

Colonial Church OF BAYSIDE

Our Church Newsletter

January 2023

INDISPENSABLE

SCRIPTURE: Read II Timothy 3:10-17 to learn more about Paul's "charge" to Timothy. Timothy was a new, young minister under Paul's guidance. The charge is Paul's essential instructions for Timothy's success in the ministry. It centers on living a godly life, accepting the challenges that following Christ present, and where to find the blueprint for such a life. For Paul, it is found in Scripture alone.

TEXT: II Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

All of us are familiar with codes of behavior, rules of law and life, and definitive books on success in every field. They represent the classics of our species, and they rise above all the other oftentimes wonderful works that fill libraries and bookshelves. There is the *U.S. Constitution*, *The Boy Scout Manual*, *Robert's Rules of Order*, the Sonnets of Shakespeare, and the musical scores of Beethoven, just to name a few. However, in the manual of life, one book supersedes all the rest.

Beginning with our ancestors in the worship of the Lord, the Jewish people looked to Torah and the teachings we call the Old Testament for the definitive manual of a God-fearing soul. To study Torah was the greatest privilege a fortunate Jew could experience. To have the leisure to simply dwell on the word of God was the penultimate experience. But the rabbis were as adamant as Jesus, that it was not just the study of Scripture, but rather that the biblical words written on the heart as the whole of scripture in its meaning and use, must be practiced in daily life.

Paul recognized this and beginning with the Old Testament and with the addition of the Christian stories of Jesus, his sayings, and finally, his Gospel, we would be experiencing that which "is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

But like the *Boy Scout Manual* and the *U. S. Constitution*, as with all great works of guidance and direction for our various pursuits, the bible is an aid for composing our own life's work as a life lived in the fullness of the Spirit. As such, we remain dependent on Christ within us, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the teaching of the church, to make this ultimate Word active and relevant in our lives. Thus, we understand the essential but relative character of Scripture as much as we do all great sources of inspiration. It cannot be doubted, that without the study of Scripture, the Christian life will be impoverished. There simply is no better guide. But that guide must be applied to a life lived in the spirit of Christ.

During my time at the seminary in New Brunswick, my teacher Dr. Howard Hageman introduced me to another classical guidebook, a work commonly called, *Fowler*. In fact, its full title is *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage* by H. W. Fowler. A dictionary of usage is a practical guide that includes chapters on grammar, style, diction, gender, social groups, pronunciation, word formation, science terms, and a subject and a word index. It is vital to the writer who wants his or her work to be correct and precise. But Fowler's genius was not just his incredible grasp of the English language. It was his delightful wit in presenting his rules and peculiarities of English usage as the definitive code for writers. It includes such entries as this one on the pronunciation of French words: "Display of superior knowledge is as great a vulgarity as display of superior wealth That is the guiding principle in the use and pronouncing of French words . . . To say a French word in the middle of an English sentence exactly as it would be said by a Frenchman in a French sentence is a feat demanding an acrobatic mouth; it is a feat that should not be attempted."

There are many other delightful examples of Fowler's acerbic wit, but my favorite is the guide for pronouncing the word "often." Says Fowler, "Pronounce it 'aw-fn'. The sounding of the *t* . . . is practiced by two oddly consorted classes—the academic speakers who affect a more precise enunciation than their neighbors," and the "uneasy half-literates" who like to prove they can spell the word by pronouncing it.

ILLUSTRATION

One afternoon, Dr. Hageman took me to lunch in the City at what was called the Acorn society, a group of highly educated, New York artists and writers. We were at table discussing the importance of *Fowler*. Across from us was a writer of some considerable renown quietly eating his lunch and reading his book. Dr. Hageman politely asked if he might interrupt him to introduce us and to say "this young seminarian is seeking to be a writer. I was commending *Fowler* to him and wondered if you might have a comment." The esteemed writer looked up from his book and simply said, "Indispensable! Make of it in your writing what you would of the bible in your preaching."

Linden

PRAYER SERVICE

In keeping with the ancient and modern tradition of the church beginning Thursday, January 19 at 10:30 AM, we will gather in our sanctuary for a service of prayer. Thereafter we will meet monthly on the third Thursday.

