

Colonial Church

O F B A Y S I D E

Our Church Newsletter

February 2023

A VOICE IS CALLING

SCRIPTURE: Read Matthew 3:1-12 to see how the church throughout the world typically opens the season of Lent. Of course, it is the familiar story of John the Baptist calling out in the desert to prepare the way of the Lord.

TEXT: Matthew 3:3, "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

I am occasionally asked by various people why we observe Lent as the Catholics do. My answer is typically various. First, that it's not just we at Colonial but all of the Reformed churches, the Lutherans, the Methodists, and the Episcopalians, among others. Second, that it really predates the modern Catholic church going back to when there were virtually two branches of Christianity, Catholic and Orthodox, both observing the season of Lent. But my final reason is pastoral. No different than Christmas and Easter, the season of Lent orients us in the calendar of events surrounding Jesus' life. They highlight those portions of Scripture that help us follow Jesus on the path. They ground us in the story of Jesus which is what the Bible seeks to convey to Christians.

In the case of the opening lesson of Scripture from Matthew 3, the call of John in the desert, we learn that God sent Jesus the Messiah to take away the sin of the world. John is calling us to prepare for God's arrival by returning to God, by seeking his forgiveness, and by living to righteousness. Therefore, John stands in the great

tradition of Old Testament prophets and in fact becomes the last of the OT prophets. Each of these prophets, although unique in their own way, called the people to repentance. They were, in essence, the messengers of the way of Lent, the way of preparing for God's coming.

This idea of being called is central. God speaks through his word which comes to us by the Holy Spirit. A calling, as such, is a challenge to take up our cross and follow Jesus. The reason it is repeated each year at this time is that as human beings, we need reminding. We are prone to amnesia and to waywardness. The seasons of the church year are like navigational beacons that hold us on course in our journey with Christ.

I pray you will embrace the season of Lent and enrich yourself in the Lenten discipline of prayer, meditation, worship, and Christian service. In that way, your Easter will be blessed.

ILLUSTRATION

A devout Catholic went to the confessional, sat down, and said, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned." The priest quietly asked the man to go ahead and confess his sins. The man pulled out a piece of paper and began to read. "One loaf of bread, two cans of tuna, and a bunch of carrots." The priest interrupted the man saying, "What's this?" Suddenly aware of what he was reading, the man shouted, "O holy mother of God, I've left my sins at the grocery store."

Lent bids us, leave your sins with God and be forgiven.

May your Lenten season inspire you to greater deeds of righteousness.

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
SHARYN
BRIAN SINRAM
HELENMARY
JANET & JOSEPH
SHERRY RONIS
MISSY GRANAGHAN
BURKART FAMILY
PHYLLIS G
GAYNOR FAMILY
ROMANO FAMILY
BERTRANO S.
BERNICE S.**

**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

SEEING IS BELIEVING

I recently read a comment in a science textbook that started me thinking about our faith. Philosopher of science Charles Thaxton tells us that there are two types of scientific inquiry. The first, called "operation" science, studies the processes that govern physical reality. Sciences such as biology and physics have given us such marvels such as diagnostic imaging, robotic surgery, and the internet. The second are, called "origin" science, studies the ultimate causes of things. The results here are less than impressive. For example, cosmologists tell us that space and time began at the moment of the "big bang." Therefore, no known process could have caused the "bang" as no known process could have existed before the beginning of time itself. The same is true for the origin of life. Organic chemist and Christian author James Tour tells us that science has no clue as to how non-living molecules could have evolved into the living molecule of DNA. In plain English, the unaided human mind is incapable of understanding the ultimate cause of the universe, biological life and even consciousness itself. This leads to the question of how the human mind understands anything at all. Philosophers tell us that the mind understands material reality through the processing of information gathered through the senses. But how does the human mind understand non-material reality? In point of fact, the Bible has the answer. To make this point, let us do a thought experiment.

How do we know if someone is telling the truth when they tell us that they love us? Spouses have told me that their partner confuses true love with physical passion or a self-centered need for attention. Others have told me that they feel as though they are loved more for their paycheck or their willingness to take care of the kids. So how do we know that we are loved? The answer is obvious. We watch what others do. The words "I love you" mean little unless these words are accompanied by and authenticated through the acts that speak of such love. The only way to know love is to experience it and the only way to experience love is to "taste and see." Let us now turn to scripture.

