

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, October 16, 2022 Issue No. 127

October 16, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday In Pentecost

"This relationship begins with
HEARING THE WORD OF GOD,
*acknowledging that it is the truth, then
making an intellectual decision to establish
a personal relationship with Jesus Christ now."*

Growth and Our Undercover Boss

Randy York — Florence, New Jersey — October 16, 2022



The drought this summer left patches of our lawn in need of repair. Last week I thatched out the dead spots, raked in some topsoil, and mixed in the grass seed. God provided the rain

(constantly!) over the extended weekend, so the conditions were right for growth. That's what it takes after all, preparation, planting, opportunity and growth.

Back on September 10th, Barbara and I met Jesus at a Dunkin Donuts in Las Cruces New Mexico. (Before I continue, I assure you I haven't been out in the rain too long.) We honestly met Jesus. He wasn't glorious or glowing. In fact, he was barefoot and disheveled. He did not wear a flowing robe, no, he was partially covered by a beat up sleeping bag. His hands did not have nail marks. On the contrary, his arms were covered in needle tracks. It was him though, I know it was. "His body was broken." Check. "A man of suffering, familiar with pain." Check. "Despised and rejected." Yep. "One from whom people hid their faces." Most folks glanced over and joined in that old Dionne Warwick hymn, "Walk on by."

Barbara and I might have conveniently joined the choir of indifference except for the reminder sown just before we left. Back on the first Sunday in September, Annette scattered those blessed seeds. Her message on that Lay Sunday was from Matthew 25 and Jesus' lesson about the sheep and the goats. You remember the story and that probing question raised, "Lord, when did we see you hungry, naked, or thirsty?" Annette prepared the ground and scattered the seed and God had it sprout up on that morning in New Mexico. That's the way it is with God's word.

I've seen it on the page. I've heard it many times from the pulpit. It's always right there. But it germinates finally when we open ourselves to God's life changing alchemy. Letting his spirit transform our hearts from inert spectators to active participants in his call to compassion and service.

To everyone else who came in that morning for breakfast, that table held up the wasted body of a drug consumed young man. At some point, a comment was tendered directed at the store, "Why don't they do something about that?" "That" being the unsettling sight of a person in need. The question could have easily been posed by God as well. In that moment Annette's scattered seed sprouted. Barbara and I reached into our bags, collected what we had to offer, and left it for the young man. Lord, when did we see you? Have you ever seen a lonely person waiting for a friend? If you've ever seen a lonely person, you've seen me. Have you ever seen another soul hungry and in need? If you've ever seen a hungry soul then you've seen me. To God, every soul matters, and so should they to us.

Really want to meet Jesus? Stop just existing where you are and start investing in God's purpose. Instead of seeking god's hand (What can he give me?), seek out the Lord's heart (What is he asking of me?). Take a look around. There are folks out there carrying some heavy burdens. If you're blessed to have no cross of your own right now, then your hands are free. Why not help someone carry theirs? Hearing and responding to the scattered seed of God's word is the center of our Christian worship. Servanthood is a privilege we have been given. It is in that service that we will indeed encounter Jesus. Our faith will become alive. And perhaps in doing the good work of the Lord, others will also see in us the face of the Galilean carpenter we profess to follow.



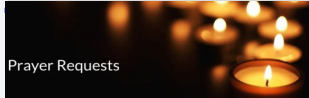
Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



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Prayer Requests will be added each week by your requests, and will run for two weeks unless a request to continue is received.



God's healing presence:

For Fritz & Jean Wainwright, Jean Miller, and Fran Kraft
For Dave Hammell & Joe Celkupa
For Maritza Chambers' sister Elba and her brother Angel
For Aiden Witte, Brittany Zier & Marleigh
For Polly Grobelny & her daughter Ava
For Ginny Heal, preparing for surgery at the end of the month
For Jack Harkins healing after a complicated surgical procedure
For Liz Duffy dealing with Alzheimer's and patience for her family
For Zoe Westmeyer (7 months old) who has infection in both ears for about 2 months and isn't responding to antibiotics and her mother Katie who is recovering from covid and has a residual cough.
Zoe is the granddaughter of Carol Shore's close friend.

For God's Helping Hand:

For the citizens of Puerto Rico, Cuba, Florida, & South Carolina after Hurricane Ian
For George Gates to overcome hard times and for a restoration of faith

God's comfort:

For the McCollister and Stavish families mourning the loss of loved ones
For the people of [Ukraine](#)

For God's Guidance and Assistance:

For Aaron Olsen preparing for first quarter college exams

In Thanks and Praise to God:

For 68 years of marriage for Jean & Fritz Wainwright
For successful surgery for Heidi's father Robert
For God's provision of a new job for Heidi
For God's providence as Inna joins our journey together





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Inna Moment

This Sunday's sermon is titled "The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength," and it draws from Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10 and Corinthians 12:12–31.

