

# ...from the Heart

*Published quarterly by the  
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene*



**2018**

## Changing Seasons



We, as a church, are in a season of change. Our new pastor, Rev. Vincent Linguiti, will be starting in Sept. This will be a season of change for all of us, but I'm excited about it.

One thing to keep in mind is that this will be a season of change for both Pastor Vin and his wife, Kathy. We look at this as all good for us, but remember that they will be leaving a church fellowship that they have built relationships with for the past nine years. They will be leaving their home on the North Shore to take up residence in the parsonage in Patchogue. They have much to get through and much to change from their comfort zone. While we are excited and can't wait for them to come on board, there is much they are dealing with in this transition. Our transition is minor compared to that. We have been going forward almost unscathed during this last year plus. Our church has been moving steadily forward in the process.

I commend all of you who have stayed the tides and have been faithful. I expect your full support for Pastor Vin as we move forward. It is critical that we keep our sights on the Lord and what He has in store for us as a church. I believe the best is yet to come, not just because Pastor Vin will be our leader, but because God has appointed change in our fellowship that will yield great advances for us as a body of believers and as the family of God.

As we transition from summer to fall, we have taken some challenges in the weather this year. I am torn between riding my motorcycle and taking the car to work each day. The car has won out, I must say. The weather has either been rainy, cool or hot and humid, all of which are not conducive to motorcycle riding (well, except cool).

From front cover

I expect there to be the same degree of transitional uncomfortableness as the seasons in our church this year. We will have to get used to a new senior pastor and learn how we relate in the process. Pastor Vin and Kathy will have to get used to a new church family and how they will relate in the process. I have to tell you that I am excited, but also a little reserved as this whole process plays out for us. I have been with you for almost 30 years and I am deeply concerned about all of you and the church in general. I wholeheartedly believe that Pastor Vin is God's man for this position, and I am behind him 100%. We will be working closely together to keep things moving in a forward direction. There is much to be transitioned, but we are both committed to making this as seamless as possible for the congregation.

I am honored to serve alongside of Pastor Vin and Kathy. I am looking forward to the great things God has planned for the Patchogue Church of the Nazarene. It has been my privilege to serve as your interim pastor over this past year plus. I will continue, in my season of change, to serve as Pastor Vin directs.

May God bless you all. Have a great fall, and be supportive during our season of change. We Love you, and we're in this together,

And that's ...

*From my heart,  
Pastor Nick ☺*



## *...from the Heart*

is published quarterly by the

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**Sunday Service at 10am**

**Pastor: Nick Franco**

Check out our website at [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net) for Sermons,  
Church activities and other events



## Blending Blessing

*"...A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over..." Lk 6:38*

I like to make breakfast smoothies. Individually, the separate ingredients look so appealing! Colorful berries, white almond/coconut milk, vanilla or almond extract, bananas; I prefer combining ingredients that still look nice once mixed. I'm comfortable when food looks good and presents well, as opposed to the notion that, if it's healthy I should disregard the look of it. Recently though, I had fresh kale and spinach on hand which I decided to add into a blueberry smoothie. What a shock that was! Suddenly, something pretty turned a strange greyish-green with blue undertones, but it tasted surprisingly good. A few days later I added some chocolate protein powder to the blueberry-kale-spinach mix and it looked even more horrid. Honestly, it looked downright disgusting, but it tasted great and it was very healthy. I don't know why I decided to take those chances, but now I'm glad I did.

We all have different qualities and abilities that are uniquely ours. As individuals, God asks us to serve Him in a variety of ways. When there is a larger task to be accomplished, He knows exactly which 'ingredients', that's us, He desires to put into the mix (think of a committee, ministry, project...or a congregation) to get the job done.

He may combine us in ways we never would because we tend to want things to present well. We focus on what looks pretty, safe, familiar, and recognizable. Unfortunately, we allow the unfamiliar to unsettle us and we miss an opportunity God has planned for our growth and His glory.

God's goals are not hard to understand. His goal for us as individuals is to grow up into mature Christians. His goal for us as a congregation is to become a mature, healthy family that works well together as we serve Him and others.



Soon, we are going to have the blessing of fully receiving Pastor Vinnie into our congregation as our senior pastor. Joining him is his wife, Kathy, and those from the North Shore Church that are called here to PatchNaz. We can expect changes as we blend our two families into one. Some changes will be easy to accept. Perhaps others will be a little harder, but we should never be afraid to follow Jesus into a new situation. He wants to do something exciting and healthy for our family! Our future is uncharted territory to us, but it isn't to Him. He's already there.

