



The Church on the Cape Newsletter



Pastor Sammie's Thoughts

What Does it Mean to Begin?

Or: What Makes for a Good Beginning?

(Notes from the July 3rd Sermon with Further Thoughts)

The first requirement for a good beginning is to give thanks for all that we already have and also give thanks to those who have gone before us and brought us to this point. (We'll say more about this topic on All Saints' Sunday on November 1st when we recall individuals who are now part of that "Great Cloud of Witnesses.") We especially thank the music people (Wendy, Ted, Nancy, and Mark) and the "Song Sisters" for their outstanding contributions, as well as Jean and the ushers and all members of the Worship Committee.

The second thing that makes for a good beginning is good advice, and scripture is full of good advice. Let's look at some advice from the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Galatia. Paul understands the church there to be like an extended family of mutual care and responsibility. But as is often the case with families, there is rivalry and conflict in the church. In advising them to renounce bad behavior, he suggests that being unforgiving and self-righteous is being un-Christlike. Paul calls the members of the Galatian church to a personal accountability, encouraging them to examine themselves rather than their brothers and sisters in Christ. Finally, Paul calls them to a radical reconciliation, reminding them that Jesus says, "love one another as I have loved you."

August 2022

The third thing we need for a good beginning is good leadership. The Nominating Committee is looking for a few (dozen) people. The committee is happy to announce the Church Council's approval of Tom Bradbury and Bruce Donath as our Co-Lay Leaders. When you greet them, please thank them for their willingness to serve the church in this important way. Currently, Trustees is the only committee that has a full slate. If you are interested in volunteering for any position, please speak to any member of the Nomination Committee (Barbara Fuller, Patty Hutchins, Cynthia Doolittle, Tom Bradbury, Bruce Donath, Jim Lennon, Judy Tripp, Jane Smith) or me.

Finally, the fourth thing that is needed for a good beginning is resources. One can have an abundance of time and talent, but if there isn't any money available, then there is not much that can be accomplished. Currently, we are behind where we need to be at this mid-point of 2022. Many were out during the pandemic; some are on vacation; and several haven't given in a long time. Whether you are an in-person worshipper or watch from your computer, please remember that it takes money to be in mission and ministry. It would be very helpful if you mail a "catch-up" check to P.O. Box 2740, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046. There is also a way to donate online if you prefer. Not only will your financial support of the church make the finance team happy, but it will make for a good beginning!

Reverend Sammie

AUGUST LECTIONARY READINGS

8th Sunday After Pentecost - July 31, 2022

- *Luke 11 1-13

Sermon Title, "*The Lord's Prayer*"

9th Sunday After Pentecost - August 7

- Isa 1:1, 10-20
- Heb 11:1:13, 8-16
- Luke 12:32-40

Sermon: "*What About Faith*"

10th Sunday After Pentecost - August 14

- Isa 5:1-7
- Heb 11:29-12:2
- Luke 12:49-56

Sermon: "*The Great Cloud of Witness*"

11th Sunday after Pentecost - August 21

- Jer 1:4-10
- Heb 12:18-29
- Luke 13: 10-17

Sermon: "*The Unshakable Kingdom*"

12th Sunday After Pentecost – August 28

- Jer 2:4-13
- Heb 3:1-8, 15-16
- Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: "*Hospitality's Goal*"

Memorial Service

On Saturday, August 20, at 3:00 pm, there will be a memorial service for David Sandtorv. Rev. Sammie will officiate.

CHURCH NEWS ITEMS

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The sermon on July 17 was led by Rev. Russ Pregeant. If you missed it, you can watch it [here](#). The title of the sermon is "The Synoptic Gospels: The Value of Their Differences." This Sunday (July 24), Rev. Sammie will use various readings from the Gospel of John. The sermon title "Is the Gospel of John Like the Other Gospels?" You are invited to two discussion group sessions on the Gospels on Monday, August 1st and August 8th, from either 10:30am-Noon and/or 4:30-6:00 pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to attend one or both sessions.

AUGUST CONCERTS

Tuesday, August 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Ocean Park Temple in Old Orchard Beach, The concert will include a wide variety of solos, duets and trios in many styles of classical and sacred music. Musicians include Nancy Chamberlin, Mark Thallander, Ted and Wendy Hagarty, and Jan Stover.

Saturday, August 27th, at 7:00 PM, COTC, the Downeasters Chorus concert sponsored by the Keith McClelland Community Music Foundation. Please see page 10 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Cargo Shop is in need of volunteers who can come in for just a few hours a month. This is an opportunity to connect with other members of the church, as well as the community. Thank you to all who have volunteered for Tuesday and Thursday Cargo Shop! We still need help on Saturdays. Please consider donating your time by joining the team and help support this important ministry. Please call or email Jan Acker at 967-1085, to let her know you'd like to help.

CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

Pack yourself a picnic and join a friendly group of us at 11:30 every Tuesday in Bartlett Hall for lunch and to share in fellowship with others from the church. Call the office at 987-5787 with any questions.

The Pastor's Spouse

Russ grew up in Hammond, Louisiana, a town in southeast Louisiana with a population of about 10,000 in the 1950s. His father, Victor Eugene ("Gene"), was an automobile salesman and sales manager, and his mother (Eloise) was a second-grade teacher—although she gave up teaching when she married and returned to it only when Russ was in college, and his father's health was affecting the family income.

Hammond was home to a small state college (now Southeastern Louisiana University), and Russ graduated from both Southeastern High, which was the college's lab school for the education department, and from the college itself. He was on the basketball and track teams in high school and on the track team his first year in college. He was also active in Wesley Foundation, the Methodist student group on the college campus.

After Southeastern, Russ attended seminary at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas for a Bachelor of Divinity degree and then went to Yale Divinity School for an S.T.M. (Master of Sacred Theology). Along the way, he was ordained Deacon and then Elder in the United Methodist Church. Although he intended to enter the parish ministry, he believed that the key to good preaching would be to get a Ph.D. in New Testament. So he ended up in graduate school at Vanderbilt in Nashville, spending five years there, the last two and a half struggling to finish a dissertation that combined New Testament with contemporary theology. He left with the dissertation not quite finished and went back to Louisiana to serve as associate pastor at Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church in New Orleans.

After two years, Russ finally finished his dissertation, and after another year, he married

Sammie. She had come to the church and joined the Single Adult Fellowship, which was Russ's main responsibility. As Special Projects Chair, she involved the group in a number of service activities, including a tutorial program at an all-African American high school. Because the church was in the process of merging the old racially-segregated (not by church law, but clearly in fact) annual conferences, several of the associate pastors in the city, including Russ, formed a kind of traveling lay academy to train laypersons who were involved in the effort; and they included Sammie on the team.

After four years at Rayne Memorial, Russ concluded that what he enjoyed most was the teaching opportunities—study groups and Sunday school classes. So he found a teaching position at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts, and he and Sammie took off for New England with all their possessions in a Chevrolet station wagon for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a job and no guarantees about the future. It all worked out, though; he was full-time after a year and, along the way, was appointed chaplain as well as professor. At Curry, he taught a wide range of courses in religion and a few in philosophy, although his main interest remained biblical studies. For over a decade, he also taught (on and off) New Testament part-time at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts.

Among Russ's obsessions are Louisiana (Cajun and Creole) cooking and jazz, although he has no musical talent whatsoever. His love of jazz began in his childhood, when he would listen to the New Orleans Jazz Club late at night, and it was strengthened by the many hours he spent at Preservation Hall when he served the church in New Orleans. His love of Louisiana cuisine came from his parents, both of whom were superb cooks, as well as from the many great restaurants the state boasts. He wants to

assure the congregation, however, that he has great appreciation for New England seafood.

When Sammie and Russ were here for her first interim at COTC, Russ revised a book titled Mystery without Magic, which he had published in the 1980s, and the new edition is now being edited for publication by Process Century Press. While they were here before, he wrote a new book with the working title Converting Christians to the Jesus Ethic, which has recently been accepted by Wipf and Stock. Sammie is hoping that parishioners might like to participate in a study group using it.

Currently, Russ is helping Sammie get settled in Wesley by the Sea. And he looks forward to sharing not only his writing but his cooking with COTC members.

Sandy Day

Summertime Splendor

One theme in Psalms is how nature reveals God's glory. That's especially evident during summer. "There is a signature of wisdom and power impressed on the works of God, which evidently distinguishes them from the feeble imitations of men," writes John Newton. "Not only the splendor of the sun, but the glimmering light of the glowworm, proclaims his glory."

That glory shines even brighter when we spend time in God's Word. Thomas Merton writes, "By reading the scriptures, I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God, and I feel fire and music under my feet."

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Congratulations, Carol and Brian - Welcome, Jacob Matthew Simmons

Carol and Brian Nason welcome their first grandson and third grandchild, Jacob Matthew Simmons. Jacob was born on June 28, weighing 7 pounds 6 ounces and measuring 18 1/2 inches long. Jacob's parents are Ellen (oldest daughter of Carol and Brian) and Matthew Simmons, and his big sister is Isabella. The family has just moved to Kennebunk, a joy for the grandparents.



