



THE SPIRIT

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From Your Pastor:

To the surprise of many, I have never been water skiing, or even tubing, in my young life. Part of the reason is that I come from a family of sailors of small boats who always viewed boats with motors as tools of the "Great Satan." Either they were causing your sailboat to bounce around through the wave action they created, or they were polluting God's wonderful creation, or both!

But the God who can speak through the mouth of a donkey (Nu. 22:28) can also, I discovered, use a motorized boat to send a message. I was out riding my bike (the non-motorized kind) one early vacation morning and stopped by a section of Newfound Lake known as "The Ledges" to take in and ponder the gorgeous view afforded by that spot. The lake was empty when I stopped, but a few minutes later, a motor boat pulling a water skier came into view. As I watched both boat and skier, instead of disdain, God placed the following picture on my heart.

The lake, with its surrounding mountains, represents the amazing gift of creation that our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us. We, represented by the skier, are to live in and make our way through God's created order by following Jesus, who is represented by the boat. We are empowered to follow the boat by the Holy Spirit, the motor that propels the boat. We connect with Jesus, and the power of the Spirit, through the various spiritual disciplines, practices that range from study to silence to service to stewardship to small groups. These disciplines are represented by the tow rope that connects skier to boat.

Importantly, the disciplines are not ends in themselves but the way we open ourselves to the love and ministry of the triune God, creating space for God to renew and grow us into the image of his Son. Without the rope, the skier fails to make the connection. Without the motorized boat, the rope lies slack. But when connected, the skier is able to enjoy a wonderful ride, not a ride that is always comfortable or without a spill or two, but a joy filled ride nonetheless.

What might you need to help you make that connection to the Son's leading, and the Spirit's power, so that you might be able to make your way, well and wonderfully, through the Father's world? If you are interested, I'd be glad to speak with you. Or, you might want to consult a resource or two we have in our church library, *The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, or *Sacred Rhythms*, for some suggestions. In any case, know that our loving God can't wait for you to experience what it's like to be pulled in the wake of his grace.

St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I love but what is holy;
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is holy;
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
that I always may be holy.

Amen.

Grace & Peace, Tim

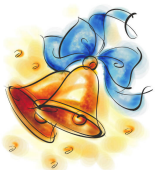
Words from the Treasurer

As I thought about writing this message I couldn't think of the best way to express myself and then our Bible reading on the last Sunday of August gave me just the words I needed.

THANKS

"...and they will joyfully express their thanks to God."

2Cor.. 9:12b



From 1Chronicles 29:14 we hear David's prayer "But who am I, and who are my people that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

Your generosity has been so overwhelming this summer we have managed to meet our obligations without drawing upon the Endowment Fund as in the last 5 yrs. Believe me, this was a special blessing this year as the stresses my family was under would have been compounded if I had to worry about the church finances. God is good and always keeps us in His hands.

Now a new church year is beginning and after 13 yrs. we are close to paying off our mortgage. Throughout the years many of our members and friends continued contributing to the Building Fund and as we reach the end of our obligation to the First Ipswich Bank we, as Treasurers must know how those who pledged to the Fund want us to distribute their pledges. The Trustees have talked at length about this and if you would like, we will keep the Building Fund account open and use contributions to fund major expenses such as; painting the church, putting on new storm windows on the old part of the church, repairing a leak on the steeple, insulating over the main sanctuary and yearly maintenance of the elevator, furnace, smoke alarms and sprinkler system. Although we budget for maintenance for the church and the parsonage we are never able to fund all the items needed.

If you want to continue your Building Fund pledge, Jane and I will continue using your contribution as we have been—however, if you want to change your pledge and designate your funds another way, please speak to us so that we can make the necessary bookkeeping changes.

Thank you all for your generosity over the years. I look forward to a special ceremony soon to thank God for all he has done for us and to "Burn the Mortgage" or "Ring the Bell"!

May Christ's message show in all we do.....Nancy E. Roberts, Treasurer

Family Promise

Family Promise North Shore Boston (FPNSB) is a non-profit, interfaith hospitality network that provides temporary shelter, meals, hospitality, and case management for families experiencing homelessness on the North Shore of Boston. FPNSB is committed to keeping families together during their time of homelessness and helping them through the process of finding support and housing.

Words from our fearless leader and coordinator Susan Zwart;

"As a volunteer for FPNSB, I have had the pleasure of helping provide hospitality to homeless families from my own North Shore community. I have worked with a team of volunteers from my church family as well as a support congregation to create homey living spaces, healthy meals, fun recreation time with kids and adult conversation with moms like myself. We even celebrated an overjoyed 6yr. old boy's birthday!

Through all these varied opportunities to serve, I've come to a much better understanding of what it means to be a homeless family. I truly admire how each family works together as a unit to help each other with daily tasks, searches for work and housing opportunities, maintains their friendships outside the program and develops new friendships within the program. I have been personally blessed by sharing my story, my struggles and successes, with moms we are hosting. We are more alike than different. So I am excited to watch these families succeed in their goals and I pray for their journey as I know they pray for mine."

