

...from the Heart

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Patchogue Church of the Nazarene Fall 2019*



Servants to the Lord of the Harvest

Fall is soon approaching. It happens to be, my favorite season; cooler temperatures, fall foliage, hiking, harvest, and Thanksgiving!

Fall harvest; a celebration of abundance, the yield, from what was planted.

Now, for there to be a harvest, fields must be planted, watered, and tended to. Are there any farmers in our audience today? Regardless of what we do for a living, we've all been given fields to plant: Where we work; our place of business, our families, our homes, and last but not certainly least, ourselves. So let me ask you, what are you **and** what have you been planting in your fields? I don't need to tell you there are a lot of seeds to choose from.

When it comes time to harvest, what would you like to find? A strong family unit; a healthy marriage? A good "on the job" reputation and work ethic? How about a *bumper crop* of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness, in the lives around you?! We would then need to plant a crop that would weather life's harshest storms; we need to plant seeds of faith!

Behold the beauty of God's Harvest! He who created the seasons can never be held hostage by them! With Him, sowing and reaping take place twenty-four seven, three hundred sixty-five days a year. And our part is to plant and irrigate if we are going to experience harvest; as we labor, there will be cause to gather for a celebration!



Continued on Back Cover

However, our culture is filled with distractions, constantly calling us, demanding we give our time and attention to other things; to plant seeds, other than the grains of faith! Like real farming, it gets exhausting! But, the Apostle Paul encourages us with these words:

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

Paul could say this because Paul lived it. Paul knew what it meant to become “weary.” He said it this way:

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.”

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (ESV)

Sound like weary to you? It does to me. Yet, in the end, Paul did not give up! His strength came from the all-sufficient Lord of the harvest! Thus Paul experienced a great harvest and a wonderful Thanksgiving, and so can we.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, save the date; Sunday, November 24th, we will have our Thanksgiving Service. A harvest celebration you won't want to miss!

Now, remember, “we will reap if we do not become weary!”

Pastor Vin



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Patchogue Church of the Nazarene
Nazarene Way
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Mailing Address
65 Franklin Street
Patchogue, NY
11772

Phone & Fax 631-289-3483

Sunday Service at 10am

Pastor: Vincent Linguiti

Check out our website at www.patchnaz.net
for Sermons, Church activities and other events

VBS – a ROAR-ing Good Time!!

I am overjoyed to report that VBS was a great success this year!! We changed a lot this time around, and overall, the week was smooth and a ton of fun. We had 19 energetic, excited, fantastic kids join us this year; it was a blessing to be with each and every one of them. As I walked around to observe their time, kids were continually engaged and happy – I never saw a sad, angry, bored, or irritated face on anyone. We mixed up the age groups this year, and had various age ranges in each group. It was encouraging to see the older kid helping to guide our young ones – we have many future leaders in our midst!! The kids and volunteers alike enjoyed each other's company, the music, the messages, crafts, games, and learning about helping others in need in Zambia. Each child had a different "favorite" station, which is a huge credit to our incredible station leaders: Jackie Kreamer at Crafts, Justin Inniss at Recreation, Mary Kate La Spisa at Bible, and Alissa and Frank Donato at Missions. Their preparation, dedication, and direction at each station led to many smiling faces. Thank you to all of our Team Leaders, Station Assistants, and everyone else who lent a hand and said a prayer for us. Your support was felt and I can't thank you enough for that.



During the week, we learned that Life is Wild, God is Good! Our points for the day centered around fear, disappointment, sadness, change, and gratefulness – emotions we all experience regularly. They learned about God's provision for the Israelites, even as slaves. Then, they re-enacted the 10 plagues sent upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians (thanks Pastor Vinnie). Next, they experienced being lost in the wilderness, and enjoyed God's Manna from Heaven. After that, the kids learned about Jesus' great love in dying on the cross and rising again, and how that love is still available to us today. The kids knelt at the altar and asked Jesus into their hearts

that night, which was a beautiful sight to see. On the last night, we celebrated all we had to be thankful for in our lives, just as the Israelites did. We all pledged to remember all of the blessings God gives us every day of our lives. We ended the program with a Sunday Celebration, in which the congregation got to see first-hand how much the kids learned this year, followed by our annual Church Picnic. It was the perfect ending to an unforgettable week!!



