

SEPTEMBER TIDES



Maybe it is the name *North Bay*, the newsletter entitled *Tides*, the boat and seagull we so often see around the church, or just my own nautical proclivity. But I have been thinking a lot these past few weeks about safe harbors and open seas. The concept of open seas in the Bible very often brings with it the connotation of difficulty, hardship, uncertainty, and struggle, while safe harbors bring about images of safety, security, and peace. Everyone desires a safe harbor. What is not to like about a safe harbor? It is, by definition, safe. I know full well the desire to surround ourselves with peace and tranquility. Trust me—my preference is to seek peace as much as possible.

However, something occurred to me. While safe harbors are excellent at keeping us content and satisfied, they can never really move us forward in our journey. If we never head out into open seas, we will never be challenged enough to grow.

Every single image, illustration, or analogy of growth in Scripture implies that it is uncomfortable to the one growing. Proverbs 27:17 describes personal growth with the illustration of iron sharpening iron. Malachi 3:2–3 describes God as a refining fire. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 9:24–27, talks about training as a marathon runner or a boxer.

Scripture outlines a principle we all know to be true: we grow most when we are most challenged. So what does this have to do with us here at North Bay Community Church? The short answer is that we are looking to grow our church family, expand our ministry offerings, meet the needs of our community, and change the way we do things. We, as a church, are setting our sights on open seas, and it might get uncomfortable.

As we look toward starting this journey of growth for the next generation, it is important to remember that before any journey, we need to prepare. So, I would like to call us to a time of preparation. Some of this preparation will be physical (refreshing the education building, setting up nursery and Sunday school spaces, updating our local community and digital community presence). However, more importantly, this preparation should be spiritual.

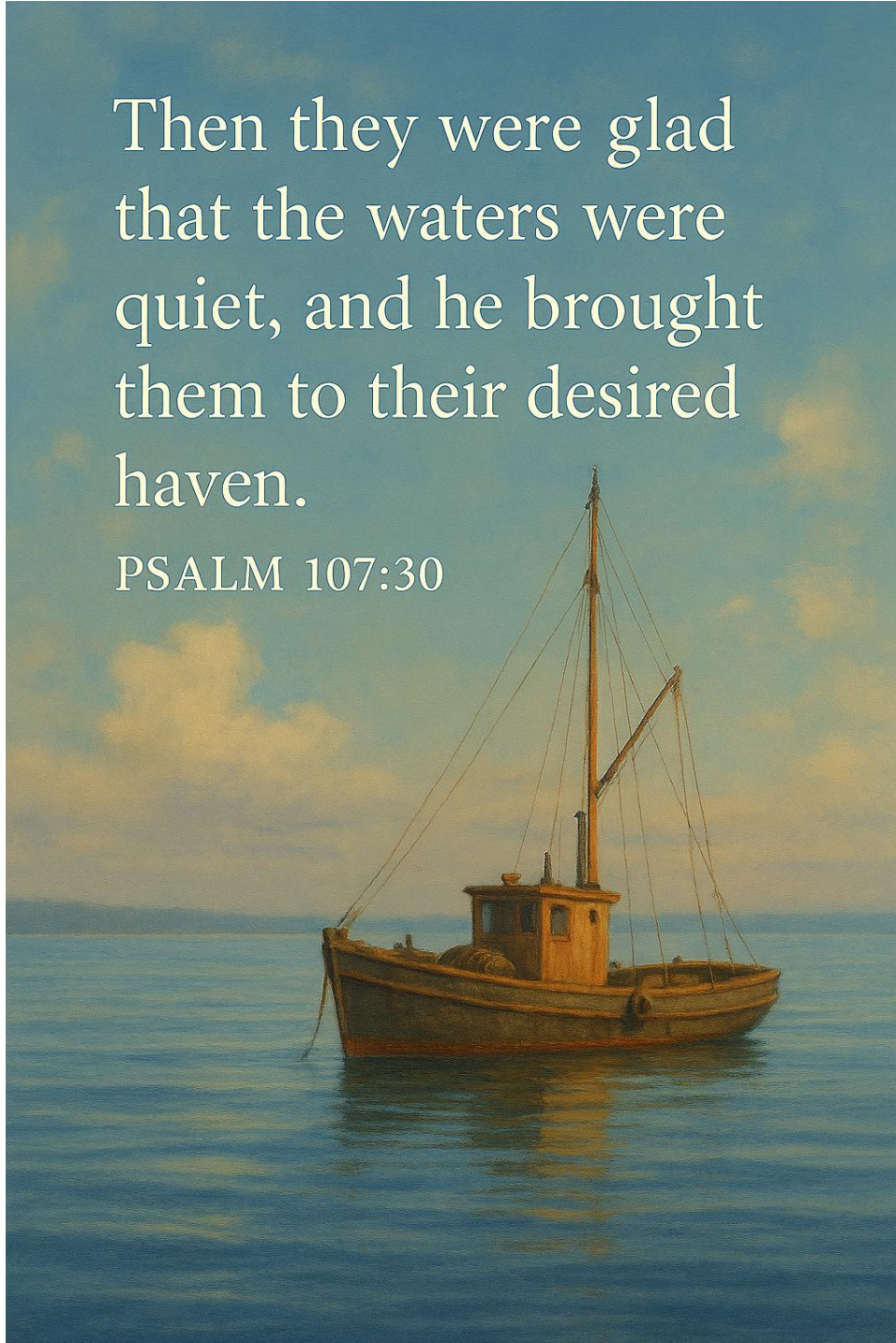
I would like to take time, as a spiritual family, to prepare our hearts and minds for the journey ahead. I ask you to pray. Pray for God to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, and ask Him to transform our desires to match His desires. I ask that we seek God's will over our own. Where is God leading us? How have our preferences and traditions prevented us from seeing what God is calling us to? And maybe the most difficult of all... what will we have to surrender to get where God wants us to be?

