

# ...from the Heart

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*Summer 2018*



## Those crazy, hazy, lazy days of summer.

I love summer. It's the time when we can go out in shorts and a T-shirt all the time. It's a time when golf is in full-swing LOL. It's a time when our gardens yield produce to supplement our meals – tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, etc. It's a time when mowing our grass is weekly and therapeutic. I love summer for all these reasons and more.

To give some spiritual significance to this season, summer represents a time of maturity. We have been barren for the winter and starting to sprout in the spring, but summer is when we shine, spiritually – or should.

***Then he took of the seed of the land and planted it in fertile soil.*** (Ezek. 17:5)

If our spiritual seed has been planted in fertile soil, then we should be ready for a return back from God for the harvest. We have been enabled by the Holy Spirit and His power, to bring the good news to all we meet. We have been enabled by the Holy Spirit and His power to teach the Word. We looked at this recently (Parable of the Sower – Matt. 13:1-23). Seed planted in fertile soil will yield up to 100 times what was planted. Don't you want to be a part of that produce?

So, we are entering the summer season. Are you maturing in the things of God? You may not be able to recognize your maturity. It is a process that we Nazarenes call Entire Sanctification. It comes after receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior, and it can take a longer or shorter time with each individual to begin. It is a process of yielding more and more to the Holy Spirit within us and giving Him more and more control over our lives - even the details. While the process is gradual, it should be on-going. When you stop and look back, there has to be a difference from where you were to where you are now. That process continues throughout our Christian life.

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Entire Sanctification or Christian perfection is a key doctrine of the Church of the Nazarene, but it is mostly misunderstood. Our critics claim that we can't possibly profess arriving at some spiritual place where we no longer sin and are considered completely righteous in God's sight, and they are right. John Wesley, our founding father, felt that we are on a progressive journey toward the image of God, and He realized that it might never be fulfilled in our earthly lives. However, he also didn't want to rule out that God can do anything He wills in the life of the believer. If God wills, a person may be able to obtain Christian perfection though highly unlikely. So we are ridiculed for our profession of Entire Sanctification.

**1 Thess. 5:23 – “Now may the God of peace make you holy (or sanctified) in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.”** (NLT) Other versions say – Sanctify you completely or wholly. This is the work of God in your life. His desire is for you to be holy and live a holy life. He will do everything He can to make this a reality, but the real responsibility rests on us. Each of us needs to recognize where we really are in our relationship with God, and commit to make it better. The choice is yours. It's up to you how far you wish to go with God. He wants all of you, but how much of you are you willing to give to Him?

As we think of summer coming upon us, think that it should signify a time of maturity. Allow Him to work in your life to perfect you and make you holy in His sight.

Enjoy all your favorite summer activities, and enjoy God working with you to make you mature.

And that's ...

*From my heart!  
Pastor Nick :)*



## *...from the Heart*

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**Pastor: Nick Franco**

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

# Family Resemblances



She was thirty hours old and sound asleep when I held her for the first time. Wrapped up in a bunting, all I could see of Grace Katherine was her face. I looked at her for several seconds, then said to my daughter-in-law, Theresa, “Grace has Sheridan’s mouth and nose,” referring to Grace’s 5-year-old sister. Other people have said the same thing. They see a resemblance to Sheridan. The sisters share a common bond and it shows that they belong to each other.

My ten-year-old step-grandson, John, bears a strong resemblance to his natural father in body type and coloring. He is slender, fair, and blonde. He was about 15 months old when my son, George, and Theresa first began dating each other, and, as he got older, George involved him in the activities he himself enjoyed; especially the sport of Lacrosse. John is an excellent goalie, the same as my son was at that age. Although John and George are not connected biologically, they share abilities and interests which give them a point of connectedness and a family resemblance. They, too, share a common bond and it shows that they belong to each other.

What is it that makes us look for a family resemblance? Why is it important to find it?