*Is 43: 5-7,18-21:*

*"Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made. Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."*

*Suzanne Cerruto – Hospitality*



## ***VBS 2018 - Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity***

What an exciting week of VBS we got to share with the wonderful children of our church and community! It was a pleasure to serve in this ministry and introduce the kids to the amazing story of Daniel's life. They learned key lessons that encouraged not only the kids, but the adults too. The theme of the week was looking for God in all aspects of

life, in change, in times of need, in our fear, in our loneliness, and in our times of joy and thankfulness. We sang praises to our Lord, made beautiful crafts, played fun games, and learned about how we can help those in need in Haiti.

We always have the children bring donations for a charity as a motivation to help others. Since we were learning about Haiti, and the need is still so great, we decided to take part in a group challenge. We learned that it only takes \$10 to feed a family, provide education and seeds for farming, greatly improving the lives of many in Haiti. We set a goal every night to see how our pocket change could make an impact. We met, or exceeded, our nightly goals all week. We raised \$401.27, feeding 40 families! It was a fun way to come together and make a real difference in our world.

God worked in many amazing ways during our week together. The kids had a very important assignment: tell us all how they see God working in their lives. They had a lot to celebrate, like healing family members, getting new responsibilities, bringing family home from long journeys, spending time together, and having an absolute blast being with our friends! We got to watch our kids grow in knowledge and strength in our God. He blessed us with sunny days, and amazing, talented workers to help bring the program to life! This VBS would not have happened without the help, support, and prayers of our church. We cannot adequately express how grateful we are to every person who helped this program come to fruition. Each and every action, prayer, word of encouragement, piece of advice, and hug made an impact. Your willingness to step into any role we needed was a blessing beyond measure. I pray that the seeds that were planted that week will grow strong and bear great fruit. It would not have happened without God's provision and your faithful support. Thank you so much for all you have done, and all you continue to do for our children.



With Love,

Sue Herrmann and Nicholle Messina

# Teen Ministry News



Happy Fall Everyone,

I don't know about you but Fall is my favorite season, the pumpkin picking, the leaves changing, the pumpkin spice latte's, the whole thing!

The teens took an unexpected hiatus this summer. We were planning to have youth group all throughout summer but God had other plans. Each Friday the teens could not attend. Naturally the human side of us got a bit discouraged but God spoke to us.

Michael and I ended up taking it as a great blessing. To be honest, it was a busy year and to have the summer to play catch up has been nice. We do miss our Friday nights and our Sunday School which will resume in September; we are looking forward to that.

We would like to congratulate Matthew Gazzo who graduated from Longwood High School this past June, and we would like to take a moment to thank the teens who volunteered their time at VBS this year; what a blessing to have the youth involved in this church as much as they are. For fall we plan on continuing our normal activities and start a new curriculum for both Sundays and Fridays.

Thank you for allowing us to serve,  
Blessings,  
Michael & Nicholle Messina



## Stick with it!



"If I've learned anything about friendship, it's to hang in, stay connected," says journalist Jon Katz. "Don't walk away, don't be distracted, don't be too busy or tired, don't take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together."

This applies to church life too. When we're annoyed by some aspect of congregational life or caught in conflict with other members, it's tempting to drift away to another church — or no church. Even when all is fine, we sometimes let church take a back seat. But our bonds with the family of God are "part of the glue that holds life and faith together." For the sake of the benefits we gain and give, may we "hang in [and] stay connected" with our church family. May we not "walk away [or] be distracted, ... be too busy or tired." May we not take one another for granted but thank God for this "glue" — even when things get a bit sticky! --

- from The Newsletter Newsletter -



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



As expected with the very high humidity and temperatures we have been experiencing this summer, I am really looking forward to autumn...

It's my favorite season anyway!

We will start the new season with a Ladies Brunch on September 15. We will gather at HPYC or the church Fellowship hall, depending on how many ladies there will be, at 9:30 for a time of food, fun and fellowship. Mark it on your calendars, and look for a reminder flyer in early September. I hope to see many of you there.

Our lady's groups have continued to meet during the summer months. Attendance can be anywhere from 2 ladies to 10 but that doesn't stop us from gathering to pray for one another and the needs of our families, friends, church and nation. We have shared many wonderful answers and await patiently for others and have enjoyed some really nice times of fellowship.