Continue to pray for the kids that attended, and for everyone who was a part of the experience. God-willing, lives were changed for the better, and seeds were planted that will lead to strong roots of faith. I know it is early to think about next year, but whenever the kids, or VBS itself come to mind, please pray for continued excitement, growth, and success in our program.

In Christ,
Sue Herrmann ☺



Many ways to give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of "Ham and Eggs!"

"That's nice," said the hen. "A chance for us to serve the congregation."

"Easy for you to say," replied the pig. "For you, it's a contribution; for me, it's a sacrifice!"



Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being involved in breakfast, while the pig is committed. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn't all-in.

"People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon" are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in *The Jesus-Centered Life* (Group). That total, "without reservation" commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus — as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others' stewardship because we all give differently.

Unable to make it to church, away on vacation? You can make an online contribution using your credit card or PayPal account. You can do so by going to the church website at www.patchnaz.net and clicking on the yellow "donate" button on the bottom left of the page. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



FOOD PANTRY

OPEN: MON, WED, FRI
10AM - 2PM
65 Franklin St. (HPYC Building)

*"...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)*



Sufficient Grace

She struggled so hard. She almost succeeded but fell back down. Don't quit. Start over. Left leg up, hook it around the top rail and pull up with both hands.

4-yr-old Jake was astonished. "You're climbing?!"

6-yr-old Sheridan, laughing with excitement, clapped her hands.

"You're climbing out!"

15-month-old Grace balanced on her belly on the top rail. Wobbling, her right hand was grasping the top edge to her left and it kept her from falling back in, but it was

also keeping her from getting out. She would have to let go. A little more grunting and effort and...success! She climbed out of her crib and onto her parent's soft bed on the other side. Now, Grace squealed with pleasure. Sheridan announced, "You made it! You made it!" Jake grinned from ear to ear.

There are moments when I feel like Grace. The climb is more than I can manage.

Why do I fall more times than I expect? I'm tired of trying but I must keep on.

Every day there are new mountains, and there are old ones I seem to find myself back at, repeatedly. *I climbed this one already! Why am I here, again?*

Why is this so difficult? I know God's watching, but sometimes I feel alone.

Why isn't He helping me? Or...is He?

When I stop listening to my inner grousing, I hear other voices:

"Don't quit!" "You're almost there!" "You got this!"
"Keep going!"

And I'm reminded, oh, yes. God is with me! I hear His voice in the voices of my brothers and sisters. Some are at the bottom of the mountain waiting their turn, and others are at the top; having overcome, and still others are right next to me. Together, filled with His all-sufficient grace and cheering each other on, we ascend.

Deuteronomy 31: 8, 2 Corinthians 12: 8-10,
Philippians 3: 12-14.

