



Oak Leaves



Vol. LXII, Number 7

MARCH 2020

Planting Holy Seeds in Lent

by Parson John

Our English word, Lent, comes from an Old English word, lencten, which means spring season. It is easy to see how the church would make the connection between Lent and spring, because it is a period in the church year leading up to Holy Week, when we remember Jesus's death, which took place during the celebration of Passover, which is observed in the spring. Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. This year the first full moon of spring is April 7 and is a supermoon, also called a pink moon for an early blooming spring flower whose color is pink. Therefore, the date for Easter is April 12. Lent lasts for forty days and begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. This corresponds to the forty days which Jesus spent fasting and praying in the wilderness as he began his ministry. If we are to follow Jesus, then it makes sense that we too would observe a period each year of special preparation and attention towards God.

Those among us with gardens will also be using this time to prepare our gardens for spring. This is the time to plant some seeds inside or in greenhouses, so that when spring comes, our seedlings can then be put into the ready ground of our gardens. The process of growing food requires attention, preparation and work. Likewise, if we long for spiritual fruit in our lives, we should expect to engage in a similar process of attention, preparation and work. In this season of Lent, if we plant some holy seeds in the soil of our hearts and tend to them, might we also expect our efforts to bear good fruit? Just as nature will reward our efforts with our gardens, God will see and reward our own spiritual efforts.

My metaphor is crude and limited. Our spiritual efforts are not magical, forcing God's hand to bless us. The process is not mechanical. Any spiritual growth is mysterious and personal. Anything significant which happens in us depends upon the work of God. Our efforts are only the way that we open ourselves to and cooperate with the abundance which God longs to produce in us.

Many of us are finding The Rule of Benedict a rich resource for spiritual growth. This should come as no surprise, since it has served as a reliable guide for growth into Christ for over 1500 years. Benedict's guidance is not overly severe, nor overly per-

...Continued on next page

Planting Holy Seeds in Lent (...continued from previous page)

missive and lax. Like the story of Goldilocks, his guidance seems just right for those who long for the guidance of a daily path which will ground them more deeply in God. Benedict gives us so many daily reminders about how we fall asleep to the life of the spirit and how we get diverted to lesser and passing things that do not truly serve us. And, yes, Benedict does give special attention to Lent, as a time to deepen our focus on God.

May this season of Lent be a time of deep enrichment for us all. Come for our Ash Wednesday service. We are planning for Wednesdays in Lent—perhaps another Soup and Scripture with options for study and enrichment. I would encourage everyone to make your own plans for enrichment. Create a daily time for prayer, for sacred reading, for ways to serve or reach out to another, for time in nature caring for creation, for silence and deeper listening to the still, small voice of God. If Jesus needed such time, how much more can you imagine that we do. This Lent, I look forward to seeing you in church!



Worshipping Together *March Services*

MARCH 1, 2020

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

“Order, Disorder, Reorder”

MARCH 8, 2020

Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17

“The Loss That is Gain”

MARCH 15, 2020

John 4:5-42

“God Beyond the Group”

MARCH 22, 2020

John 9:1-41

“Seeing Our Blindness”

MARCH 29, 2020

John 11:1-45

“Leaving Our Tombs”

Church School News



Happy March everyone! Spring is around the corner!

Diane Burke made me aware of the Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweep taking place on Saturday, April 25th from 9AM- 12:30PM. Over the last couple of years, the environment has been a reoccurring theme in church school and students have learned what it means to tend to the Earth through bible stories and activities. There has never been a more important time to get involved in helping to clean up our oceans! I'd love to see the kids do mission work by helping the community, sea animals, birds and planet right here at home.

In order to plan something like this, I'd need a headcount. If you and your child are interested, please email me or sign up in the hallway. We would love for this to be a family affair but if you cannot make it and would like to drop off your child, I can supervise a group. If we went that route, we'd need permission slips so let me know and this way we can plan ahead.

We understand that schedules can be very busy but please save the date if you can as we would love to get as big of a group as possible!

