

Colonial Church

OF BAYSIDE
Our Church Newsletter MAY 2023

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

The month of May brings us bittersweet news. As you are aware, Pastor Linden announced that he is leaving Colonial Church in early May to relocate to New Jersey so that he and his wife, Mary, can be closer to their daughter and her husband and welcome their first grandchild. We lift Pastor Linden and Mary up in prayer as they begin this new journey and thank him for shepherding us for the past three years.

Pastor Linden started in April 2020 at the onset of the COVID19 pandemic. The required safety measures including the closure of in-person church services posed a challenge for him and our church family. Pastor Linden took on this challenge and was a guiding light throughout the entire pandemic, providing weekly virtual sermons and bible studies as well as faithfully attending virtual church meetings. When we reopened our doors, he warmly greeted all the folks he previously met online. With a man after God's own heart and the wisdom of a seasoned Pastor, he provided our Consistory with guidance during the pandemic and was always available for pastoral counseling. The Consistory and the congregation share our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Linden for shepherding us through difficult waters. We pray for the Lord's continued blessings for Pastor Linden, Mary and their extended family.

As we move forward, the worship team will continue to provide pulpit supply and music each Sunday. Your Consistory is now soliciting candidates for our 2023 Pastoral Search team. All members are encouraged to pray and consider joining the search team, so we may select the best Pastoral candidate to meet the needs of our church. Please keep our Consistory and the Search team in your prayers as we navigate once again through the Pastoral search process. Our faith in our Lord and our commitment to serve Him, is our guiding principle and we believe God will provide.

In Him

The Consistory

Elders:

Sandy Kalvoda, Vice President

Janet Cardillo

Bill Huisman

Howard Keyes

Deacons:

Debbie Conrey

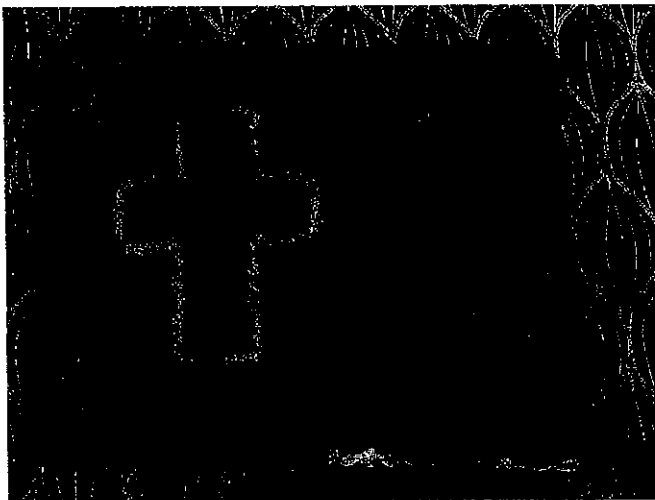
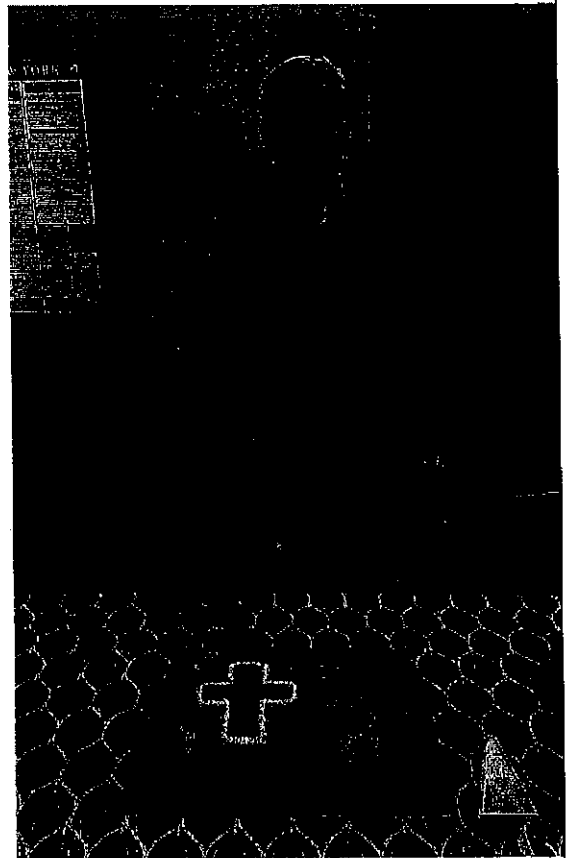
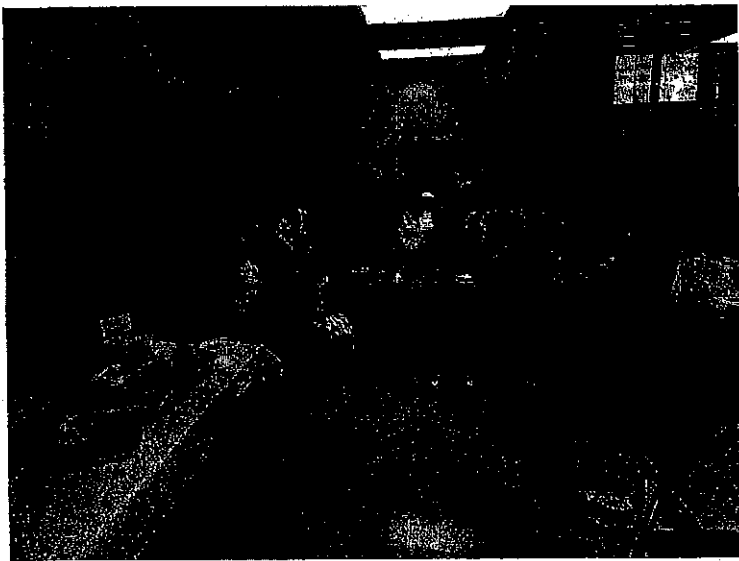
Careen Neptune