I believe it’s a way for us to identify with people with whom we can say, “This is where I am known. I belong to them and they belong to me.” It gives us security, protection, safety, and bonding. It gives us a place to call home.

We can have this same dynamic in the family of faith. While it’s possible to have biological connections in a congregation, the most important connection is having been born-again and having the same Savior, Jesus. It’s a spiritual DNA that proves we belong to the same family headed by the same Father. We can spiritually ‘look’ like each other by the love we show and share. We can find family resemblances in our expressions of love and worship of the Lord and in the shared talents, abilities, and interests which join us socially.

Every Sunday we gather to worship and glorify the Lord, our Father. We tend to sit with or near the same people week after week because we feel comfortable with them and accepted by them. If we are part of a ministry, we share common talents or interests that create a bond in the same way my son and his step-son experience through Lacrosse.

Jesus’ prayer regarding us was simple. “...that they may be one...” This will never be accomplished by devotion to the gods of politics, education, social status, or religious conformity. It is only possible when hearts are willing to meet at the cross and see, in each other’s faces, the likeness of the Lord Who died to birth us into His family. *This* is the family resemblance we are looking for. This is the place where we belong.

Sue Cerruto-Hospitality

*Scripture references: John 13:34, John 17, Romans 14:19, Philippians 2:2-4.*

## Vacation time

Someone has said, "Vacation is what you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer."

There are good reasons to take a vacation every year: spending time with friends and loved ones, experiencing physical and mental refreshment, enjoying changes in scenery and routine, and preparing for another year of productivity.

Please enjoy your vacation! Try to be faithful to the Lord by attending church while you're away, if you have the opportunity.

Just remember that during vacations and weekend getaways, you're especially missed by your friends at church. The work of the church suffers because no one can fill your place of responsibility quite like you.

God's work goes on all summer long. Your presence and gifts are needed to enable the church to be strong and vigorous throughout the entire year. When you're away, please bring or send your offering before you go. You can also give online at our website; just click on the Donate button on the lower left.

Have a wonderful summer!



## VBS IS ALMOST HERE!!!

We are so excited to be bringing Daniel's story to life in this year's Vacation Bible School program *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity*! There are great lessons for our kids, along with engaging music, crafts, games, and a lot of fun! We are in need of your help! We will be holding VBS this year from July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00pm – 8:30pm (registration beginning at 5:45pm).

We need your talent, experience (or lack thereof ☺), and love for our kids to help us make this another successful year. Please see or email Sue Herrmann ([jandsh817@optonline.net](mailto:jandsh817@optonline.net)) or Nicholle Messina ([nichollen89@gmail.com](mailto:nichollen89@gmail.com)) to get involved in this very rewarding, and extremely fun experience!



The Youth Group has continued to be in full swing. We range from 2 to 5 teens each night. We are hoping to have a summer kick off BBQ with the teens on the 29th of June.

As always it's been a blessing to be alongside the teens of our church. In Sunday school we are currently working on a book that is teaching us about the prophets of the Old Testament. It's been very interesting to the teens as well as us leaders.

## Love the Messina's

[illegible]

# Lamp



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Spring has finally arrived and summer will be here before we know it! Probably when we get some of those 90 degree days we will be wishing for the cool breezes of autumn. Seems we are always wanting what we don't have at the moment rather than being satisfied with each day that the Lord has given us no matter what it might contain.

Several years ago, Pastor Jerry led us through the "summer of joy" with daily devotions helping us to focus on God's joy in our lives. This might be the perfect time for each of us to daily remember the many ways that we have been blessed.

One blessing that we all share is the availability of gathering together. It seems that once school is out and summer comes we think we don't need to have that regular time of meeting but it is so important. Yes, we have family plans to get-a-way and that is great and needed. But remember that Satan *never* takes a vacation, and when we aren't in regular church attendance and encouraging time with one another, we sometimes let our guard down and are an open target for the attacks of the enemy.