To add some visuals to the Nehemiah content of the sermon, in today's issue we included one of the etchings by the 17th century Florentine artist Antonio Tempesta: "The Israelites Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem" in the Repository of the Metropolitan Museum of Arts. The artist was able to capture the enthusiastic process of rebuilding the walls, which represent not only the material symbol of protection and security but also a spiritual "landmark of hope" for the community, returning from the bondage of exile and tears to the freedom and joy of normal life.

To add poetic nuances to the meditation on Corinthians, we share with you "The Sonnet" by Malcolm Guite about Paul, the Apostle who described for us in many of his letters how the walls of the Temple (the landmark of hope) were made flesh in the Body of Christ, "in whom we are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God" (Eph. 2:22).

An enemy whom God has made a friend,
A righteous man discounting righteousness,
Last to believe and first for God to send,
He found the fountain in the wilderness.
Thrown to the ground and raised at the same moment,
A prisoner who set his captors free,
A naked man with love his only garment,
A blinded man who helped the world to see,
A Jew who had been perfect in the law,
Blesses the flesh of every other race
And helps them see what the apostles saw;
The glory of the Lord in Jesus' face.
Strong in his weakness, joyful in his pains,
And bound by love, he freed us from our chains





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Newborns IN NEED



The PW are continuing their annual
Newborns In Need Campaign

The drive will run through October.

Donations may be dropped off in the rear of the sanctuary.

Contact Carl Shore for additional information.



Beginning October 9th, we will be placing a box in the back of the church to collect donations for the Bordentown City Cats.

Items most critically needed:

- Cat food for adults – WET OR DRY
- Cat food for kittens – WET OR DRY
- Clorox Wipes (or similar for cleaning crates)
- Litter
- Pee Pads
- Paper Towels
- Monetary donations always welcome.

Thank you for your help in this endeavor.



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Providence Presbyterian
Church Presents
Craft
Fair

October 22nd | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Stop by and see what we have!

Refreshments

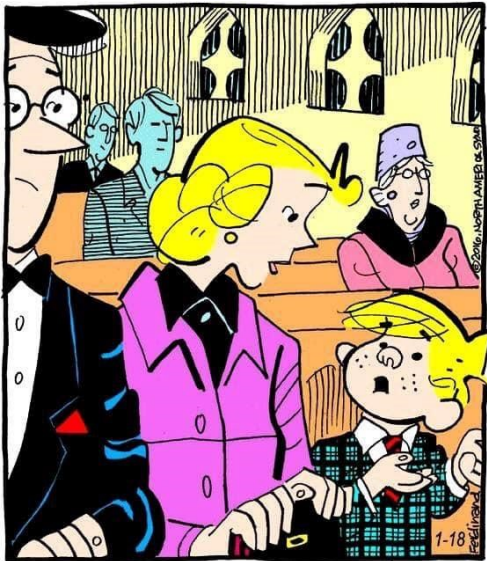
Providence Presbyterian Church
Bustleton & Old York Roads, Florence

with PosterMyWall.com



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"HOW COME WE ASK FOR 'DAILY BREAD'... WHEN WE COULD BE ASKIN' FOR 'DAILY DONUTS'?"

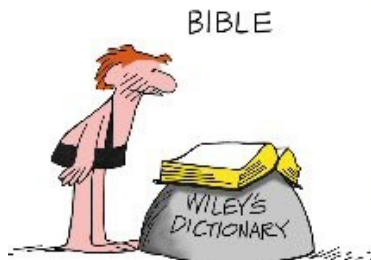


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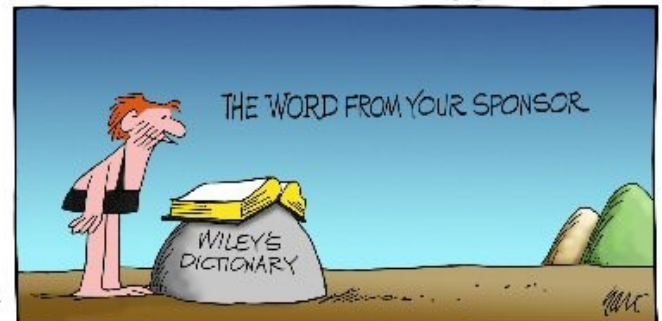
"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

B.C.



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by johnny hart



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