedications*

*December 13, 2015*

*Juliana Isabella Dumas*

*Alexandre Jean (A.J) Dumas*

*Proud Parents - Alex & Sarah Dumas*

*Proud Godparents - Michael & Nicholle Messina*

*December 20, 2015*

*Yvette (Evie) Jean Elizabeth Carpenter*

*Proud Parents - Paul & Kelley Carpenter*

*Proud Godparents - Zachary Lawson & Colleen Kelske*

## Food Pantry News

This year, Easter Sunday will be arriving exceptionally early March 27th. In spite of that, let's hope for spring-like weather, as we praise our Risen Savior with thankful hearts! Hopefully our pantry will be able to provide an Easter Sunday meal for several families we've been helping -- perhaps a ham dinner with all the trimmings.

During these winter months, I have been trying to include more hearty foods such as soups, beans, pasta, and oatmeal in the grocery bags.

In January, I shopped at Aldi's and purchased some basic items we ran out of. If you are able, please continue to donate to our food pantry. There are so many in need. When making monetary donations please mark the envelope for food pantry.



Additionally, we are low on plastic grocery bags-- if you have any extras, please place them in the Pantry Bin located in the church vestibule.

Thank you, and may Our Lord Bless you!

MaryAnn Mavridis

*"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."* MATTHEW 25: 35 (ESV)

*There will be another Mission trip to Haiti*

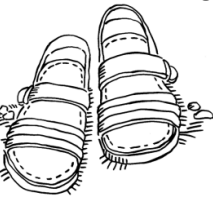
*March 4<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Angelo Vitale will be going with the Bay Shore Church of the Nazarene to help rebuild a church which was destroyed in an earthquake.  
Please keep them in prayer.*

Ladies Sewing Circle - - - - -

Our sewing night is changing! We will now be meeting on the **second** Thursday of each month starting in March to work on charity or personal projects. Come join us for a few hours of "therapy" while we sew, chat and fellowship with one another. We will continue to meet through June and then take a summer break.

I have a group project in mind for a Saturday for this coming summer or fall. I was touched by an article that I read in Newsday not too long ago about school children starting the process of making shoes for children in Uganda through a non-profit organization called Sole Hope. The Ugandan children are exposed to parasites, called Jiggers, that burrow into their feet, laying their eggs and causing painful wounds and related illnesses keeping them from walking, playing or going to school. We will be cutting out pieces from denim and plastic bottles in the first step of shoe making process.



These will then be sent off to be completed by tailors and shoe makers in Uganda. So don't throw away those old denim jeans, put them to good use and donate them (not stretch type please). We will also be collecting empty plastic milk containers as we get closer to the date. Each participant is asked to bring \$10 to aid in the completion of the shoemaking process. More info and a signup sheet will follow when a date is set so I know what supplies need to be ordered.

*Keeping you in stitches,  
Corinne Franco*

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MEN’S NETWORK UPDATE

The Men’s group meets the first and third Monday evenings and the first Saturday morning of every month in the Church Fellowship Hall. Monday evenings include a study entitled How God Makes Men, by Patrick Morley. We invite you to join us in this life changing ministry. One Saturday per month is set apart for a special breakfast get together sharing both natural and spiritual food in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Men’s group is currently involved in the project of refinishing the annex recreation hall, adding new lights, paint and flooring. It will provide a place where all church groups can hang out together and enjoy some games and down time. More importantly the Men are involved in supporting Bay Shore’s Pastor Larry Mancini, in the ongoing series of Haiti mission trips to rebuild a church that was destroyed by an earthquake.

The Monday evening meetings are designed for men of all ages. The give and take discussion between guys has brought enlightenment and healing to many men who have attended. Group leaders Darrin Smith, Bob Bier and I invite you to join us. Come see what you’ve been missing.

*Pastor John*

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

As I look out my window at the falling snow, it seems strange to be writing an article for the spring newsletter. But, as we all know, the nice weather will be here before we know it...YEA!

Our Ladies In-Touch recently finished up the book entitled Grace by Max Lucado. We all enjoyed being reminded of the amazing grace that we have from the Lord told to us as only Max can do. For the season of Lent, we will be looking into the background history of this practice and have a devotion relating to preparing our hearts for Resurrection Sunday. We start each evening with a time of prayer and end with fellowship. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in my home and all ladies are welcome to join us.

Weather permitting, we will have a Ladies Brunch on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the church fellowship hall. This is an informal time of fellowship aimed at helping us to get to know each other better so that we might nurture strong, caring bonds between our sisters in Christ.