Article and Photos from Carol Nason



**John
Wesley's
Sermons:
More on
Giving
All You Can**

This is the third and final article on Wesley's "Earn all you can, Save all you can, and Give all you can." The previous two appeared in the June and July Church on the Cape newsletters that are available on the church website at churchonthecape.org under the heading *about* and *newsletters*.

Sermon numbers for the following excerpts are shown for readers who wish to read the entire sermon/s from Wesley's "The Complete Sermons" that is available on Amazon and Kindle.

**IS MONEY ITSELF, OR THE LOVE OF MONEY,
THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL?
Sermon 50**

"The love of money," we know 'is the root of all evil' but not the thing itself. The fault does not lie in the money but in them that use it. It may be used ill, and what may not? But it may likewise be used well: It is full as applicable to the best and to the worst uses. It is of unspeakable service to all civilized nations in all the common affairs of life. It is a most compendious instrument of transacting all manner of business, and (if we use it according to Christian wisdom) of doing all manner of good."

"In the hands of his children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head."

"By it, we may supply the place of a husband to the widow and of a father to the fatherless. We may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain; it may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, as a lifer up from the gates of death."

**REMEDY FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY
Sermons 87 and 126**

Who are lovers of money? "...lovers of money...are those who take pleasure in it; those that seek their happiness therein; that brood over their gold and silver, bills or bonds."

"But is there no way, one may ask, either to prevent or to cure this dire disease?' There is one preventative of it, which is also a remedy for it, and I believe there is no other under heaven. It is this. After you have gained all you can, and saved all you can, wanting for nothing; spend not one pound, one shilling, or one penny, to gratify either the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, or the pride of life; or indeed, for any other end than to please and glorify God. ... Secondly, hoard nothing. Lay-up no treasure on earth, but give all you can; that is all you have."

**CAN A RICH MAN
THREAD THE EYE OF A NEEDLE?
Sermon 108**

A young man approached Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I

may have eternal life? All of the commandments I have kept from my youth. What lack I yet?" 'Probably he had kept them in the literal sense, yet he still loved the world. And He, who knew what was in man, knew that in this particular case, he could not be healed of that desperate disease, but by a desperate remedy. Therefore, he answered,' *'Go and sell all that thou hast and give it to the poor, and come and follow me.'* 'But when he heard this, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.'"

Jesus then, addressing his disciples, said, *"How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."* Matthew 19:24

The disciples "were astonished out of measure, and said among themselves, who then can be saved? – if it is so difficult for rich men to be saved?" 'Perceiving their astonishment at this hard saying, Jesus looking upon them saith, *With men, it is impossible, but not with God. For with God, all things are possible.*'"

"The meaning then of our Lord's assertion is this, -- that it is absolutely impossible, unless by that power to which all things are possible, that a rich man should be a Christian; to have the mind that was in Christ and to walk as Christ walked."

"But how is it possible for a man not to love the world who is surrounded with all its allurements? How can it be that he should then hear the still small voice which says, *'My son, give me thy heart?'* 'What power, less than

almighty, can send the rich man an answer to that prayer – With men, it is impossible, but not with God. For with God, all things are possible.'"

HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR A RICH MAN Sermon 87

"It is no small thing to lay out for God all which you have received from God. It requires all your wisdom, all your resolution, all your patience, and constancy, far more than ever you had by nature, but not more than you may have by grace. For His grace is sufficient for you; and 'all things,' you know, 'are possible to him that believeth.' By faith, then, 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ,' 'put on the whole armor of God,' and you shall be enabled to glorify Him in all your words and works yea, to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ!"

REMINDER: PROVIDE FOR YOUR FAMILY WHEN ONE IS GONE HENCE

In giving all you can, please see retaining enough to care for one's family in the July, 2022 church newsletter at churchonthecape.org under *about* and *newsletters*.

Wesley notes, "Every man ought to provide the plain necessities of life both for his wife and children and to put them into a capacity of providing these for themselves when he is gone hence and is no more seen. I say, of providing these, the plain necessities of life; not delicacies, not superfluities; and by their diligent labor; for it is no man's duty to furnish them any more than himself with the means either of luxury or idleness."

BE A GOOD STEWARD WITH GOD'S POSSESSIONS Sermon 51

"But no character more exactly agrees with the present state of man than that of a steward. Our blessed Lord frequently represents him as such, and there is a peculiar propriety in the representation. ... But a steward is a servant of a particular kind, such a one as man is in all respects. This appellation is exactly expressive of his situation in the present world, specifying what kind of servant he is to God, and what kind of service his Divine Master expects of him."