At the time of our gathering, prayer cards for your use will be handed out. We will read the Scripture lesson based on the lectionary focusing especially on the habit of prayer. The pastor will briefly speak of the three aspects of prayer, Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Petition. Most importantly we will enter into a prayer time together where those who wish to may include their prayers. We will close with a fellowship time with coffee, donuts, and whatnot. The service will be Zoomed for those who require it, although we still need to set up the technology for that. Spiritual counseling will also be made available after coffee time.

I hope you will be able to attend and join with the gathered saints of God who have remained steadfast in the attitude of prayer, always seeking God's will and in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, presenting our requests to God.

Linden



ONGOING PRAYERS

**CLYDE WHITE
BRETT ROELOFS
FRAN PALAZZO
TOM CONREY
BARBARA BURNS
BILL LAURSEN
DON SHELTON
ROBERTA BOWEN
NUALA SANCHEZ
LUCUS
RYAN
TERESITA
IRENE
ALICE CLAVIN
JOHNNY BROCKMILLER
SHARYN
BRIAN SINRAM
HELENMARY
JANET & JOSEPH
SHERRY RONIS
MISSY GRANAGHAN
AUDREY
PHYLLIS G
GAYNOR FAMILY
ROMANO FAMILY**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO ADD PEOPLE TO OUR PRAYER LIST
OR FILL OUT A PEW CARD.**

**The Colonial Church of Bayside
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Dates: EVERY 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month

Proverbs 22:6 – Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from i

We are an all-inclusive ministry, and we welcome all children to join in the learning and activities that our teachers will be providing at no cost to parents.

This year we will be teaching on Prayer, and the Books of the Bible Children's Church Curriculum. We will also be doing The Jesse Tree during Advent.

Last year's parents and our teachers, Debbie Caracci and Debbie Conrey, are excited about this new upcoming adventure and hope that there are other families that will join us on this adventure of exploring the greatest book ever written.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" -Psalm 119:105"

***Blessings,
Elder Janet Cardillo, Children's Ministry Leader***

For more information: Contact Janet Cardillo, 516-838-9730 or email jandg357@gmail.com

SIN, PSYCHE AND SPIRIT

Pastor DeBie wrote an article in the September newsletter in which he made a comment which struck at the core of my identity. He made reference to the fact that there are dark unconscious psychological forces which often lead us into sin. I would like to start the New Year by offering a Christian psychological commentary on this important idea.

Why do we commit immoral acts? Neuroscientists tell us that we are often predisposed to behave in certain ways depending on our genes and brain chemistry. For example, men who experienced childhood maltreatment and who possess a genetic variant called the Mao-A gene often commit acts of violence. These men also tend to have higher levels of testosterone. In addition, there is a brain circuit called the "pleasure center" which is activated when we experience happiness. Neurotransmitters in the region are known to be involved in addictive behaviors such as alcoholism. Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, defined the "unconscious" part of our mind as a seething caldron of destructive impulses. These impulses are controlled by other aspects of mind which are rooted in reality and moral thinking. When these control mechanisms break down, we are prone to act out in destructive ways. There are also social factors involved in immoral acts. Teenagers who come from dysfunctional families sometimes gravitate towards gang membership to find acceptance. I can tell you from personal experience that teens who bring weapons to school often feel rejected by their peers.

Is this all there is? Are we nothing but the helpless victims of our genes, brain chemistry, unconscious impulses, and social pressures? The bad news is that the capacity to commit sin is hard-wired into our psyche. The good news is found in Genesis 1:27 where we read that we are children of God made in His image and likeness. I interpret this passage to mean that we possess certain attributes which are similar to some of the perfect attributes possessed by God. A short list would include intelligence, power, free will and the ability to love and forgive. Notice how each of these attributes, when enlivened and brought to vitality by the spirit, gives us the opportunity to confront our sinfulness and seek forgiveness.

As you know, the goal of life is Christlikeness. However, we sometimes misunderstand this goal. Christlikeness is not a "state" to be achieved but rather is a "process of becoming." The only way to confront our sinfulness is to become more like Jesus.