I know that what I am asking for is difficult and may be uncomfortable. I am just as change-averse as the next person, and I will never seek change for the sake of change. However, if God is moving, I want to follow—and sometimes He might lead us into open water. When that happens, all we can do is follow the One we trust is leading us to our next safe harbor.

—Pastor Anthony

Then they were glad
that the waters were
quiet, and he brought
them to their desired
haven.

PSALM 107:30



Hello from the Choir! 🎵 🎶 It's that time of year again when the choir will be starting their preparation for the Christmas Cantata. This year's message is **Journey of Promises** by Joseph Martin. We will present this on Sunday, December 21 at the 10:30 service. We are blessed to have an orchestra of violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, and piano to join us this year! We would love to welcome new singers to our choir loft. We will introduce the music on Thursday, September 25 from 7:00-8:00 (regular anthems will be rehearsed from 6:30-7:00.) We have plenty of room in the choir loft, extra robes, and extra folders! No audition necessary, just a desire to sing His praises!

Kendall Kline

World Missions-Just letting you know we will be starting our Samaritan's Purse Children's Christmas Box Campaign. Boxes will be available to pick up beginning Sunday, October 5th. It's always fun to fill the boxes. 🧑🏻🎅

Roberta Luckie, World Missions Chairperson

Undie Sunday Coming September 14-Sunday, September 14 will be "Undie Sunday." Twice a year Clothes to Kids gives out a school wardrobe to school-age children who are eligible for school lunches. This year they are expecting to give out 82,000 pairs of underwear as part of that wardrobe. We are asking everyone to bring in underwear for school-age children. The sizes most needed are boys boxers & knit boxer briefs in sizes XS to L, young men's boxer briefs in S to XL and young women's bikinis in sizes 5 to 9. We will be helping CTK provide this basic need. North Bay is a blessed church. Let's pay those blessings forward.

The Community Missions Committee



RMD

Medicare requires that you withdraw a specific amount from your IRA each year.

If you have not met this maximum amount, please consider making a contribution to NBCC and you will **avoid tax consequences.**

The only requirement is that the contribution has to be made directly to the church.

God will bless you according to His Word for your giving heart.