In the meantime, here's the schedule for March:

- March 1st: Making Natural Saran Wrap out of Fabric
- March 8th: Games: Trust, learning from John 3:1-17
- March 15th: God Beyond the Group- Baking
- March 22nd: Family Worship
- March 29th: Lazarus' Story- Craft

Please take note that on the bulletin board, there are slips you can take where you can write a compliment to anyone in or out of church and/or perform any act of kindness! It would only take a minute and it would make someone's day. We'd love to see the positivity flow by filling each other's buckets.

We are still looking for volunteers for church school- please let me know if you are interested or sign up on the sheet in Wilson Hall- thank you!

Marie Van Cleve, Director of Christian Education

Music Program News

Dear friends,

Easter Music! If you would like to come and sing with the Adult Choir for our upcoming Easter services, please let me know. No commitment necessary, all are welcome to join even for a short period of time. We'd love to have you visit a rehearsal to enjoy a fun and uplifting experience!

Looking into March, we have a few dates to note in your calendars:

- March 22nd: Youth Choir performs in worship.
- March 29th: Andy Kirkpatrick and I will be performing some special music in worship.

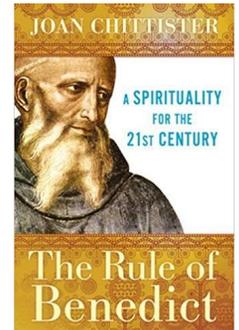
Thank you, and looking forward to connecting in church!

Andreea Fegan, Director of Music



Adult Nurture Gathering

Wisdom Wednesdays: With the New Year, our Wednesday wisdom meetings will begin to explore The Rule of Benedict as a long-tested source for our spiritual awakening in daily life. We will begin by using Joan Chittister's book, *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century*. Benedict's Rule seeks to create a balance and rhythm to support a life of continual turning to God. God is to be found in every task and in every encounter. We need intention and support to become more deeply present to the God who is always with us. Our Wednesday meetings will follow a pattern of a brief body prayer, chanting, silent meditation and contemplative conversation around Chittister's book. All are welcome .



Bread Festival - Sunday, March 29th

Immediately after worship in Wilson Hall

If you have a favorite bread recipe now is the time to share it with friends. The Bread Festival is a wonderful event that the whole family will enjoy so please join us in Wilson Hall after Sunday service on March 29th.

A SIGN-UP Sheet will be available on the table outside Wilson Hall!!!

History: The Bread Festival has long been a treasured Lenten activity enjoyed by our congregation. It was first celebrated in 1982, under the direction of Nancy Paulson, then Church School Superintendent, and Jane Murphy, who was the Chairperson of the Christian Education Commission. The first year, it was solely a church school undertaking, where the children baked pretzels and brought in Hot Cross Buns to serve the congregants during coffee hour. The event was so well received that it was expanded the following year to include breads baked by anyone who volunteered. After a few years, the Worship Commission initiated the practice of saving pieces of the donated bread so that it would be served at the Lord's Supper celebrated on Maundy Thursday. This tradition is observed to this day.



This festival honors the concept that bread has long been considered the staff of life. Historically, in the Christian tradition, special breads were baked during Lent. One of the more popular has been Hot Cross Buns, where the Cross signifies the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for the sake of our sins. Welcome to the Festival and savor both the delicious breads and the communion of the moment.

—Submitted for the Historic Committee Archives by Jane Murphy

Memorial Garden



A new display for plaques in our Memorial Garden is in motion. We have noticed that the plaques weather better when they are mounted on a slant than when they are flat. We have ordered three small granite blocks, each of which can hold twenty-eight plaques. The blocks will be placed in appropriate areas of the garden, with an eye to maintaining the natural beauty of it. The cost will be about \$5000.

We have received several generous gifts to support this improvement and are asking for others. Any gifts which bring us above the cost of the new displays will go into a fund for the maintenance of the garden. This is very important for the garden. These past two years, especially, have created an environment conducive to weeds. We need a fund to support regular weeding, mulch and trimming of plants.

The Memorial Garden is a much used and appreciated part of our church grounds. Thank you for your support which will enable us to maintain its beauty.

Easter Lily Order Form

Below is a form for those who wish to provide Easter lilies as part of our Easter Sunday celebration. Please fill out the form and return it to the Church Office. Also, please send a check payable to the "Rumson Presbyterian Church". Those wishing to have a plant placed in our worship services and then to have it shared with someone who is homebound or hospitalized, should place a check in the appropriate box.



Please order the following Easter Lily plant(s) to be used as part of the Easter decorations on **Sunday, April 12th**.

___ Plant(s) @ \$12.00 each \$: _____

Donor(s): _____

Phone: _____

Presented in memory of: _____

Please share my plant with someone who is homebound or hospitalized.

I will pick up my plant following the 11:00 A.M. service on Easter Sunday.

Ushers Needed!!!



USHERS

We are in need of a few more volunteers to be ushers or alternate ushers. We try to maintain around 10 usher teams, and each team usually ushers 5-6 weeks each year. Thank you very much for your support.

Contact **Rosanne Monroe** at rosannecanore@gmail.com if you are interested.

Nursery Volunteers



Please keep in mind that we will still be looking for nursery school volunteers for the summer months! Please reach out if you or interested or know someone that may be! Pay is \$25 for the hour, or the hour can be used to fulfill community service requirements.

Contact **Maria Van Cleve** at mlegge210@gmail.com if you are interested.

Coffee Hour Volunteers



COFFEE HOUR

We all enjoy the coffee and delicious treats served Wilson Hall after Sunday's church service. Congregational Life is looking for volunteers for next September and beyond to keep this WONDERFUL program running.

A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board.

Please contact **Rosanne Monroe** at rosannecanore@gmail.com with any questions.

Rumson Senior Citizens Club

2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 11:00 am

This month we will meet on **March 9th** and **March 23rd**.

We meet at the **Rumson Presbyterian Church**. Any questions or for more information, please contact **Sharon Cook** at **732-570-3787** (cell) or mygemini671@comcast.net.



**All seniors are welcome.
It's not just for Rumson residents.**

Don't Settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

—John Ortberg, The Life You've Always Wanted

In **March** the **Mission Commission** is collecting items for

The SPCA of Monmouth County



There will be a collection container in the foyer. Items needed are:

For Dogs: Mighty Dog canned food, liquid hand soap, dog toys, rawhides, and dog treats

For Cats: Friskies ground canned food, Fancy Feast, 9 Lives, cat toys, cat treats, and catnip

For Kittens: Jarred baby food (turkey beef, chicken), kitten bottles, and stuffed animals

For the Shelter: Liquid hand soap, paper towels, laundry detergent, and Brillo/SOS pads

For the Office: White and color copy paper, Post-its, and #10 envelopes

Other Needs: Washable blankets, towels, and sheets (used or new)

Thank You

The Mission Commission



Neighbor to Neighbor

We are now lending support to the Food Pantry at Red Bank Regional High School. It is located in The Source. The mission of The SOURCE is "To remove all obstacles that impede the success of young people in our community. We achieve this mission by providing the following services FREE of charge:

- Individual, Group and Family Counseling
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Conflict Resolution
- Preventative Medical, Dental & Eye Care
- Academic Support and Tutoring
- Recreational Activities
- Scholarship Programs
- Summer Slam Program for Incoming Freshman
- Parent/Community Presentations & Forums



At the present time they are in need of the following items in their food pantry: Ramon Noodles (in cups so they can microwave) , granola bars, sanitary napkins & tampons, laundry detergent, soap (ex: Dove, Irish Spring, Ivory, etc.), deodorant, adult cereal any kind (EX: Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Rice Krispies, Special K, etc.) ****also for young children - pull ups size 6, applesauce in squeeze pouches, ravioli microwave cups.

If you would like to learn more about The Source, go to www.rbrhs.org. Thank you for your support.

Susan Bostic, Mission



Please see the Upcoming events:

Meditation for Earth

Tuesdays 12:15 PM

Quiet meditation and contemplative prayer for the Earth.

Eco-Anxiety Support Group

Fridays 10:00 AM

This January, Waterspirit will host the next round of an eco-anxiety peer support group using the Good Grief Network's "10 Steps to Personal Resilience and Empowerment in a Chaotic Climate" method. An informational meeting takes place on January 24th. The series runs through April 3rd.

Sunday Yoga Classes at Waterspirit!

Sunday, February 23, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Come join us for our FREE gentle and mindful yoga classes. Every other week (starting February 9th), enhance your connection to the Full Moon and New Moon with Hatha and Restorative yoga.

Waterspirit Book Club

Monday, February 24th, 6:00 PM

Please join us as we discuss the novel Learning Love from a Tiger by Daniel Capper. Pizza and salad will be served.

Local Movie Night

Saturday, March 14, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Come see the double-feature of local filmmaker, Chris Brenner's historical films 'Rumson Hill' & 'Highland Beach'.

Tickets are \$5 and include 1 free popcorn! Kids under 5 are free!

Spring Equinox Celebration

Friday, March 20, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Join Waterspirit for a celebration of the deeper meaning of this season, with refreshments to follow.

***Unless noted, events are at Waterspirit
(co-located at the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson)***

4 East River Road, Rumson, NJ 07760

Call or email for registration and information:

732-923-9788 or water@waterspirit.org

Historic Committee News



Our church congregation is 156 years old this year. Our Historic committee finds new and interesting facts about our history everywhere. It's fun to dig into our enormous amount of resources we have stored at church. **JOIN THE HISTORIC COMMITTEE** and enjoy the **FUN!!!**

Tony Kerbs has been exploring church records in the writing of this summary. If anyone is interested in joining in the exploration and preservation of our church's history, please contact Tony.

A History of the Rumson Presbyterian Church

By Tony Kerbs

In 1791 the Wardell family sold a large Rumson track, river to river, to William Bingham, a wealthy merchant of Philadelphia. Bingham and his wife Ann Willing built a home upon it in 1792 and named it Bingham Place, a well-known home of the Federalist period. One hundred acres of Bingham's land parcel, which bordered the Navesink River, was sold to Thomas Hunt where Hunt built a dock and a hotel named the Port Washington Hotel (this building survived into the early 1950s). Mr. Hunt envisioned a plan to make the land in the vicinity of the hotel a summer retreat for New Yorker who sought to escape the heat of the summer. Bingham Place eventually passes into the possession of Dr. Eleazer Parmly in 1833. In 1842 Hunt built an old church edifice (now Bingham Hall), which he committed to the care of three Presbyterians trustees, Dr. Eleazer Parmly, Martinus Bergen and Robert Hartshorne. It was in service for a long time. The "old church edifice" was eventually sold to Presbyterian trustees and the building was used for about 20 years. Different denominations had tried, but unsuccessfully, to maintain regular services there, and so the building, in time, became exclusively for the use of the Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Beekman who often preached there was anxious to establish a permanent church in the town, which was agreed to by the Monmouth Presbytery in 1861. In that year Albert King a licentiate of the Presbytery of NY was elected and ordained as the first ruling elder. The relationship with King dissolved within in a year by mutual consent. The people were without a pastor for three years until the Rev. Alexander Clements was called and installed in November 1865. That year the church reported a membership of twenty members. All succeeding pastors were quite advanced in age and the church was off and on without a pastor. In June of 1874 Charles Newell was installed and, with a special interest in the younger people, the membership grew to 40 and the Christian liberality of the church grew to new height. Many men entered the Christian Ministry from this church including John Ehrick Parmly, son of Ehrick and Lucy DuBois Parmly. Parmly, the son, had the privilege of being prepared for the ministry under the tutelage of the Reverend Professor Thomas Hastings, the President of the Union Theological Seminary, who was a frequent preacher at our Rumson pulpit and conducted the dedicatory exercise at the previously noted "old church edifice". Ironically, his son Thomas Hastings Jr. was to be the ar-

...Continued on next page

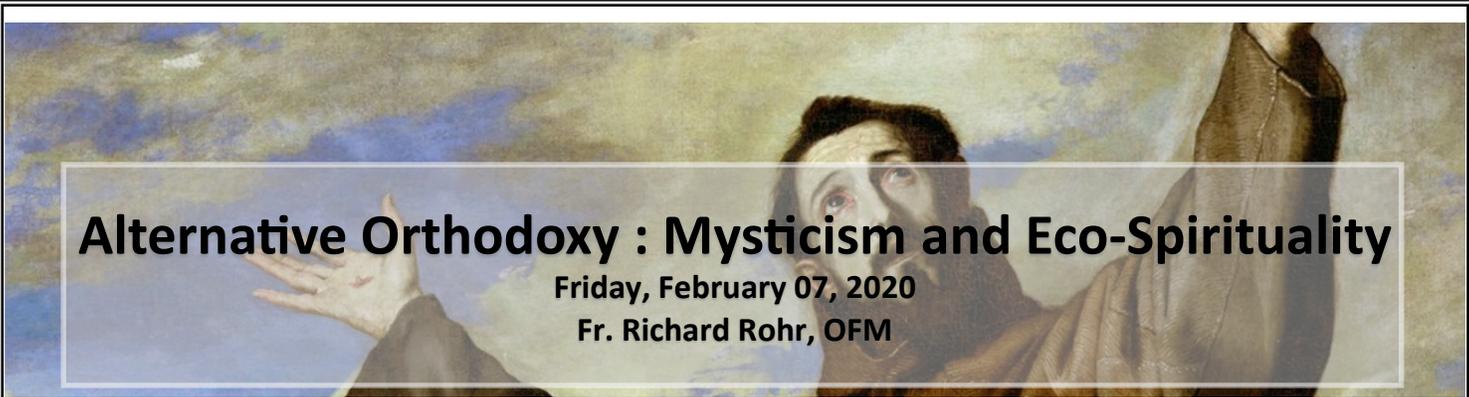
A History of the Rumson Presbyterian Church (...continued from previous page)

chitect and supervisor of the erection of the current edifice of the Rumson Presbyterian Church. It is believed to be the first commission Hasting received.

In 1877 a new minister, Rev. Dr. Knipe was unanimously called by the congregation. During his pastorate two members were elevated to the Gospel Ministry; Samuel Conover Osborn and John Ehrick Parmly. Knipe was well loved; faithful as a pastor and said to have an "excellent pulpit presence" He was also a trout fisherman of wide renown, a trained chemist, botanist, geologist and gardener. For many years he was the US official weather observer in this vicinity. It was during his pastorate that today's church and manse were erected.

There has been much speculation over the years as to why the great architect, Thomas Hastings Jr, chose to undertake the design and building supervision of our church. Indeed, he was a partner in the internationally renowned architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White and thereafter found the firm of Carrère and Hastings, with John Mervin Carrère. His first major commissions came from a parishioner of Hastings' father, Florida developer Henry Flagler. Hastings undertook two hotels for Flagler, the Ponce de Leon Hotel (1885–1888) in St. Augustine, Florida (now part of Flagler College) and the Hotel Alcazar (now the Lightner Museum), followed by a succession of St. Augustine hotels and churches. His most famous project was the New York Public Library building. The second most accomplished work was a house known as "the Knole". It was built in 1903 and was purchased as a gift by the steel magnet Henry Phipps. Hastings went on to design the Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknowns and the Henry Clay Frick House on Fifth Avenue, as well as residences for such distinguished names as Guggenheim, DuPont, Harriman and William K. Vanderbilt. He also designed the Fort Washington Presbyterian Church, and the Tower of Jewels, the centerpiece of San Francisco's 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. After World War I, Hastings designed Kumler Chapel at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and designed the American Monument in Meaux, France, that memorialized the defeat of Germany at the Second Battle of the Marne. Hastings did also have a connection to the Presbyterian Church through his father Thomas Sr., who, as already mentioned, was the President of the Union Theological Seminary, and a frequent preacher at our Rumson pulpit. Just as likely though, his design and construction of our church may have been motivated by Hastings family who summered at Oceanic, NJ, where his family acquired a home belonging Mrs. Hasting's family (DeGroot) where for many years the summer vacations were passed.

Through her history this church has been blessed with an unusual number of loyal friends and amongst them have been counted summer residents, not a few of whom had maintained major responsibilities in national affairs. Years of visits of Theodore Roosevelt were recalled by those who observed his courtship at the "middle one of the three white cottages behind the church building facing the Navesink River". Perhaps best remembered was the character and personality of Dr. Parmly. He was for decades a ruling elder in the church, 40 years a trustee and a man of great generosity and Christian ardor.



Alternative Orthodoxy : Mysticism and Eco-Spirituality

Friday, February 07, 2020

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

When the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature—every mortal being that is on the earth. —Genesis 9:16

Franciscan alternative orthodoxy emphasized mysticism over morality. Moralism is the task of low-level religion, concerned with creating an ego identity that seemingly places us on moral high ground. But moralism is normally not a primary concern for love, the focus of mature spirituality. Scripture, Jesus, the mystics, and the saints recognized that the goal of religion is not a perfect moral stance, but union with God. Mysticism is about connection not perfection. [1] Perfectionism always leads to individualism—as if the individual could ever be perfect.

The single biggest heresy that allows us to misinterpret the scriptural tradition is individualism, revealed now in the problems we are facing with climate change, pollution, the loss of biodiversity, and the extinction of many species. We became so anthropocentric and self-referential that we thought God cared not about “every living creature” nor about the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1), but just about “us people” and not even very many of us. That’s what happens when we go down the track of individualism and lose the mystical level of perception.

Eco-spirituality could be considered another gift of Franciscan alternative orthodoxy. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of ecology because he granted animals, elements, and the earth subjectivity, respect, and mutuality. In his *Canticle of the Creatures*, Francis the mystic describes a participatory universe in which God loves and cares for us through Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brothers Wind and Air, Sister Water, Brother Fire, and “through our sister, Mother Earth.” [2] At the same time, God receives praise, honor, glory, and blessing through each of God’s creations. On the mystical level, Francis could see the transformational power of Love’s presence within all creation.

I often wonder if the one thing we all share in common—our planet—could ultimately bring us all together. We stand on this same “sister, Mother Earth” and we look up at this same Brother Sun and Sister Moon. Could it be that the Mystery of God is already hidden and revealed here? I believe so. Naming the universal Christ helps us to recognize the inherent sacrality, holiness, goodness, and value of the whole material world. For those who see deeply, there is only One Reality; there is no distinction between sacred and profane. [3] Humanity is becoming capable

Continued on next page...

Alternative Orthodoxy : Mysticism and Eco-Spirituality (...continued)

of a truly global spirituality which is desperately needed for the common good to be realized.

God has come to save us all by grace. No exceptions. The mystics have no trouble surrendering to such fullness. For Bonaventure, God is a “fountain fullness” of outflowing love, only flowing in one positive direction, always and forever. There is no wrath in God. There is only outpouring love.

Reference:

[[1] This is related to one of the Center for Action and Contemplation’s Seven Themes of an Alternative Orthodoxy: “Divine union, not private perfection is the goal of all religion.”

Join the CONSPIRE 2020 webcast to explore this and other themes: <https://cac.org/conspire-2020/>.

[2] Francis wrote this song praising God through all creation during the last year of his life; the full text of the Canticle can be found at <https://www.franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assisi-early-documents/the-saint/writings-of-francis/the-canticle-of-the-creatures/129-fa-ed-1-page-113>.

[3] This is another of the Center’s Seven Themes of an Alternative Orthodoxy.

Adapted from Richard Rohr with Tim Scorer, Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy: Richard Rohr on the Legacy of St. Francis, sessions 2 and 5 (Morehouse Education Resources: 2014), Participants’ Workbook and DVD.

Image credit: *St. Francis of Assisi* (detail), Jusepe de Ribera, 1642, El Escorial .

Inspiration for this week’s banner image: Francis loved God above all and wanted to imitate Jesus in very practical ways. Action and lifestyle mattered much more to him than mentally believing dogmatic or moral positions to be true or false. Francis directly said to the first friars, “You only know as much as you do!” —Richard Rohr

God’s Wonders

People travel to wonder
at the height of the mountains,
at the huge waves of the seas,
at the long course of the rivers,
at the vast compass of the ocean,

at the circular motion of the stars,
and yet they pass by themselves without
wondering.

—St. Augustine

Words of Wisdom

“Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.”

—Anthony J. D’Angelo

“May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door. ”

—Irish Blessing

What footprints are we leaving?

Mission trips and carbon emissions

By **Ellen Sherby**, Coordinator, Equipping for Mission Involvement

"Our congregation wants to go on a short-term mission trip outside the U.S. Are there PC(USA) global partners that can host us?"

"I am planning a trip next summer for families in my church. Does the PC(USA) have a devotional guide for intergenerational trips?"

These are questions I respond to regularly. Congregational mission trip leaders often reach out to seek guidance for where to go and resource materials to help them lead short-term mission trips.

I recently exchanged emails with Jed Koball, a PC(USA) mission co-worker serving with the Joining Hands Network in Peru. Jed accompanies groups of Presbyterians from the U.S. who come to Peru to learn about causes and effects of poverty. They go back to the U.S. prepared to advocate for Peruvian brothers and sisters and to learn more about (and act on) root causes of poverty at home.

A recent email from Jed started a conversation about the impact of mission trips on our carbon footprint. Jed commented, "As I was reviewing the resources, evaluating the mission experiences we facilitate here in Peru, and obsessively fretting over the demise of the planet as the Amazon burns and the Andes icecaps melt, it occurred to me that we Presbyterians should take more responsibility for our carbon emissions ... not only in support of our global partner initiatives (both advocacy and project-based) but also in relation to our personal activity."

God calls us to do what we can to leave all kinds of good "footprints" in mission, both for creation as well as for the wellbeing of all of God's people around the world. As you prepare to participate in mission or service near or far, consider the following ways to engage in mission while also caring for the



Ellen Sherby walks with one of her sons while visiting family in Honduras. Sherby met her husband of more than two decades, the Rev. Elmer Zavala, while serving in a short-term mission program in Honduras in 1995.

planet:

- **Participate in mission** in ways that cause as little harm as possible, including potential environmental impacts your group may have as it travels to and lives in a host community.
- **Offset your carbon footprint** as you travel to, serve and live in communities away from home.
- **Commit to deeper engagement** in your own community upon your return home. One way is to engage your congregation in conversations about climate change.

Visit presbyterianmission.org/blessed-tomorrow to download "Let's Talk Faith & Climate" and "15 Steps."

Ideas to help planet Earth

Mission co-worker Jed Koball has proposed a few ideas to Peruvian partners to attempt to offset carbon emissions of groups visiting Peru:

- Charge an additional \$10 to \$20 per person, per mission team, to help fund an ongoing reforestation project of our partners.
- Engage mission teams in more environmental activities (as opposed to construction).
- Continue to address climate change as the most urgent issue of the world today.
- Eat out less.
- Eliminate red meat from mission team diets (and slowly move toward a culturally appropriate vegetarian diet).

Take note: These are Jed's ideas for the context of partners in Peru. If you are planning a trip, please work with the host partners to ask them about their ideas for offsetting your group's carbon footprint. Follow their guidance to determine what kinds of activities are most appropriate in their context.

- Unpack the Short-Term Mission Trip Toolkit: presbyterianmission.org/short-term-mission.
- Learn about Joining Hands: presbyterianmission.org/joininghands.
- Take the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Climate Care Challenge: pcusa.org/cc.

The Biggest little Farm

**Rumson Presbyterian Church to host a family movie afternoon:
The Biggest Little Farm on March 29th at 4 pm. FREE!!**

Learn about healthy living, sustainable farming, as you watch this inspirational story of how a Los Angeles couple quit the city, moved an hour north of one of the most polluted metropolitan centers on Earth, and pursued their dream of growing every ingredient she could possibly want to cook with. Live through the trails and tribulations, the rewards and the persistence of continued learning and growing that this young couple endured with their dog. A sweet heart opening movie for all ages!! Please join us!

A testament to the immense complexity of nature, The Biggest Little Farm follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land.



COA's 35th Annual Spring Beach Sweeps will be held on
Saturday, April 25, 2020.

Registration for the Spring Beach Sweeps will open in mid-February.



35th Annual Beach Sweeps
Saturday, April 25th, 2020
9 am-12:30 pm

Please join us young and old, families together and individuals working together representing Rumson Presbyterian Church doing mission work right here at home. Each of us can better the Ocean's ecosystem by playing our part in restoring the environment by cleaning up debris. As Stewards of this beautiful planet Earth, Rumson Presbyterian Church will join Clean Ocean Action and do our part. This work is so important for birds, other animals, human's, turtles as well as all of sea life.

Pease sign up in the hallway and help Rumson Presbyterian Church have a big awesome turnout.

Time for Reflection



Paddling Through Lent — and Life

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

—adapted from **Carlos Wilton**, in *Homiletics*

Prayer Around the World

Travel writer Rick Steves, who's a Christian, believes travel can help us see God. He writes of gaining new insights into prayer from a so-called "whirling dervish" (a sort of Muslim monk) in Turkey. Before demonstrating how he prays, the man explained to Steves: "When we pray, we keep one foot in our community, anchored in our home. The other foot steps around and around, acknowledging the beautiful variety of God's creation ... touching all corners of this great world. I raise one hand up to acknowledge the love of God, and the other hand goes down like the spout of a teapot. As I spin around, my hand above receives the love from our Creator, and my hand below showers it onto all of his creation."

Most of us probably won't add whirling to our prayer practices! And we likely already pray for people near and far. But what if we pictured ourselves both anchored at home and stepping out among God's whole creation? What if we imagined God's love pouring into us, then out of us onto all the world? How might such an approach to prayer influence how we live?

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

All beautiful the march of days,
as seasons come and go;
the Hand that shaped the rose hath wrought
the crystal of the snow;
hath sent the hoary frost of heav'n,
the flowing waters sealed,
and laid a silent loveliness
on hill and wood and field. ...

O Thou from whose unfathomed law
the year in beauty flows,
Thyself the vision passing by
in crystal and in rose,
day unto day doth utter speech,
and night to night proclaim,
in ever changing words of light,
the wonder of Thy Name.

—**Frances W. Wile**

First Presbyterian Church of Rumson NJ
P.O. Box 399
East River Road at Park Avenue
Rumson, NJ 07760

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Red Bank, NJ
Permit No. 318

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

~Please check our website at www.rumsonpresbyterian.org for calendar updates~

MARCH 2020				APRIL 2020			
Mar 1	Sun	First Sunday of Lent		Apr 1	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Mar 3	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm	Apr 3	Fri	Climate Anxiety Group*	10:00am
Mar 4	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm	Apr 4	Fri	??*	10:00am
Mar 6	Fri	World Day of Prayer		Apr 5	Sun	Palm/Passion Sunday	
Mar 6	Fri	Climate Anxiety Group*	10:00am	Apr 7	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm
Mar 8	Sun	Daylight-Savings Time begins		Apr 8	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Mar 9	Mon	Rumson Seniors Meeting	11:00am	Apr 9	Thu	Maundy Thursday Service	7:30pm
Mar 10	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm	Apr 10	Fri	Good Friday Service	12:00pm
Mar 11	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm	Apr 12	Sun	Easter Sunday	9:30am & 11:00am
Feb 13	Fri	Climate Anxiety Group*	10:00am	Apr 13	Mon	Rumson Seniors Meeting	11:00am
Mar 17	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm	Apr 14	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm
Mar 17	Tue	Session	7:00pm	Apr 15	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Mar 18	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm	Apr 21	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm
Mar 19	Thu	First Day of Spring		Apr 21	Tue	Session	7:00pm
Mar 20	Fri	Climate Anxiety Group*	10:00am	Apr 22	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Mar 23	Mon	Rumson Seniors Meeting	11:00am	Apr 22	Wed	Earth Day	
Mar 24	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm	Apr 27	Mon	Rumson Seniors Meeting	11:00am
Mar 25	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm	Apr 28	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm
Mar 27	Fri	Climate Anxiety Group*	10:00am	Apr 29	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Mar 29	Sun	Bread Festival					
Mar 31	Tue	Meditation*	12:15pm				

**WATERSPIRIT sponsored event. All are welcome.*



www.rumsonprebyterian.org