Sue Cerruto



~~~~~  
*Sympathy & Prayers to Jett Koontz and family  
on the passing of his Uncle.*







## Little Things

*H*ave you ever heard Benjamin Franklin's proverb regarding small details?

"For the want of a nail the shoe was lost, for the want of a shoe the horse was lost, For the want of a horse the rider was lost, for the want of a rider the battle was lost, For the want of a battle the kingdom was lost, and all for the want of a horseshoe-nail."

Benjamin Franklin



Little things make big differences. Ben Franklin's contention, for example, illustrates how a detail as insignificant as a missing horseshoe-nail might end up costing not only the battle but the war. Sounds farfetched to you, let's mull it over together.

A young boy came home from church and announced with great excitement that his Sunday school lesson had been about a boy who, "loafed and fished all day." He of course was thinking of the little boy in the gospel accounts, who had offered his lunch of loaves and fish to Jesus who in turn fed 5,000 people. Consider how much the child's miscommunication changed the outcome of the story. What would happen if you missed or altered a single letter or character on an online website or mailing address? What would be the consequence of a contractual loan that was off by a single digit? King Solomon wrote *...it's the little foxes that spoil the vineyards ...* Song of Solomon 2:15 (ESV)

Take a little thing like prayer for example; most people who consider themselves Christians would agree prayer is a necessary staple, a daily inclusion that has value for all followers of Jesus. But how many of them actually devote time to prayer, unless they are facing a critical or frightening moment in their lives? What is prayer and why is it important? What if I were to tell you that prayer can unlock and unleash the power of God? There are countless examples found in the Bible. Daniel, Abraham and Sarah, Jonah, Esther, Mary, Paul and David's prayers not only impacted their times but our times today. But if that's true, why don't Christians devote more time to prayer? Good question. Prayer is far more than a laundry list of names or requests that we bring to God. Sure, asking God to help you find a job, help someone who is ill or cope with a problem are legitimate prayers but God wants to take you higher, to raise your spiritual eye level. He wants to help you make better choices, avoid pitfalls, to gain insight which will provide leadership for family, friends, coworkers and more.

Imagine if your prayers were less about you and more about what God wants to do through you. Your prayer time with Him could become a conduit for releasing His power by the words you speak. Imagine if your thoughts came in line with His during this investment of your prayer time. Lead by His Spirit you could pray in accordance with God's will. Think of the results that kind of prayer could bring about! Remember the prayer Jesus modeled for his disciples in Matthew chapter 6? The Lord's Prayer, begins with, *Our Father which art in Heaven ... Thy kingdom come, **thy will be done** ...* Did you catch that? Jesus instructed us to always pray in the frame work of God's will. Need more evidence? Consider David's encounter with Goliath on the field of battle. The teenage David was actually acting out a prayer, moving in the authority of God's will. He took down a giant whose physical superiority seemed impossible to beat. But the giant had already been defeated before David ever set foot on that battle field. David had come to know who God is under the stars tending his sheep. David's words just before the battle: *The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.*"

I Samuel 17:37 (KJ)

The old adage, prayer changes things, is only partially accurate, prayer doesn't change some things it changes everything. When we get serious about seeking God, heartfelt prayer will change our perspective. It shifts our focus away from our limited abilities to God's unlimited resources. While the entire Israeli army shuddered in fear from a giant they saw as too big to defeat, David saw a target too large to miss.

...*If God is for us, who can be against us?* Romans 8:3(NIV)

If you're discouraged by the magnitude of problems of the world in general or buried under a mountain of personal troubles; it's time for a fresh perspective. Know this; the God of the universe is personally concerned with your life. He's been waiting for you to turn to Him for help, poised to step in and redirect you focus away from your problems on to Him. Right now would be the perfect time to begin. Prayer, as it turns out isn't a *little thing*; it's the most important thing we can do.

John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrims Progress* wrote, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.

Serving Him Together

John Mercurio







## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

As I write this, I am sitting at my desk enjoying the cool breeze coming in the window. We have been having a really nice summer and the past week has cooled down and made life more comfortable. But at any moment, the breeze can change and a storm can be upon us.

Isn't that just like life?! One minute we are sailing along trouble-free and then suddenly we are swept off our feet by the storms that challenge and seek to discourage us. It is at those times that we learn just how strong our faith in the Lord is; whether we will be shaken to the core of our being or ride the waves knowing that God has us in the palm of His Hands.