On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our Third Annual Women's Day Retreat at our church. Once again we will welcome Joanna Fruhauf as our guest speaker and Kelley Carpenter will lead our times of worship. The day will start at 8:30am and end at 3:00pm with both breakfast and lunch being served. The cost will be \$10 and you will need to sign up in advance. Flyers will be handed out shortly. So mark your calendars and be ready to join in for a day of blessings.

The Sewing Circle meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at HPYC. Corinne is presently looking into another group project that we can work on together. It is rewarding to accomplish something to benefit those in need and have a time of fellowship while doing it. Why not come out and see what it's all about!

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, I pray that you will take time to truly reflect on all that Jesus has done for us. There is a line in a hymn that goes "With His blood He has saved us; with His Love He has raised us, to God be the glory for the things He has done!" May each of us give Jesus the glory that is due Him not just at this time but every day of the year!

Be blessed abundantly,  
Mary Ann



## BUILDING & GROUNDS

With the help of in-house labor and a generous electrician named Vito Gazzola who has befriended our church, we've managed to take steps forward in several projects this winter.

- HPYC recreation hall has received new energy efficient overhead lighting and paint, flooring is still needed (Hall to be a fun place for our teens, men and women)
- Fellowship Hall Kitchen received a new coat of paint - new shelving for much needed storage to follow
- Pre-school/ toddler room repairs and new paint - equipment updates following
- New lighting LED lighting on large exterior cross
- Update on "Project Face Lift" Will be discussed in our annual business meeting

Our church is much in need of additional volunteers for one time projects or regular assistance. If you can paint, clean, mop, vacuum or just pick things up and put them down

..... **We Need You!**



We need dedicated people in just about every ministry of the church, including: Sunday School, Children's Nursery, Music Ministry, Small Groups, Men's Group and more.

I need a Church Buildings and Grounds assistant – I know you're out there. Your commitment to serve would not only help the people of Patchogue, you'll be serving the Lord. Waiting to hear from you,

*Pastor John*

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## **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](mailto:pastor.jerry@verizon.net) and you will be added to the distribution list.

Check out our website at [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net)  
Sermons, Bible studies, and Church Activities



# Signs of the Times



**Matthew 16:2-3 (NLT) - He replied, "You know the saying, 'Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.' You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don't know how to interpret the signs of the times!"**

As I am writing this, we just experienced the coldest weekend in a long time, and we drove to Virginia into a winter storm of snow and icy roadways. I can't tell much about weather signs in the sky based on the past day or so. We are now in Virginia snowed in and waiting for the plows and warmer temperatures to help. Are the signs of the times just as confusing and unpredictable?

Jesus said, ***Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near.*** (Matt. 24:32 & Mark 13:28 - NLT)

Sounds pretty straight forward, doesn't it? Every spring I can see the buds for new growth appearing, and some flowers sprouting and blooming. Spring is close and golf season is about to start. However, there still may be some weather events to deal with before the weather is warm and everything is in full bloom. I still can tell by these natural signs that spring and summer are a sure thing. How long it will take to actually happen and what other events will come along the way are unknown.

If even these sure things are often difficult to realize, how can we possibly understand the signs of the times in terms of Jesus return. Believers are waiting anxiously for this great event, but only God knows when. There are many events that must happen before that great day.

While we were driving in on the Interstates, we had a very open and easy drive. We were making the best time ever, it seemed. The GPS told us the route was clear and we should arrive at our destination at 10:06 PM. A half hour or so into Virginia we started to see the beginning of the promised snow storm. The tension began to mount up. Of course, as we continued, conditions just worsened. At times we couldn't see the road, then suddenly, it seemed clearer, and we continued forward. Then conditions would change again.

With about 50 miles to go to our exit, driving conditions were pretty bad and we dropped our speed to between 40 and 50 MPH for the rest of the trip. A warning sign flashed, “Accident at MM 150 – Left Lane Closed.” This is our exit! As we finally got to the exit area, we saw the trooper’s lights flashing. I tried to slow down and found the car sliding on ice. I tried to brake a couple of times, but we were on a layer of ice, so I used the manual gears to slow down. We saw that six or so cars spun off the road on both sides. Corinne was almost in tears.

The exit ramp was solid snow – better than ice, and we crawled off the Interstate and made our way slowly to our destination.

Thinking spiritually, the enemy throws all kinds of events at us to blind our journey and create fear and anxiety rather than God’s assurance and peace. How can we stay grounded in God’s promises as reality in the face of snow storms and icy roads on our spiritual journey? The answer is to stay grounded in the Word of God. Study it, memorize it, learn what it means, believe it, and trust God completely.

Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will disappear, but **my words will never** disappear.” (Mt. 24:32; Mk. 13:31; Lk. 21:33 – NLT) – That’s a fact and it is recorded in three gospels, so very important for us to know and believe. You can count on God’s promises and not fear or worry about the future. He will and has given us all we need to know about that in the Bible.

Read it.

I know Spring is coming and so is Jesus,

Pastor Nick



The Second Coming  
of Christ



## What a Difference a Day Makes

We've reached that time of year again, when the doldrums of winter surround us. The memories and nostalgia of Christmas are a distant memory, as are the well wishes for a happy new year. We've settled in; we no longer feel the need to double check the last digit when writing out the date. We're anxious to put this winter behind us but February blues make it difficult to look ahead. What is it about the second month of the year that makes us feel so blasé we'll grasp for anything that offers a glimmer of hope? How pathetic is it that we should get excited over the emergence of a furry little critter, on the second day of February? Don't deny it ... yeah you tried to be cool about it, telling yourself it's no big thing but you checked didn't you? "Did the little guy see his shadow or not?" Punxsutawney Phil emerged at 7:27 ET without seeing his shadow; his forecast of an early spring delighted the Gobblers Knob crowd who had waited in 22 degree temperatures. Admit it, you felt better when you heard the news, at least for a little while ... but those seasonal gray skies of winter just seem to hang in there don't they?

Take heart potential snow birds, this year you're in for a treat, there's a new sheriff in town, no it's not another groundhog or any other kind of animal. This is an old friend we haven't seen around these parts in four years ... it's the 29<sup>th</sup> of February, Leap Year. Oh I know what you're thinking ... *one more, day added to an already long winter, makes me feel worse not better!* But hold on a minute, this day only comes once every four years, bringing with it something that none of us can beg, borrow or steal, no matter how hard we try. What is it you ask ... additional time, a singular day added to your life. The question you should be asking is ... what am I going to do with such a gift? Do I ignore it, treating it like any other day or firmly take hold of it, *carpe diem*. Time is our most precious resource, we can't finagle a moment more than what God has intended for us. When the hour glass for our life runs out our time is up. Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over" but when the sands of time run out ... it is over.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Ephesians to carefully consider their misuse of time. "Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see." Ephesians 5: 11 – 15 (The Message)

I lost a very close friend this past week; a friendship that goes back to my childhood. We were eight year olds when we met, born the same year and month, just one day apart. Richie's birthday was the 29<sup>th</sup> of September mine was the 30<sup>th</sup>. We shared a similar sense of humor and outlook on life. We'd often discuss how crazy the world had become and wondered aloud how things ever got so out of control. I was well aware of his battle with cancer this past year, yet Richie's sudden death caught me completely flat footed. He was there, then suddenly he wasn't; no chance to share a last laugh, make a final promise or even say goodbye. He was gone and though I wished I could have been with him, there's no going back.

I find myself wondering about the sharp turns our lives can suddenly take. Why did time run out so much sooner for Richie than me? I imagine how great it would be to climb into a Delorean, powered by a flux capacitor and go back in time? I could set things right, finish what I'd left undone and clean up whatever mess I'd left behind. What would I do with a second chance? Would I have the wisdom to make the right decisions a second time? Comedian Flip Wilson said, "If I had the chance to live my life over again, I don't think I would have the strength." *Time and Tide*, the ancient proverb states, *waits for no man*. There's just no going back, no ability to travel to the past, except in our mind. We have only the present and the future. But when God, not self interest, becomes the main focus of our life, second chances abound! Only He has the power to put our regrets to bed, giving us a clear conscience and restful mind. "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on You*, because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3 NKJ

So how has time been treating you lately, or should I say ... how have you been treating the time that's been entrusted to you? You were created for a designed purpose; do you know what it is? Have you ever asked God about it, and more importantly, have you listened for an answer. This life affords us limited time to work with, the older we get the more aware we become of these limitations. What is it that you've been putting off doing because you think you have plenty of time? Life takes on new meaning when we understand that self gratification is a dead end. Giving God control of what you never had control of isn't throwing your life away, it's finding it. If you're haunted by the thought that you've wasted the best years of your life, you should know there's a second chance waiting for you. The Holy Spirit has been waiting for your eyes to open to reveal the life God intended you to have. To satisfy that part of you that's always wondered, is there something more? So use the time wisely, seek God today and see what a difference a day can make.

Serving Him Together,

Pastor John Mercurio