Of course a program like this could not be possible without the volunteers of our church and other Essex churches, so we would like to take this opportunity to give a big "Thank You" to all who are involved. We would also like to extend an invitation to those who would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, our upcoming dates are **Sept. 15-21** and **Oct. 27-Nov. 2**. Please contact Susan Zwart at susan@foodpantry.org. or speak to her.



PEACE

Peace I leave
with you; my
peace I give to
you. I do not
give as the
world gives. Do
not let your
hearts be
troubled and do
not be afraid."

John 14:27

PAX Spiritual Practices

PAX is a ministry of spiritual formation based in the life of the church. It offers individual and communal practices for men and women to spend time with God and connect with God's transforming love within us. Spiritual Formation is the process of God shaping and forming our hearts into the heart of Christ for the sake of others.

PAX Offerings:

- **Book Series**– discussion and dessert, with reflections on what each novel can teach us about life with God. (9/21 Robinson's *Gilead*, 2/1/14 Enger's *Peace Like a River* & 5/3/14 Lewis' *Till We Have Faces*)
- **A Day Apart**– mini retreats, 4 days/year includes devotionals, reflection guide, joint prayer, personal time and Spiritual Direction (10/25 Ordinary Time, 1/10/14 Epiphany, 3/8/14 Lent & 5/16/14 Pentecost)
- **PAX Life**– devotional practices for morning and evening prayer
- **The Way of Christian Prayer**– monthly Sat. morning prayer with a speaker introducing new forms of prayer (1/4/14 Prayer of Recollection, 2/8/14 Visio Divina & 3/22/14 The Celtic Way of Prayer)
- **Spiritual Direction**– once/month with a trained director focusing on your relationship with God
- **Workshops & Retreats**– added throughout the year (12/9-13 Advent At-Home-Retreat)

For more information contact: Rama Ziegenhals at ramapax@gmail.com and www.paxcenter.org

Thank you for your support of this ministry, Rama

The Women's Fall Retreat

Fall is right around the corner. Don't forget to sign-up for the women's retreat in the Women's Corner of the large vestry. Please prayerfully consider coming this fall, all are welcome, bring friends too!

Place: Biddeford, ME, retreat center **Date:** October 11, 12, 13, 2013

Cost: \$140 **Rooms:** private with views of nature or the ocean

Deadline: September 20, 2013 **Contact:** Caroline Craig 978-768-7340

Meals: included, prepared by nuns **Activities:** walking trails, & beach, shopping & lots of fellowship

The guest speaker is Shirley Paz who serves as Director of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care at West Church in Haverhill, MA, where she has been on staff since 2007. A trained spiritual director, speaker and teacher, she has also written Biblical commentary for the Baptist Sunday School Board (now Lifeway), worked on staff for Vision New England, and is a member of the Evangelical Spiritual Director's Network. In addition to her roles within the faith community, Shirley values time with her husband Carlos, serving with Missionary Air Group primary in Honduras, her adult children, and seven grandchildren. Shirley's talk is titled

Road Trip:

Maybe you think of life as a journey... or as an unfolding story... or as a challenge... or as a party! However you imagine life's unfolding, many of the questions remain the same: Am I doing this right? How do I get through this part? What am I supposed to do next? Why can't I change? How do I cope with others? What does God want? What do I want? Why is this so hard? What do I do if I want something different in my life than what I have? Where am I? Am I making progress?... because it sure doesn't seem like it!

While we may understand that destination alone isn't the sole point of life, the "How and Why" questions along the road can stump us. It can help to look at a guide, a map of spiritual stages, identifying marks of growth, symptoms of stuckness, and validation of God's presence even if where you are seems confusing or pointless. We'll consider practical, clarifying and assessing resources that may help you pinpoint your place on the spiritual journey, see where you've been, and send you ahead.

So, let's go on a road-trip together! Fill up the tank and roll down the windows! There may be sights you've never seen just around the bend.



Christian Ed News

The Christian Ed committee decided to use Group Publishing's All-In-One Sunday School curriculum for this year. This format was designed for small churches which have kids of all ages in one classroom. It is a lot like the format of our VBS program which is based on active learning. Children will do things that help them understand important principles, messages and ideas. Active learning is a discovery process that helps kids internalize the truth as it unfolds. Prayer and memory verses from the Bible will be an integral part of our program. Parent information sheets will also be provided monthly to encourage further discussions at home.

Lisa Clark will continue to teach the kids about service others by having them help make desserts for the Open Door (where the youth group help to make, serve and clean up a meal for our neighbors in Cape Ann) every fourth Sunday of each month. The remaining dates are 9/29, 10/27, 11/17 and 12/29. This format began in June with the summer curriculum and has been an extremely positive experience for all involved. Thanks Lisa!

Beth Cairns and Carole Janski will be teaching for the month of September beginning with the lesson "The Best Creation of All".

We welcome parents' thoughts and ideas and please, if you have comments or suggestions, don't hesitate to tell us. If anyone is interested in helping out just talk to Carla Adams, Beth Cairns, Jason Lawrenz or Lisa Clark.