One of the most important lines in scripture is found in Psalm 34:8 where we are invited to "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord." I interpret this line to mean that we are invited to participate in a relationship with God through which we can directly experience the presence, nature, and love of God. In a recent Bible study class, Pastor DeBie described the Bible as "the story of God's enduring romance with humanity." As we read the Old Testament, we see how God demonstrates His

goodness through His interaction with the historical events of ancient Israel. As we read the New Testament, we see how God demonstrates His goodness through nature and healing miracles as well as through the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. That enduring love continues today.

I think that there are general and specific ways in which God demonstrates His goodness to all of us today. All Christians are invited to experience the love of God through musical and liturgical worship. We see His love in the celebration of the Word and the accompanying message. Coming from the Catholic tradition, I have always seen the sharing of communion as the moment of greatest spiritual intimacy with Christ and one another. However, there are specific ways in which God helps us to see His goodness in our individual lives. While doing therapy sessions, I have always experienced the love that God has for both my clients and myself. I have seen the goodness of God while sharing a quiet meal with Debbie or a less quiet meal with our grandsons. I have seen the goodness while sitting in my yard on a summer day enjoying the sounds of nature. I have even seen the goodness of God while playing a vigorous game of tug-of-war with our beloved dog. She never lets me win. Now comes the hard part. As I am growing older, I am learning to experience the goodness of God during the difficult times. C. S. Lewis once wrote that God "Whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to our conscience and shouts in our pain." We must never forget that God is closest when we need Him the most.

Beloved, as the season of Lent approaches, let us take every opportunity to taste and see the goodness of the Lord in every aspect of our lives. As always, God bless.

Tom Conrey

Elder Janet Cardillo is sharing a Message with you:

Dear Sisters on the Journey ~

All women are welcome for our **She is Called Thursday Evening Virtual Gathering**, where we share stories, scripture and prayer concerns; and encourage one another in our lives and ministries. As we approach Lent, we will be using resources by **Jan Richardson** to guide our conversation, prompt our prayers and connect us more deeply with God.

Alternate Thursdays

Feb. 9 - May 18, 2023

7:30 - 9:00pm eastern via Zoom (*you will see the link pop up once you have registered. A reminder will be sent each week, but the link will be the same*)

Resources to be used:

2/9: **The Map We Make Ourselves**, available as a free PDF at <https://sanctuaryofwomen.com/WomensChristmasRetreat2013.pdf>

2/23 - 5/18: **In the Sanctuary of Women: A Companion for Prayer and Reflection**, 2010. Amazon offers a look inside so you can read over some parts and get a feel for the content. It's also available as an audio book at Barnes and Noble, and on a couple discounted sites. Your local library is another place to look.

Whether you are new to this virtual gathering space, a long time member or somewhere in between, we warmly WELCOME YOU to join us for whatever evenings work for you. We look forward to our time together starting on 2/9, and encourage you to invite a friend or church sister who you feel would benefit from this special gathering. We are excited for what God has in store for us as 2023 unfolds!

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/TP5aKUTERoqJhZNeA>

In Peace and Hope,
Rev. Liz Testa and Pastor Pam Otten

"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, whose steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south." Psalm 107: 1-3

Women's Transformation and Leadership
Reformed Church in America
#sheiscalled #ellaesllamada
#lavishhope #encourageoneanother

Check out these resources for you and your faith community:

- [She is Called/Ella es Llamada Women of the Bible Study, Volumes 1 and 2](#)
- [Lavish Hope, stories of resilience and overcoming podcast, now in it's 4th season!](#)
- [Building God's Church Together Bible Study](#)
- [Recursos en Español](#)
- [Equity-Based Hospitality Study](#)
- [Dismantling Racism Prayer Movement](#)

Join our community on Facebook ("RCA Women" closed group and "She is Called" page)

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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

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



February 1st Georgeanna Hepner

February 14th Grace Kim

February 14th Joseph Schweigert

February 24th Giana Carc

2023	FEBRUARY					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
10:30 HOLY COMMUNION HEALING SERVICE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING		ZOOM 7:30 ADMIN. MEETING				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 SUNDY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL		ZOOM 7:30 CONSISTORY MEETING		10:30 PRAYER SERVICE		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE						
26 10:30 SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	27	28				

Colonial Church of Bayside Consistory 2023

Pastor Linden DeBie
Howard Keyes, Treasurer
Carol White, Stated Clerk

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