During the summer months, the ladies will continue to meet each Tuesday night and Thursday morning for a time of prayer, the sharing of a devotion and fellowship. We will take a break from doing a formal study and will start a new one in the fall. All ladies are welcome to attend when you are able and we look forward to spending time with you.

On Saturday June 9, we will have a brunch in the church fellowship hall at 9:30 am. During our previous brunches this year, some of the women have been sharing a devotion with us and they have been very inspiring. This is a casual time for us to spend together eating, chatting and laughing (a lot). It would be so nice to see many of our sisters there. As the time gets closer, I will hand out flyers as a reminder but put it on your calendars now and plan to join us. I guess the "theme" could be called "using up the leftovers" but you'll have to attend to see just what that means. (It has nothing to do with the food!)



I pray that you will all have a healthy and restful summer and remember that each day is a gift.

In His Service,

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 Home

### Wednesday

7pm - Bible Study - Fellowship Hall

### 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 Building

### 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



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June 14 Flag Day  
June 17 Father's Day  
June 21 Summer Begins  
July 4 Independence Day  
July 30 - Aug 3 VBS





## TREASURES HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS

Who doesn't enjoy a hearty tale of buried treasure? Some people get excited just finding loose change. We love movies like, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *the Count of Monty Cristo* and *National Treasure*, in which the pursuit of treasure is the motivating force. In the movie classic, *The Maltese Falcon*, detective Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) quips, "It's the stuff dreams are made of." From scavenger and Easter egg hunts to beachcombers and maps where X marks the spot, the search for treasure is exhilarating. Just thinking about secret compartments or a hidden passageway makes our pulse quicken. There's something about the pursuit of hidden or buried treasure that most people find irresistible. Maybe that's why scam artists are so successful.

"And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness — secret riches." (Isaiah 45:3 NLT) Isaiah the prophet wrote these words, 740 years before the infant Jesus was nestled by his mother in a Bethlehem manger. God said He would reveal treasures hidden in the darkness but what kind of riches was He referring to?

During our college years, Jen and I visited *Marvel Caverns*, in Branson, Missouri. The opening to the cave was discovered by the Osage Indians in the early 16th century, after a tribe member fell through a sinkhole into the cave's main entrance. Moments after descending with our tour guide into the cavern we discovered what it was like to be blind. We suddenly found ourselves in total darkness, with no artificial or natural light. When the lights went back on we saw amazing rock formations and waterfalls; treasures that were hidden in the darkness. But this isn't the kind of treasure Isaiah was referring to.

Geo-scientist Oliver Tschanuner recently discovered diamonds with droplets of water trapped inside. They'd had been pushed up to the Earth's surface by intense pressure. This ground breaking discovery ranged from China, to Botswana, to the Republic of South Africa. After decades of searching, scientists have discovered, what they believe is, a vast reservoir of water, trapped hundreds of miles beneath the surface, enough to fill the Earth's oceans three times over. Tschanuner was actually looking for carbon dioxide within the Earth's crust to prove the global "climate change," theory (global warming). But instead, his findings corroborate the Biblical account of a worldwide flood, described in Genesis Chapter 7. (onenewsnow.com) Could this discovery be the treasure hidden in the darkness?

“This is what the LORD says to Cyrus, his anointed one ... I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness— secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name. ... for His work? ... I call you by name ... equipped you for battle, though you don’t even know me ...” (Isaiah 45: 1, 3-5 NLT).

Almost 200 years after Isaiah’s prophecy, Cyrus became the ruler of the Babylonian world empire. When the prophet Daniel showed Cyrus God’s prophecy about himself, he was so impressed that he sent a delegation of exiled Jews back to their homeland to begin the rebuilding process.