In the fall, our lady's groups will be starting a new book about Esther. It is the study about a remarkable young Hebrew woman who became a queen. Many of us are familiar with her story but this will give us a fresh insight to her life. The book even has some nice coloring pages to help you relax. We meet Tuesday nights at 7 P.M. at my home in Bellport or Thursday mornings at 10 A.M. at HPYC (next door to the church). Please let me know if you would like to join us, and I'll be sure to order a book for you.

Our collections for items to fill the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child have been going on since March. At this point, donations have been light so we will have a catch-up month in October to fill in some things that we may need. Thank you to all the faithful people that continue to bring items each month. Our Packing Party will be on Saturday, November 17 and I'll let you know of the time when it is decided. This will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> year that our church has participated in this wonderful ministry that shares Jesus with children and their families all around the world.

It seems that during the last several months, we have been bombarded with some very heavy prayer requests within our church family, friends and loved ones. At times we can feel like God is not hearing our cries as we pour out our petitions to Him. In one of the songs the children sang during VBS, a few of the words were "24/7 – God is watching you" and that is so true. He hears every heartbeat and sees every blink of our eyes. He already knows the answers to each and every request we bring before Him and will send the answer when the time is right. Our job is to be there to encourage one another; to provide a meal or give a hug. When we put others before ourselves, somehow the problems we are facing seem to fade into the background. We can only be the people God has called us to be if we remain faithful in reading Scripture and spending time each day in prayer. If you don't already do that, get busy and see the power of our Savior at work in you!

Many blessings,

*Mary Ann*



# Weekly Schedule

Subject to Change



## Sunday

10am - Service - Nursery available  
10:45am - Children's Sunday School - Fellowship Hall  
10:45am - Teen Bible Study - HPYC Building  
First Sunday of the Month - Holy Communion

## Monday

7pm - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month - **September through April** - M.E.N. (Men's Encouragement Network) - Fellowship Hall

## Tuesday

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

## Thursday

10am - Every Thursday - Ladies Prayer & Bible Study Group - HPYC Building  
7pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month - **September through June** - Ladies Sewing Circle - HPYC

## Friday

6:30pm - 8:30pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month - Teen's Youth Group - HPYC Building

## Saturday

8am - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month - **September through April** - Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall



# Coming Up...

## In September...Alabaster Month

September 3 - Labor Day - Church Office Closed

September 8 - Men's Breakfast

September 15 - Ladies Brunch

September 22 - First day of Autumn



## In October...Pastor Appreciation Month

October 12-14 - Taconic Men's Retreat



## In November...Thanksgiving Offering for World Evangelism

November 3 - Turn clocks back before bed

November 17 - Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

November 22 - Thanksgiving Day



## **FOOD PANTRY**

HOURS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

10AM – 2PM



We are dedicated to serving those in need in our community.  
Thank You to all who give and make this outreach possible.

- 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)*





## GAINING PERSPECTIVE



Ever hear the phrase, In a New York minute? It's a frame of reference, a conceptual scaffold on the use of time. It suggests that people who live there can do more in sixty seconds than others can in hours. People who live in the Tri-state area: New York, New Jersey and Connecticut fall into that rapid paced culture. Long Islanders for example, are always in a hurry to get somewhere or do something. When driving we think in terms of minutes not miles. The advertisement, *hurry and get yours before it's too late*, cries out to us! But a person who continually overextends them self, inevitably faces physical and emotional exhaustion. Long Islanders dress, talk, drive, work and eat fast. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that the Northeastern region of the country had the highest number of road rage incidents. Among U.S. cities N.Y.C. has consistently lead the pack for the past three years. If Brooklyn were its own city it would be number two. An underlying cause of road rage is impatience or the desire to get there fast, by whatever means necessary.

A person can become so indifferent to their burden of daily stress that they no longer recognize it. You DVR a favorite TV show because you don't want to waste time on annoying commercials. You wield your remote like a fencing expert parries his sword, vanquishing useless jabber. You experience guilt in a moment of quiet reflection, because it feels like you're wasting time. You bump into yourself going out the door on the way to one of dozens of family activities. You've considered cloning yourself in the hope of doubling personal productivity. If you've experienced all or any of the above symptoms your stress level is teetering on excessive anxiety.

*James Banks, a contributing author to Our Daily Bread devotional, wrote about a visit he made to his local Post Office. He was in a hurry because his, **to do list** was considerable for that day. Things quickly worsened when he discovered he was at the end of a line that stretched from the entry door to the front desk. Frustrated he muttered, "Hurry up and wait." With his hand still on the door an elderly stranger walked up to him to ask for help. The man was struggling with a copier machine that had taken his money but given him nothing in return. James stepped out of line and fixed the problem in ten minutes. As he turned to get back in line he discovered it was gone. His day took a change in direction when he responded to a call for help. Everyone faces situations similar to the one James Banks described. In fact most of us have had a day when we were the stranger desperate for help. Can you remember how it felt when someone reached out to you?*

It's amazing how quickly God can transform our perspective? Faster than a New York minute! He presents us with a choice; step away from personal pursuits and make a difference for someone else or continue hammering away at a self absorbed life style.