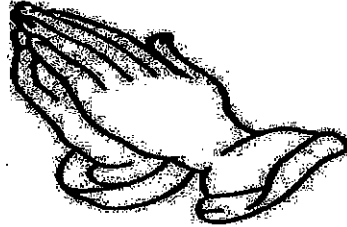
Yolanda Torres

Carol White

Pastor Lindens Farewell Luncheon

On Sunday May 7th, 2023, the Care and Connection Team hosted a luncheon for Pastor Linden and his wife Mary and our Colonial Church Family to thank Pastor Linden and Mary for their service to our church and offer blessings abundant on their new journey together.





ONGOING PRAYERS

**BOB
NEIL
BILLIE
BRETT
CHUNJIN PARK
PHYLLIS
WHITE FAMILY
BERTRAND S.
LUCAS B.
YOLANDA TORRES**

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

2023 RCA ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

As members of the Reform Church of America denominational family, each year churches across the country who are members of this family have an obligation to assist in the support of the RCA denomination. The RCA helps provide various assistance to churches under their umbrella. The CCOB family has been the recipients of RCA's help through the years. The RCA has provided CCOB with a loan to replace our heating system, awarded us grants to support ministries and has provided legal assistance through the years.

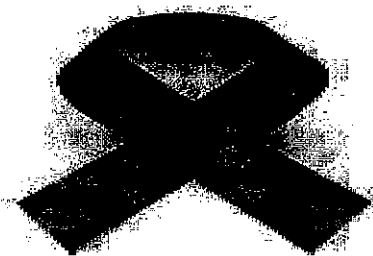
Please pray over this following request. Any voluntary amount we receive towards this expense helps with the overall health of CCOB's budget. The Consistory and Administrative Team are truly grateful for all the voluntary work that each of you lovingly does to support the CCOB family. You are applying our Lord's teachings of service and stewardship. Praise the Lord for his daily guidance, support, and love. Through His faithfulness we find salvation and redemption. We are whole because of God's love.

