

THE SPIRIT

The Monthly Newsletter of Totowa United Methodist Church

TERESITA'S TABLE TALK

*"For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

I have claimed a corner in my house for prayer. For the last 16 months, I show up to meet with God almost daily. I have many tools in that corner that help me guide my time of devotion: a bible, poems, a notebook, a singing bowl, among other things.

However, the best aid provided comes from nature itself. The eclectic selection of plants my husband tends surround me and transport me back to the Caribbean rainforest. The windows let nature in and I have seen the seasons shift the appearance of the trees and the disappearance and return of the birds who nest in it. Many times, I said to myself that I should have taken a daily picture of the setting to record how it changes with the seasons. But I try to keep technology off my prayer corner as much as possible. So, I have made a mental carving of the setting and the sense of freedom and peace I experience there, so that I can take them with me to other settings that might not be as welcoming.

In my prayer corner I have a clipping of a quote by philosopher Lao Tzu that reads: "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." Alongside one of my favorite quotes in Ecclesiastes, this wisdom bring calmness to my industrious mind and impatient spirit. And what is best the more I pay attention the more I am convinced that there is no purer truth. My prayer for you this summer is that you take your time to BE and live out the purpose God has drawn before you. When we walk in God's Holy will there is a season for everything and time is more than enough!

With You on the Journey, #Pastor Teresita.

SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2018 AT 6PM

Our church community will be gathering to vote on the new single governance administrative structure. This special session will be presided by Rev. Brian Neville, as assigned by our District Superintendent, Rev. Gina Kim. All members have received a letter with more details. If you have not, and want more details, please call Pastor Teresita at 908-963-9714.

SUMMER OF PSALMS ONLINE

During the month of June, Pastor Teresita will be posting a daily reading of Psalms for prayer and reflection. Videos will be posted on the church's Facebook, Instagram, and links will be send via email and on our website.

GROW YOUR PRAYER PRACTICE

Join our private Facebook group **Totowa Community of Prayer** if you want to incorporate prayer as part of your daily practice for connecting with God, seeking wholeness, wellness, and spiritual growth. In the group we assume that everyone is always learning, and not one of us is an expert.

BAPTISM

We welcome and congratulate the Wendolowski Family on the Baptism of their baby girl, Carly Beth. We will baptize Carly on Sunday, June 24th at 10am.

CHURCH NEWS



June Birthdays

1 – Mike Iannaconi
 9 – Leah Carlson
 9 - Teresita Matos-Post
 12 – Mike Purdy
 14 – Helen Scoular
 15 – Jean Hall
 16 – Susan Whitty
 20 – Doug Dunlop
 21 - Barbara Picciocchi
 22 - Laura Picciocchi
 24 – Jayden Polizzi
 26 – Traci Simonton
 27 – Derek (DJ) Pierri

June Anniversary

28 – Jack & Donna Murray

July Birthdays

5 – Bob Randall
 6 – Pete Wychman, Sr
 10 – John Murray
 12 - Dysere Rivera-Matos
 17 – Linda Atkinson
 18 – Kaitlyn Mould
 23 – Len Cioletti
 Carolyn Iannaconi
 24 – Carol Pierri

July Anniversaries

1 – Bob & Delores Randall
 23 – Bob & Leah Carlson
 25 – Ray & Diane Delorme

August Birthdays

4 - Nancy Mecca
 13 - Alana Post
 20 – Jessie Diane Hauryluke
 22 – Roland Tulino
 28 – Zachary Polizzi
 31 – Bryan Cioletti

A BIG THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who helped in creating this newsletter each month.

I especially thank Jim Gibbons for emailing me all his information on how to get started on the newsletter.

Thanks to Doug Dunlop for all his articles poetry and exceptional knowledge. Thanks also to Helen Scoular and Betty Marchitti for their special talent in poetry.

Thanks to my neighbor Elaine who reads the newsletter each month that I drop off to her and surprised me with a donation for the newsletter.

And of course Pastor Teresita and Maureen Grant who work on it each month to get it ready for all of us to enjoy.

Looking forward to September.

Renee

THE SPIRIT

Newsletter Editor **Renee Vetter**

Administrative Support **Maureen Grant**

Opinion Column **Doug Dunlop**

Please send your contributions for the September issue of The Spirit by August 20, 2018 to the editor at renee.v1@verizon.net. Consider events, news, stories, poems, recipes, or photos. Thank YOU.

**POEMS AND THOUGHTS
BY DOUG DUNLOP**

PATRIOTIC CAT

**I am a patriotic cat, a yankee doodle kitty,
And when I'm near the stars and stripes,
I meow a little ditty.**

**It's a good old kitty song, in a good old kitty way,
and when I sing it all the birds will to the music play.
The words are very simple, they go something like this.
I'm glad to be in a country that's free, and cats can do what they wish.**



FOURTH OF JULY

**Fireworks in the sky, Fourth of July!
Their sacred honor lead them
onward through the dread.
The bloody war they knew,
for freedom was their due.
Honor their sacred cause,
together together let us pause.
To send a prayer above,
for freedom, peace, and love.**



FOURTH OF JULY

**It's summer and the Fourth of July,
Red White and Blue is flying high.
But the next day they may be found,
lying on the muddy ground.
The flag is used by politicians,
to be elected is their mission.
Patriotic is their cry,
send the soldiers to kill and die.
Our sacred motto "In God We Trust" w
hile all the crosses have turned to dust.
And then we ask and wonder why,
"Where is God" up in the sky?
"One Nation Under God"
may be found, like the colors on the
ground.
"Our Country Right or Wrong"
sing a patriotic song.
Then go out To do or die,
up to Heaven you will fly.
p.s. the quotation is "My Country Right or
Wrong,
when wrong to be made right,
when right to be kept right".**

POEMS AND THOUGHTS
I Smile

Warm today, not spring-like,
 more like summer *
 After all those cold nights
 and blustery days,
 this morning I heard birdsong.
 Every day, robins on someone's lawn.
 I smile in welcome.
 Growing up on 21st Street,
 maple trees I climbed—
 fourth grade, walking to School 24
 in thigh-high snow—
 I smile. I send an arrow prayer
 to heaven: Thank you, Lord!
 Elizabeth Marchitti
 April 14, 2018

YOU ARE THERE

In the quiet of my room
 I pray to you
 When I see my flowers bloom
 I pray to you
 To be with all my Family
 I pray to you
 To be there for a friend
 I pray to you
 To thank you for my life
 I pray to you
YOU ARE ALWAYS THERE

Helen Scoular
 May 19, 2017

OLD FRIENDS

Where are you now
 Old friends of mine
 So many memories
 Have come to mind
 Of old times when we were young
 Fun times we had
 The songs we sung
 Our school times in Fairlawn
 My childhood home
 With a hill we could sled down
 With an old pond we skated on
 The war we were caught in
 Our families away fighting
 We watched soldiers marching
 Past our homes each day
 We know they took our hill
 And made it their camp
 But they made us sleds
 So we still could have fun
 I moved away from you
 To a new town, new school
 But now I remember the days
 When at Bergen Avenue we played
 And the plays were were in
 As Hansel and Gretel and times that are
 gone
 Oh how I wish today
 I could have stayed near you
 So many memories now gone
 Except when I hear
 Songs we sang, plays we did
 Teams we rooted for
 I'll never forget my years in my old house

Helen Scoular
 December 24, 2016

“JUST AS I AM”

Charlotte Elliot wrote this song about how to find salvation through Christ. It has been used by many as the call to the altar at the close of services, as it brings a quite simple message of sin, forgiveness, and salvation to all that turn from sin and trust in Jesus.

John Brownlie^[5] described the hymn's story in his book *The Hymns and Hymn Writers of the Church Hymnary*:^[6] Charlotte's brother, the Rev. H. V. Elliott planned to hold a charity bazaar designed to give, at a nominal cost, a high education to the daughters of clergymen supported by St Mary Church:

The night before the bazaar she was kept wakeful by distressing thoughts of her apparent uselessness; and these thoughts passed by a transition easy to imagine into a spiritual conflict, till she questioned the reality of her whole spiritual life, and wondered whether it were anything better after all than an illusion of the emotions, an illusion ready to be sorrowfully dispelled. The next day, the busy day of the bazaar, she

lay upon her sofa in that most pleasant boudoir set apart for her in Westfield Lodge, ever a dear resort to her friends." The troubles of the night came back upon her with such force that she felt they must be met and conquered in the grace of God. She gathered up in her soul the great certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, His power, His promise. And taking pen and paper from the table she deliberately set down in writing, for her own comfort, "the formulae of her faith." Hers was a heart which always tended to express its depths in verse. So in verse she restated to herself the Gospel of pardon, peace, and heaven. "Probably without difficulty or long pause" she wrote the hymn, getting comfort by thus definitely "recollecting" the eternity of the Rock beneath her feet. There, then, always, not only for some past moment, but " even now " she was accepted in the Beloved "Just as I am".

VANTAGE POINT BY DOUG DUNLOP

“VANTAGE POINT” SUMMER 2018 “QUEST FOR OUR FATHER”

This edition of “Vantage Point” will be for June, July, and August. A lot to cover, it’s not like the world stops for the summer, but people need a rest, batteries need to recharge. Major events to cover include Father’s Day, June weddings, Fourth of July, and summer in general. The month of June was named by the Romans for the goddess Juno, wife of Jupiter and goddess of marriage, hence June weddings. July and August were named for Julius and Augustus Caesar respectively.

July has Independence Day, August is the anniversary of the Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the beginning of the Atomic age. Summer in general is a time for complaining about the heat, vacationing and getting ready for a new start in September.

Since I wrote about women for Mother’s day, I think I should write something for Father’s day. The role of father’s in the modern world is perilous as highlighted by the failure of television fathers.

Since I was born on Father’s Day and influenced by T.V. shows like “Father Knows Best” I think it’s a good topic for me.

Father’s day has been celebrated in one way or another since the middle ages. The church celebrated it on the Feast of St Joseph, “Nutritor Domini“(Nourisher of the Lord) I have already discussed my feeling that there is more to the story of Joseph, but for now we must accept that God had a special plan for him.

As I have said before, everything is connected in some way.

Marriage, Fatherhood, defending one’s family. The job of the writer is to weave all those connections together to tell a story.

As in every other story, it’s best to start at the beginning. “In the beginning” God created mankind, male and female, blessed them and told them to fill the earth. When God spoke to Moses on the mountain the commandments were given to “Honor Thy Father and Mother” and also to “Make no graven image”. The psychologist Erich Fromm interprets this to mean that God doesn’t want us to see him in human form (so hard to avoid the male pronouns) as the Greeks did.

God said “I am that I am”!

Later there was a conflict between those seeing God as male, and those who saw male and female essence.

How the female became submissive to the male is complicated and I believe was not in God’s plan. They were made to be a team, each complementing the other.

Jesus always referred to God as "Father", but in his teachings he demonstrated traits that were considered feminine, compassion, grace, care for children and women.

It is possible to look at this in a negative way but we as Christians should always "Accentuate the Positive"!

Fathers have a hard job, suddenly like Joseph in the Bible, they have a new life that they have to care for. Their first instinct might be to run away but God gives them strength to stay and care for the child and the mother. That seems to be the essence of human survival.

The original "Trinity" father, mother and child.

So perhaps Jesus was just trying to help fathers to accept their responsibilities without resorting to the so called "Patriarchal" attitudes of the men of his time.

The failures of some of our television fathers highlights the need to honor and respect all fathers. At weddings, and when babies are born, all the attention is on the woman. Men stand quietly by, sometimes put in a position of feeling less valuable.

They go to work, and go to war to protect and defend their families. It is said that a lot of the church's doctrine was shaped by men who had very authoritarian fathers who were emotionally distant.

I think that if we examine the teachings of Jesus without prejudice, we will see human relationships in a new and true light.

So Happy Father's Day to all fathers and "Our Father in Heaven" and have a good summer.



Answers to last month's puzzle

**Let us hold fast the the profession of our faith without wavering; for
He is faithful that promised.
Hebrews 10;13 KJV**

SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE 5 LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR
6:30PM - ADMIN. COUNCIL**

JUNE 9 TOTOWA DAY

JUNE 13 DONUTS WITH DAD

JUNE 17 FATHER'S DAY



TOTOWA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP SUNDAY 10AM

105 CHURCH ST. TOTOWA NJ 07512

PH. 973-790-5961

TOTOWAUMC@GMAIL.COM

WWW.TOTOWAUMC.ORG