Helping others is a two way cure, it not only helps the one in need, it blesses the one who steps up to help. We get a kind of euphoric high by doing an act of kindness when no strings are attached. Serving others is God's definition of ministry. God is looking for someone to bless. When we listen to and obey that still small voice inside the returns will be bountiful. Jesus spoke about it in Luke 6:34 (NLT) "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

Isn't that the kind of time investment you want to make? We lose a handle on what's important when our focus shifts to personal goals. God, on the other hand, wants to put us in the position to experience a meaningful, fulfilling life by realigning our perspective. If you're still struggling to find the time to get it all done, why not try it God's way. Experience His blessings by dedicating time to others. You won't have to look far to find opportunities, in fact now that you're aware of how it works, expect Him to bring them right to your door step.

Serving Him Together,  
Pastor John Mercurio



Rev. Henry Wingblade once compared the Christian personality to the unseen soup in a bowl carried high over a waiter's head. No one knows what's inside — unless the waiter is bumped or trips. If Jesus is truly living inside us, Wingblade said, what spills out should be the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

When you falter, what do people see? How can your "spillage" better reflect the Holy Spirit, who lives in you?





## Nursery News

### *Congratulations to:*

*Cori & Pasquale Marra & family  
on the birth of their daughter.  
Juliet Capri Marra, born June 17 (Father's Day).*

*Pastor Nick & Corinne Franco  
on the birth of their granddaughter.  
Pepper Florence Franco, born June 21 to  
Christine and Matthew Franco.*

*Bob & Felicia Bier  
on the birth of their grandson.  
Ethan Robert, born on July 2 to  
Chris & Bethany Bier.*

*and to*

*Jon & Cisa Rymer & family  
on the birth of their daughter.  
Rebekah Mary Rymer born on August 23.*



### *Baby Dedication*

Two little cousins were dedicated to the Lord on June 30, 2018. Natalia Maria Holland, daughter of Robert Holland and Theresa Velasquez, and Bryan Thomas Holland, son of Bryan and Jennifer Holland. Pastor Nick Franco officiated.

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## Ladies Sewing & Craft Circle

Hi Ladies – didn't the summer seem to take a long time arriving and then poof – it's over! The next thing you know it will be a countdown to Christmas (120 days). Time to put your crafty hat on and start thinking about making those Christmas gifts. If you are anything like me you will be stitching and gluing 'til the last minute so why not get started now. The Sewing/Craft group meets once a month, on the third Thursday, in the Youth Center building at 7pm. Bring any project you can carry to work on ☺. Complete one of those UFO's, or start something new. If you feel so inclined you can make a hat, blanket, or quilt to donate to a worthy organization. This Quarter's meeting days will be 9/27, 10/18 and 11/15.

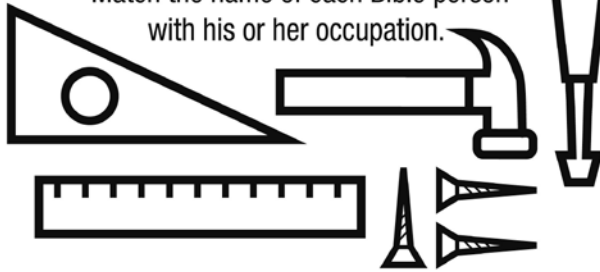
*In the Quilt of Life, friends are the stitches  
that hold it together!*

Corinne Franco



# Puzzle!

Match the name of each Bible person with his or her occupation.



- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Nehemiah  | A. soldier       |
| 2. Luke      | B. carpenter     |
| 3. Demetrius | C. cupbearer     |
| 4. Matthew   | D. clothseller   |
| 5. Lydia     | E. fisherman     |
| 6. Joseph    | F. shepherd      |
| 7. Paul      | G. tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius | H. tailor        |
| 9. Tabitha   | I. silversmith   |
| 10. Amos     | J. priest        |
| 11. Eli      | K. tentmaker     |
| 12. Peter    | L. physician     |

Answers: 1. C, 2. L, 3. I, 4. G, 5. D, 6. B, 7. K, 8. A, 9. H, 10. F, 11. J, 12. E