The Administrative Team is asking our members to donate their individual assessed amount to offset the yearly amount that CCOB is assessed. This year the total amount for CCOB is \$4,387. We are asking each confessing member to voluntarily give their individual amount to help with this cost. The individual voluntary amount is \$118.00 for 2023. The cost can be paid in installments if that works better for your own budget. Please indicate on your check memo "2023 Assessment".

Thank you for helping us serve the Lord through our stewardship and voluntary roles.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!!

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



Several years ago, I attended a Disability Conference in Grand Rapids Michigan. The now-retired Rev. Terry DeYoung invited me to speak at this conference.

Curing Vs. Healing

What is the difference between being “cured” and being “healed”?

When you have been given a disability or a child with a disability, the most logical objective is to seek the cure for the challenge. For so many years, I researched and experimented with different modes of therapy, diets, and yes even medical experiments to cure and rid my child of autism. I looked all around me, -- and not looking *above* me. I was networking, reading, and googling for the latest approaches that were being used and had some success with other children with autism. Everything from DAN diets to blood transfusions to cure my child. How incredibly sad I was when I was seeking and, yet never finding that one method, that one treatment that would cure my child. I lived with always having the diagnosis of autism at the forefront of my life and never truly embracing the child I was given by God. I now know that we are all masterfully made, and God does not make mistakes. But back then I did think that God had made a mistake and that this was not supposed to happen to my child or any child. How very silly of me.! But - This is what seeking only the cure will do to the heart of a mother. But I had to do that to get here...

It was not until coming, I mean completely, and totally surrendering all of this and all of me and all my child to Jesus Christ, that I realized that it is in seeking God's Kingdom first that everything works for our good. Seeking the cure is the total removal of an illness or disability; but healing, *healing* is growth towards inner integration, well-being, and a sense of meaning, purpose, and value (RCA - Reformed Church in America Inclusion Handbook p. 16). It is through Jesus Christ that we get to the Father because no one gets to the Father except through the Son. Once the full surrender of life is given to Jesus Christ, it is only then that a healed life

begins. It is an abundant life, a purposeful life, a meaningful life, and a valued life when walking through life with Christ. And how wonderfully amazing it is! How incredibly liberating it is! It is no longer being consumed by the diagnosis. It is "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him." So, I must embrace the child that God has blessed me with. We all must be free to love as Jesus Loves with all our hearts, all our mind, and all our strength. For me and Grace, it is growing together, mother and child with Jesus Christ, and accepting what God has given us fully knowing that the plans God has for us are not to harm us but to prosper us, plans to give us hope and a future. We have sought the Lord and we have found the Lord because we did it with all our hearts. What was once a bleak and dreary, heavy-hearted existence is now a life worth living, an abundant life, a life of love, hope, and joy, a life with Jesus Christ. The diagnosis is still there and more than likely it will always be there, but it is different now because Jesus is at the forefront, making a way for us. Jesus is Shining His Light as we go forward because with Him there is no more darkness. We are shielded with the Armor of God. Our hearts are filled with the Word of God, we are rooted in God's Love, and we have that peace, the peace that transcends all understanding.

There is a profound change in my life and my child's life because it is now a life with Jesus Christ. It is inexplicable. The support from a Christian church that sees my child through the eyes of the Lord moves me beyond words. If mere mortal Christian members of a body can love us this much, how much more does our Triune God love us!!!

Everyone, everyone deserves this type of treatment and this kind of love, and this kind of peace. Because **This is healing. This is Jesus saying,** "....., *your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.*" Mark 5:34.