Are you aware that God also knows your name? Even if you don’t know Him, He knows you and has a specific purpose for your life that only you can fulfill. There are treasures hidden in the darkness that God has been waiting to reveal to you. You know that gnawing sensation that there’s something missing in your life? That means you’re ready to go treasure hunting. The Holy Spirit is ready to guide you to the hidden riches waiting in the undiscovered darkness. Don’t waste another minute, with heart bowed and Bible open start prospecting today!

Serving Him Together,  
Pastor John Mercurio



### **SERVING THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Many thanks to all who give and make this outreach possible.

Our Food Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am - 2pm.

- 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)*



*Deepest sympathy to the following families on the passing of their loved ones.*

*Lynn Wohland and Judy Benson at the passing of Bill Wohland.*

*Shawn Dioguardo and Diane Sarlo at the passing of T. J.*

*Liz Duffy at the passing of her Grandfather, Stelio (Frank) Fantoli.*



## *Ladies Sewing & Craft Group*

Yes I admit it – I am addicted to all things fiber. After swearing off purchasing any more yarn until I used my stash, I got caught in the act! I was in Joann's fabric store when a friend spotted me over in the yarn section touching, feeling and buying more yarn. But it is baby yarn! Who doesn't like soft, cuddly, pink baby yarn? Somehow I just can't get enough. If you need to express your creative side why not join us?

The Ladies Sewing Circle meets every third Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Youth Center to work on any kind of sewing or crafting project that you can carry with you!

Why not join us? We always have a good time of fellowship and sharing. We don't get too much done but we have FUN! - If you would like to learn to knit or crochet contact me ahead of time at

[corinnefchurch@verizon.net](mailto:corinnefchurch@verizon.net)

Keeping you in stitches,

Corinne Franco



## *Crafters Group*

# Children's Ministry

As I'm sitting down writing this, I am overwhelmed with dizzying emotions. I am relieved that I have had faithful volunteers, overjoyed with the kid's enthusiasm, amazed by the goodness of God and wrestling with grief. And that barely scratches the surface! I have to thank those working in this ministry for monitoring, teaching, and carrying on in my absence. It gave me peace to know that everything and everyone were in capable hands while my family and I faced a difficult season. I love and appreciate you all for your patience and support!



The children have been downstairs busy learning and sharing in God's word. Teachers filled in and continued to follow our curriculum in place. Next, Nereida led them in a video series followed by fun activities. It was a great idea and a nice change of pace. For Mother's Day I had them all downstairs where they made wonderful cards, crafts, and listened to a short lesson on honoring your parents.

I was especially proud of the boys who soldiered on through each "girly" craft with no protest! The kids are such a blessing and have been troopers with all the changes our congregation has been experiencing.

We have a little more than a month until we break for the summer. In the mean time I would invite you to pray about joining our rewarding ministry. You will be blessed as you give the children your time, dedication, and the unique gifts that the Lord has equipped you with. God will accomplish things you didn't think possible when you step out of your comfort zone.

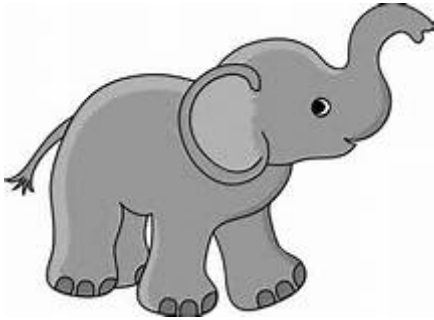
With everything that has transpired, it has been a great year! Your children are a joy and I love them so much. I am grateful that I can watch them grow during this amazing season in their lives. I look forward to VBS and continuing to serve you all in this beautiful ministry.

Liz Duffy



## *THE NURSERY CORNER*

*Congratulations to Bryan & Jenn Holland on the birth of their son  
Bryan Jr. on March 1, 2018.*



*Congratulations to Sue Cerruto & family  
on the birth of her Granddaughter,  
Grace Katherine,  
born April 26, 2018 to  
George & Theresa Cerruto.*



Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall