



Pictures from previous years

April 20, 2020

Greeting Lake and River Parish United Church of Cape Vincent.

Covid-19 has changed everything in our world. For the first time ever our church was closed. No Easter week celebrations no Easter Sunday service. No sharing the holiday with family. No Easter egg hunts with the children. It was a sad reality.

But Some good came out of it. We worshiped in other ways. We watched services on TV, or online. We read our bibles more and life did go on. It had us reflecting more.

I for one hated it. But I moved on and enjoyed other things and I bet when our churches open again we will pack the place. We got to see how important it was when taken away.

But while I have been home with no place to go, I reflected on my family, thoughts of my childhood. Thoughts of my children and grandchildren. I started a Family Tree in Ancestry.com. Just in case in the future my children are interested in where they came from and who there extended family was. I learned about my father who was a Seaman 2nd class on the USS Carolina in World War II. Where my great grandparents came from and what their names were. All kind of cool facts. I probably would not have done this if life was normal and I was out and about.

I cooked more, and baked more and learn to eat what I had on hand. I rested more. Face timed with my family more gave sage advice to my grand-daughter but of course she won't take it LOL. Texted my friends more. Just enjoyed what I had.

Here is some good news for United Church from Finance Chair Rick Martin:

The United Church received a Federal Grant for the churches next 2-1/2 months operating expenses..

Thank you Rick and Debbie (Suller) for all the work that you put into getting this grant.

Here are some thoughts from Pastor Nancy on the parallels of human development with Church history:

As we have been forced into this very extended Lenten journey, I have been thinking about certain parallels in human development and church history.

Conception and Gestation

The church began with a shout on Pentecost after conception, brought about by the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary and the baby Jesus. The embryo grew with Jesus becoming truly the human son God wanted. The fetus was shaped by Jesus' teaching and gathering materials to shape his body, which he left behind on his ascension to Heaven.

Birth and infancy

The fully formed infant church came forth with a shout on Pentecost and took its first toddling steps with the church in Jerusalem. It spread out far and wide to Ethiopia and Syria and encountered dangers from the new world of Saul of Tarsus and hostile economies and governments. With God's help it survived and started to grow in miraculous ways to people who did not even have a background in Hebrew theology.

Adolescence

When the Roman emperor Constantine adopted faith in Christ and declared Christianity as the official faith of the empire, the church grew mightily in size, but perhaps was diminished in its power to transform lives and the world.

The church may have entered an awkward adolescent phase during the middle ages. The power of Rome was no longer behind it due to the collapse of the government. The church went to its room (monasteries and cloistered communities) to listen to its own music and write in its private diary. The nerve center of its brain (Rome and the papacy) lost touch with its hands and feet. Struggling to remain alive it preyed upon the weak and weak-minded to garner funds and resources.

Rebellion was unavoidable. Huss, Jean Calvin, Martin Luther, Knox and Wesley started screaming in the streets that we needed to be reformed. Through the Holy Spirit in their teaching the Church was reborn into a vibrant and powerful body. Even the Roman Church was given new life and purpose and began to tread a more righteous and grace-filled path.

Adulthood

The full-grown church then suffered the diseases of adulthood. Heart failure, obesity, arrogance and complacency crept in and tarnished the church's mission and vision. Presbyopia, cataracts and bad cholesterol obscured her vision and threatened her demise.

Midlife and declining years

Where are we now as the Bobby of Christ?. Maybe we are experiencing a midlife crisis. We look at where we are and long for where we were. Some of us panic and think if we dye our hair or buy a cool sportscar our youthful vitality will return. Those who are truly wise will realize that it is not the toys of our adolescence that will revitalize us, but the spirit of our infancy that will bring us new life.

REBIRTH?

We are approaching the season of Penecost, that moment when the disdiples were given the power to be children of God through the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was a promised giift not only to them by Je-sus, but also to us.

Jesus said, "Wait for it" and they waited, huddled together in prayer. But they also expected it and trusted that God would provide.

So in this season of waiting, shuttered in our homes, let us pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit in our churches and throughout our world. Let us return not to our confused teenage years, but to the simple childlike faith or Peter, Paujl and the apostles who grew the church by acts of kindness, acceptance and mercy. Let's follow Christ and them, who loved him by loving one another and reaching out to a world that is lost and lonely and on the brink of disaster.