As for me and my house, my brothers, and sisters in Christ, we will serve the Lord, and seek the Lord, and know the Lord, and love the Lord because this is the difference between being cured and **being healed.**

Prayer:

Heavenly Creator, you are our God, so merciful, so wonderful, and so loving. Thank you, God, for saving and healing us through your son Jesus Christ whom we surrender our lives each day. Lord, bless those who seek you and call to you so that they may know your love and healing through Jesus Christ. I thank you God for all that You have given us, I thank you God for the joy and the pain, for it was good for us to be afflicted so that we may know You more and that we may seek more of You. Oh, Gracious Lord be merciful to your children who are suffering, grant them peace, and help us Holy Spirit to spread your Word and your Love through our faith and our deeds. Strengthen us Lord with your mercy and your love. Bless Colonial Church, its members, and all who enter your Sanctuary, bless The Disability Concerns Ministry and its

leaders, the RCA and CRC denominations, and all the people of the body of Christ. Help us Lord to continue to follow you with a joyful heart and help us to be more like you. It is Jesus' mighty and merciful Name I pray, Amen.

Janet Cardillo is an ordained Deacon and Elder at Colonial Church of Bayside. She is currently a Seminarian at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and is under the care of the Queens Classis as a student minister.

Janet and her adult daughter Grace, now 25 years old, live together on Long Island where Grace attends a Day Work Program Without Walls at Wheatley Farms in Brookville

MAY 21 – RCA Women In Ministry Sunday

Manifesto for women

“Let Us Be Women Who Love,” written by Idelette McVicker, was originally published at www.shelovesmagazine.com.

Let us be women who love.

Let us be women willing to lay down our sword words, our sharp looks, our ignorant silence, and towering stance and fill the earth with extravagant love.

Let us be women who love. Let us be women who make room.

Let us be women who open our arms and invite others into an honest, spacious, glorious embrace.

Let us be women who carry each other.

Let us be women who give from what we have.

Let us be women who leap to do the difficult things, the unexpected things and the necessary things.

Let us be women who live for peace.

Let us be women who breathe hope.

Let us be women who create beauty.

Let us be women who love.

Let us be a sanctuary where God may dwell.

Let us be a garden for tender souls.

Let us be a table where others may feast on the goodness of God.

Let us be a womb of life to grow.

Let us be women who love.

Let us rise to the question of our time.

Let us speak to the injustices in our world.

Let us move the mountains of fear and intimidation.

Let us shout down the walls that separate and divide.

Let us fill the earth with the fragrance of love.

Let us be women who love.

Let us listen for those who have been silenced.

Let us honor those who have been devalued.

Let us say, Enough! with abuse, abandonment, diminishing and hiding.

Let us not rest until every person is free and equal.

Let us be women who love.

Let us be women who are savvy, smart, and wise.

Let us be women who shine with the light of God in us.

Let us be women who take courage and sing the song in our hearts.

Let us be women who say yes to the beautiful, unique purpose seeded in our souls.

Let us be women who call out the song in another's heart.

Let us be women who teach our children to do the same.

Let us be women who love.

Let us be women who love, in spite of fear.

Let us be women who love, in spite of our stories.

Let us be women who love loudly, beautifully, divinely.

Let us be women who love.

**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

TRILOGY OF LOVE

There are times when I cannot help but chuckle at the ironies of life. Since the day I entered the first grade, I spent fifty years of my life reading textbooks, listening to lectures, and perusing technical articles in my field. I have reached a point in my academic life when I realize how little the human mind understands. Truth be told, I have learned more things of substance from reading scripture and from participation in our church than I ever learned in the classroom. Let me show you how limited the mind can be.

There is a group of scientists who call themselves the "New Atheism." They tell us that there is a 98 percent overlap in the genomes of humans and chimps. According to this model, the only advantage that we have over the chimps is that our superior brains possess abstract reasoning. We use this abstract reasoning to ponder many things including our mortality, a thought which fills us with anxiety. To manage this anxiety, so they say, we supposedly invent a god-like father figure who protects us in this world and who offers us eternal life. In effect, they argue that we create God in our image and likeness. And what do they think about humanity? Oxford biologist Richard Dawkins refers to humans as "just another primate." Columbia University physicist Brian Greene told a television interviewer that he could be reduced to "a bag of particles subject to the laws of physics." Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould called humanity "a minor sideshow on the great stage of the universe." We can see from these comments that the human mind is truly limited.