This summer many of us have been hit with serious trials within our families, friends and loved ones. The first question that usually pops into our minds is "why" has this terrible thing happened. But why not? We live in a fallen world and the main objective in our lives is to come into a personal relationship with the Savior who created and loves us more than anyone else so that when we breathe our last breath we may join Him for an eternity in heaven.

I recently heard a sermon that talked about needing to be "heaven minded" rather than earthly minded. We spend very little time thinking about eternity and so much time on what is going to happen next in our day, week or month.

I pray that as we enter a new season, we will challenge ourselves to get to know our Lord deeper than ever before by spending time with Him in prayer and reading His Word so that we will be ready when that trumpet sounds and He calls us home.

The ladies have continued to gather during the summer months to pray and encourage one another. It is a blessing to have that time together each week and I invite other women to join us. We meet at my home on Tuesday evenings and at HPYC on Thursday mornings. Even if you can't make it every time, feel free to come whenever you can. This fall we will be doing a different type of study so come and check it out!

We are planning a Ladies Brunch for Saturday, September 14 at 9:30am in the Church Fellowship Hall. Mark it on your calendars and you will get a flyer to remind you too.

Hope to see you there.



Serving together,  
**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 Month - Holy Communion & Family Sunday

### Monday

7pm - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month - **September through May** –  
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 of the month - **Sept - Nov; Feb - June** - Ladies Sewing Circle

### Friday

6:30pm - Worship Team practice in the Sanctuary

### Saturday

8am - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month - **September - June** - Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall  
For other Fall meetings, events, & activities, consult your Sunday Bulletin.



## Coming Up...

### September

September 2 - Labor Day  
September 23 - First Day of Autumn

### October - Pastor Appreciation Month

October 14 - Columbus Day

### November

November 3 - Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 5 - Election Day  
November 11 - Veterans Day  
November 24 - Sunday Thanksgiving Service  
November 28 - Thanksgiving Day



# Ladies Sewing Circle

## “What can you do?”

Paul Smith (1921-2007) dug deep to summon incredible gifts of creativity and perseverance. Born with severe cerebral palsy, he started making art at age 11 on an old typewriter. Steadying one hand with the other so he could use one finger to make one deliberate keystroke at a time, he typed symbols, such as # and @, using a black or colored ribbon. In this painstaking way, he “painted” stunningly detailed pictures.

In a TV report from 2004 (search “Typewriter Artist” on YouTube), a friend says Smith found joy in being creative, and saw that as his life’s purpose. When someone would say, “I could never do that,” the artist would answer, “What can you do?”

Whatever our challenges, God has given us all gifts to share with the world. Perhaps you can’t “paint” pictures with a typewriter ... but what can you do? Do it!

Why not join us for the Ladies Sewing & Crafting Circle.

Summer break is over and we will resume our monthly

meetings at the Youth Center on the third Thursday of each month starting September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Bring any project you are working on or just come to chat for a while.

**Express your creativity any way you know how!**

Hope to see you then, Corinne



## Back-to-school humor

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...

... an ice cream man? Sundae school

... a giant? High school

... King Arthur? Knight school



**Teacher:** What's the chemical formula for water?

**Student:** H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

**Teacher:** What are you talking about?

**Student:** Yesterday you said it was

H to O.





## Buildings and Grounds Fall Update



Our church is undergoing another transition in Buildings and Grounds, (upkeep and improvements of physical facilities and exterior properties). After years of single handedly running this ministry, Matt Ostrander and Rob Gazzo have stepped up to assume responsibility of Buildings and Grounds respectively. For the rest of this calendar year I'll continue acting as overseer but these guys have already taken on their new jobs with gusto, contributing numerous hours to insure our facilities function well and are esthetically pleasing. Let me walk you through a few projects they've accomplished this summer season.

Let's start with the improvements in our Fellowship Hall. Panels were removed allowing natural light to flood in from windows that had been hidden for years. A fresh new coat of paint has brightened the walls and sound dampening panels have been installed, making casual conversation far less taxing than before. Thanks to Matt's carpentry this was accomplished at minimal cost. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Donna Kraemer's research and leg work in running down the best choice of panels for our facility. Whether installing: handicapped handrail supports, Carbon monoxide compliant detectors, recalculating thermostats, ordering tune ups for central air conditioning or oil burners, rewiring electrical boxes, repairing holes in roofing and brick siding or replacing broken parking lot flood lights, Matt has been on the job.



Then there's Rob Gazzo. Have you noticed the improved appearance of our church and office grounds? Like Matt, Rob has jumped in with both feet, leading the charge in bringing a new landscaper whose work included a long overdue project of clearing, that included clearing grounds, reseeding, trimming trees in the field used for VBS and Annual picnic activities. Rob arranged the moving of one of our sheds to be closer to our offices, making for better storage use.

He's spent numerous hours personally reworking and rebuilding our irrigation system while clearing away, out of control, vegetation from one of our bordering fences.

Most of these things escape our notice, but their efforts and dedication to God's house and people need to be recognized. Please take a moment to offer these men your thanks. Let them know you appreciate the time and love they've invested. Their dedication has made attending the Patchogue Church of the Nazarene a little more pleasant.

Serving Him Together,  
Pastor John





## Change of Seasons

Ecc. 3:1-8 - "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

Fall is not the happiest time for me. It marks the end of summer (my favorite) and a change in weather toward colder nights and cooler days. Most disappointing for me is the end of my golf season. In just three cool nights I noticed a drop in my pool temperature of ten degrees. Each day is getting shorter and shorter. The weather, as life, has its seasons. Here on Long Island we are fortunate to have four evenly spaced seasons.



As I reflect on my life, I can remember many seasons. All of them were a blessing at the time, but the seasons change, and life changes with them. In September I will be retired one year. In September Pastor Vin will be with us as Pastor one year. Seasons are constantly changing. We can't stop that, but we can make the most of every season in our life.

Change is inevitable, and it may not be comfortable at first. However, if we embrace change as a new season from God, we will move forward by His Grace and make the most of it. Every season must have an end, and every season must have a new beginning. That is just the cycle of life. Our entire life span is a season with lots of seasons within it.

Jesus said, "He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Rev. 21:5 NIV

At the end of the age there will be a new season as Jesus tells us. He will make all things new and we will be a part of this new season as promised. Will you be there for this major event? God holds no one back. We all have equal opportunity to be included. Did you ask, "How?"

Here are three verses that make this very clear:

"For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." Rom. 10:9-10

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom. 10:13

Don't leave your final season to chance. We can guarantee our future with God in His presence right now. All it takes is faith and a willingness to live for God. Make the decision today.

Pastor Nick



## Growth and Gratitude



As always I am amazed that a new school year is upon us. Unfortunately that marks the end of summer, while upsetting for others, exciting for me! It is a new beginning filled with God's blessing and provision while being His hands and feet.

We had a busy year so far and I am so proud of the team of teachers, monitors, parents and other volunteers who have given their time and hearts to the children. The children learned so much during the school year and the opportunity to prepare and teach Communion was an amazing experience. Their testimonies touched not only my heart, but the hearts of their families and congregants as they took an important step of faith.

From the month of June on we have been keeping the children engaged with crafts, devotionals, and biblical movies. The week of VBS was an unforgettable time. The teaching was fun and anointed, the worship rally glorified the Lord, and it was wonderful to see families join our special service to watch their little ones sing their hearts out. All of that was followed by a fun picnic with great food and fellowship. It doesn't get much better than that!

This year Children's Ministries has stretched myself and those who served alongside me in positive ways. Growth is never easy, but necessary and inevitable when serving in any ministry. However, it yields the best fruit! I have had the privilege to watch individuals take a step out in faith and grow into larger roles and my trust in the Lord continues to deepen. I (we) serve a God in which all things are possible in His strength. No matter the doubts that assail us, or the storms of life we face, if God is for us who can be against us. He has the children and leaders in the palm of His hand and He will continue to use us to help shape and grow the children into image-bearers of Christ.

Praise God for another fantastic year and thank you for your prayers and support! I can't wait to see what God has in store for the new school year!

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

Blessings and Peace,  
Liz Duffy  
Children's Ministry