"We are now indebted to Him for all we have; but although a debtor is obliged to return what he has received, yet until the time of payment comes, he is at liberty to use it as he pleases. It is not so with a steward; he is not at liberty to use what is lodged in his hands as he pleases, but according to the will of his Lord. "

"O, let your heart be whole with God! Seek your happiness in him and him alone. Beware that you cleave not to the dust! 'The earth is not your place.' See that you use this world as not abusing it; use the world and enjoy God. ... Be a good steward of the manifold gifts of God; that when you are called to give an account of your stewardship, he may say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!'"

IN YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

During an earlier bout of Covid, our newsletter readership fell, and some readers may have missed the "Why I Believe In God" article. Whether or not God exists is the most important question one can think about.

Including it again in your next newsletter, with minor edits and additions, I hope will be of service to someone who missed it earlier.

Your Editor

WHEN LOVE IS A VERB

As it happens, every Sunday when I attend worship, I enjoy a sense of peace. An inner validation that God loves me and that I love God. In this weekly activity of going to church, I affirm my belief. Many times I have wondered why it takes going into church, sitting down, and participating in the service to get that inner serenity.

The Sunday after Valentine's Day, the light bulb went on. I knew why this act of worship was so meaningful to me. It is one of the few times that my love for Christ is a verb. I am actively participating. Even more enlightening was the understanding that my feelings of calmness and wholeness are the result of God's active love of me.

Understanding that love is something I can actively do, not just something I feel, is a fulfillment for me. Accepting God's love for me is just as dynamic as a revelation. Acting on these principles is the reward.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

A GUIDE FOR MINIMAL GIVING

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.

—C.S. Lewis.

Source: Newsletternewsletter

Baptism Photos Provided by Proud Grandparents,
Shirley and Tom Bradbury (July 10, 2022)



BEAUTIFUL!

Sophie Katherine Link

And

Elia Ilinca Bradbury

Pastor Sammie at Church on the Cape
baptizing
Elia with Sophie on the far right
of the photo



Joyous Parents, left
to right:

Dani Ilinca and Laura
(Bradbury) Ilinca with
Elia

Stacey (Bradbury)
Link with Sophie,
Brian Link, and
Benjamin Link



The Cape Porpoise Build site has been a flurry of activity, completing the first home and framing the second home. I am happy to report that the Family Support Committee has selected a Partner Family for the second home.

Dedication of the completed home (Harmon family) will be August 9th at 3:00 pm.
Parking at Fireman's Park.

Brooke Shafer, and her two young daughters, Adeline and Amariah, ages 4 and 7, currently living in Biddeford , will be the new Cape Porpoise residents.



As the build progresses there will be many opportunities to volunteer. Interested?
Contact;
program@habitatyorkcounty.org
or call me at 207 967 5366

Enjoy this beautiful summer weather, Beth Doty

**The Keith McClelland Community Music Foundation
Presents The Downeasters Chorus
August 27 at 7pm
in the Church on the Cape Sanctuary**

"The Downeasters Chorus is one of the top men's musical performing organizations in New England. We are a part of the Barbershop Harmony Society (barbershop.org), a musical art form with genuine American roots and a style that embraces singers of all levels. This is not your grandfather's music! Today, barbershop harmony includes mainstream a cappella vocals heard in groups such as Pentatonix, Straight No Chaser, and others. Our singing is four-part close harmony with rich emotional melodies designed to captivate our audiences. We sing gorgeous ballads, toe-tapping swing songs, and vivacious up-tunes where our performers move on the risers with a stage presence unique to choral performing. Our audiences and members give to our community through performances, fundraising events, and charitable donations to worthy causes."

Barbershop Harmony Members



Susie Goodwin for the McClelland Board

Church on the Cape A United Methodist Church

We of The Church on the Cape represent various religious and cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. We are young, old, and middle-aged, single, married, widowed, divorced, parents, grandparents, and members of extended families.

Above all, we are people who take risks, make mistakes, confess, repent and try again.

At the center of our community is Jesus the Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection are the reasons we are together. The life and hope in this community have more to do with Christ's faithfulness to us than ours to Christ.

Whether you are searching for a faith community or just passing through, we want you to feel at home. Whoever you are, whatever your history, your scars, your gifts; you are among persons like yourself.

Join us from wherever you call home. If you like what you see here, we post our virtual, Hymn Sing, and Sunday Worship Service on our website, www.churchonthecape.org.

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