Christians respond to these arguments by affirming the fact that we are a special act of creation made in the image and likeness of God. Atheists counter by stating that our belief in the Bible as the revealed Word of God is merely a human opinion which, like any opinion, can be mistaken. However, this line of reasoning misrepresents the true nature of revelation. The Bible is not merely the revealed Word of God. The Bible is the revealed Word of God which is made manifest and irrefutably authenticated through God's acts of perfect love. This is the time of year when we remember and celebrate these acts of love. I have always thought of the Last Supper, the Cross, and the empty tomb as God's "trilogy of love."

Perhaps the most touching scene in scripture is that of the Last Supper. The high point of this meal came when Jesus gave us the great sacrament of communion. To underscore the importance of this moment, I invite you to consider John 6:53 where we hear Jesus say, "Unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man, you

have no life in you." I have always thought of the sharing of communion as the action through we share the greatest spiritual intimacy with Christ and one another. The use of the physical elements of bread and wine tell us of the many and diverse ways in which God blesses and sanctifies the physicality of our being. Without our bodies, we could not live in a world where we could choose to know, love and serve Christ and one another. Without our bodies, we could not partner with God in the re-shaping of His "good" creation. The sacrament of communion tells us of the sacred nature of our bodies.

I mentioned once before that I become very depressed on Good Friday. I have always known why. Based on my forty years of clinical experience, I can assure you that there is a fine line that separates human madness from pure evil. Throughout my career, I have witnessed unspeakable acts of violence that people have perpetrated on themselves, other people and even members of their own families. I am not alone in this regard. We have all witnessed the horrors of the war in Ukraine. While we might think of these acts as being on the extreme end of the spectrum of human evil, we must also admit that all of us fall "short of the mark." It is on Good Friday that I wonder why Jesus, the only sinless person who lived, chose to offer His life as an atoning sacrifice for the salvation of beings capable of such evil. It is also on Good Friday that I encounter the answer. As you know, Passion is the supreme act of perfect love. I invite you to consider John 15:13 where we hear Jesus say, "Greater love does no man have than this, to lay down his life for his friends."

I have always thought of the empty tomb as the most transforming moment in history. Perhaps the most important passage in scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 15:14 where Paul teaches "If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our preaching and your faith is meaningless." Think about that for a moment. If Christ had not been raised from the dead, we may have thought of Him as little more than a zealous Jewish reformer who found Himself in political trouble. As it is, the empty tomb changes everything. The empty tomb teaches everything about Jesus. It tells us that Jesus was, is and always will be exactly who He claimed to be. The empty tomb teaches us everything we need to know about the Bible, it tells that every passage is inspired, inerrant and infallible. The empty tomb teaches us everything that we need to know about ourselves. It tells us that we are not "just another primate" or "a bag of particles subject to the laws of physics." We are not "a minor sideshow on the great stage of the universe." On the contrary, the empty tomb tells us that we are so dearly loved by God that He views our relationship with Him as the "main event."

Tom

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 \$118.57 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



Janet Cardillo-May 30

Jennifer Bersamin-May 31



2023		MAY				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01	02	03	04	05	06
10:30 HOLY COMMUNION		7:30 ADMIN. MEETING (ZOOM)				
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL		7:30 CONSISTORY MEETING (ZOOM)				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE MOTHER'S DAY						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1030 SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL						
28 10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30	31			

Colonial Church of Bayside Consistory 2023

Howard Keyes, Treasurer
Carol White, Stated Clerk

Elders

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Bill Huisman	bhuismanadc@aol.com

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