"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

-Mark 10:14b

Youth Group Happenings

"ReWired"

The youth group will be starting a new study this fall titled, "ReWired", from Chuck Colson and Teen Mania. The theme of the study is "Think before you act." Through various types of media we will discuss how we can think critically as a Christian. We will be learning together how to ask "How do we sort through all the different messages we hear and determine what is right and true?"

Open Door

The youth group will continue to work with Open Door once a month until the end of the year. If you haven't already had a chance to serve at Open Door, please make sure that you and your student sign up for one (or two) of these dates. Open Door is ministry that feeds the homeless people of Cape Anne. We would like to have 3 students and a parent for a total of 6 people signed up for each date. This is a great opportunity to serve our local community in need. The dates are: **September 28, October 27, November 17, and December 29.** We hope to continue this ministry for 2014 as well if there is still an interest which we hope there will be because they really need and appreciate our help! Please feel free to contact Brian Marsh or Lisa Clark if you would like to sign up for one of these dates!

Upcoming Mission Trip

The youth group will also be preparing through the fall and spring with fundraisers for a mission trip during Spring Break or the start of the summer. We are looking possibly at going to Kentucky and making it a multigenerational trip depending on the interest. The dates and details are still being finalized, be looking for more information in the near future.

Thanks for your continued support.....Brian & Marya Marsh

Youth Group 2013

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 15**– Parent & Youth Cookout TBD, to kick off our new school year!
- Sept. 9**– Open Door 2-5pm
- Oct. 27**– Annual Halloween Party; food, costume contest, games, prizes...more!
– Open Door 2-5pm
- October 31**– Trick or Treating together in Essex, collecting canned goods for the Food Pantry!
- Nov. 10**– Laser Tag, TBD
- Nov. 17**– Open Door 2-5pm
- Dec. 15**– Christmas Party for All! TBD
- Dec. 29**– Open Door 2-5pm

VBS: Kingdom Rock Wrap-Up

VBS rocked the Kingdom!! This year's VBS was a huge success, with more children attending than we have had for the past few years. We received e-mails of thanks from parents, and people in the community are stopping us asking for the dates of VBS 2014! Each night to see the children's faces light up with excitement, to hear they are sharing the stories they learned at home, and singing the songs in the car. That's what VBS is all about. None of this would happen without numerous people helping out. Everyone from Rachel Fondell's artistic abilities creating amazing backdrops; to Lizzy Archer here every night the week before until 9:00 p.m. making decorations with assorted helpers (including Carolyn Knowlton making decorations at home); to Caroline Craig and her kitchen staff showing up every afternoon to sweat in the kitchen in order to provide everyone delicious theme-appropriate meals. Each station leader brings a unique talent to their station to help bring the experience to life for the children, and the crew leaders who have incredible patience in the oppressive heat. Of course, VBS would not be the same without Lisa Clark and Iela Ziegenhals on stage each night making us laugh and dance, acting and interacting with the children. As the Director of VBS, I am thrilled to be involved with such a wonderful community mission, and to be working with such giving individuals who bring so much of themselves to this program. Rest up, because I am already working on VBS 2014 and it is going to be amazing!! Mark your calendars, **July 20 - 24** we take a journey to the lost island! ~Kathy Archer



Adult Sunday School

"Done with Doing" (taught by Bobby Ross)

Doesn't that phrase just rub you the wrong way? Surely we must have to do something to please God and earn our salvation right? If that was the case then the cross of Christ was all for nothing.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul confronts a body of believers who came to a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ and his life, death and resurrection on their behalf. However, in time, false teachers began to teach that non-Jewish believers (Gentiles) must be circumcised (i.e. obey the law) in order to be a part of the believing community. Paul addresses this issue head on in his letter.

How does this issue effect us today? What is required of us as the community of believers today? How should this letter to the Galatians impact how we reach others? All of these issues, among others, will be covered in our study time together starting **Sept. 15 at 9:15 a.m.**

Holiday Fair: Saturday, November 23!

It's never too early to start thinking about how you can contribute to the Church's Holiday Fair;

How can you contribute?

- Creating handmade items for the craft table
- Making Thanksgiving Centerpieces
- Making jams, jellies and relishes for the Food Table
- Save reusable items for the White Elephant Room

What can you donate to the Silent Auction?

Be creative or practical!

Want to help with publicity? Contact Pam Prichard 978-546-1099 pjac@aol.com



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"Relying on the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit we seek to bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, gathering them together to worship him, helping them to live like him, and equipping them to serve him."

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THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for all the cards, notes, money, flowers, meals, and visits! It has been a very tough summer, but it really helps knowing that my church family is thinking of me and praying for me! I have one more operation to go. I can't wait to return to church and thank each of you in person!

Love,

Sarah Archer



THANK YOU!

"Thanks to all who participated in my survey and/or focus group on religion and immigration. It has been a great help to me in my research effort."

-Ruth Melkonian-Hoover