It has been my experience that there are three ways to become more like Jesus. The first emerges from a faithful reading of the scriptures in general and the gospels. When compiling the canon of scripture, the early church fathers decided that we needed four gospels to adequately understand the life, ministry, death, and resurrection. In point of fact, the early church father Irenaeus declared the four gospels to be the "four pillars of the church." The second way to become more like Jesus is through prayer. As Pastor DeBie pointed out, it is

through the guidance of the Spirit that we are able to confront our sinfulness. It is through the power of the Spirit that we develop thoughts, feelings, and behaviors whose nature transcends the actions of genes and brain chemistry. It is through the power of the Spirit that we say "no" to unconscious impulses. It is through the power of the Spirit that we cling to the values of the Kingdom of God rather than submit to social pressures.

The third way to become more like Christ may surprise you. I have learned much about Christlikeness from being with all of you. As you know, all the members of our faith family place Christ at the center of our lives and it is therefore through our togetherness that we teach one another about Jesus. The shared fellowship and care we show to one another bring us closer to Christlikeness. This may be one of the most important, yet least discussed, reasons for the existence of the Church.

I would like to close by asking you to consider the passage found in Matthew 10:25 where we hear Jesus say, "It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher." With this passage in mind, let us always come together as spiritual family to teach one another about the Lord that we so love and adore. As always, God bless.

Tom Conrey

Thank You from the Deacons

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The Deacons would like to say “Thank You” to all of our congregants who gave to our White Gifts collection of food and money and to the Sock Donation for Waterview Nursing Home. We would also like to thank Debbie Caracci and Debbie Conrey for delivering the boxes of food to the Food Pantry at First Reformed Church of College Point (FRCCP). FRCCP and Waterview have been blessed by your kindness and generosity.

We wish all of our congregants and visitors a Happy, Healthy, and Blessed
New Year!

Blessings,
Melinda Chin, Debbie Conrey and Yolanda Torres

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Scripture is filled with references to the importance of preserving the temple or sanctuary for the people of God.

“And all the skillful men who were performing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work which he was performing, and they said to Moses, “The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the Lord commanded us to perform.” Exodus 36:4-5.

“You shall keep My sabbaths and revere My sanctuary; I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:30.

“A glorious throne on high from the beginning.” Jeremiah 17:12.

“I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1.

The Colonial Church of Bayside is currently following Old Testament tradition in our project to restore the Sanctuary and Education building windows. This is not just a necessity to perform, it is a holy obligation, and it should inspire joy in the hearts of our members just as it did with the people of Israel.

In addition to this holy obligation, our families, members, and friends have a chance to erect a permanent memorial to a loved one. I hope all of us will feel the call of God to purchase a Sanctuary window (\$3,500) and/or an Education Building window (\$600) to be restored and memorialized. Or each of us may wish to make our best donation to the restoration of the windows. Either way, we are answering the call of God by contributing to the work of the people of God to honor and bless the House of the Lord.

Peace, until we are once again united in the presence of God in the House of the Lord.

Pastor Linden DeBie & the CCOB Windows Project Committee

The Annual Budget Meeting will follow the Sanctuary on February 5th

COLONIAL CHURCH WEBSITE

Our church website has been refreshed and updated with a beautiful new design and layout! You can check it out at colonialchurch.net.

To the Colonial Church of Bayside Members, The Queens Classis Annual member assessment is \$116.00 per member. Checks payable to Colonial Church of Bayside and indicate Classis dues in the memo line. Please mail to: CCOB 54-02 217th Street Bayside, New York 11364



January 1th -Barbaa Keil

January 15th- Pat Rosa

January 20th-Grace Park-Kang

January 23rd-Peter Bersamin

January 24th-Margaret Martens

2023

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
10:30 HOLY COMMUNION HEALING SERVICE		7:30 ADMIN. MEETING (ZOOM)				
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL		7:30 CONSISTORY MEETING (ZOOM)				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL						
29	30	31				
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE						

Colonial Church of Bayside Consistory 2021

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Howard Keyes, Treasurer
Melinda Chin, Stated Clerk

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Elders

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