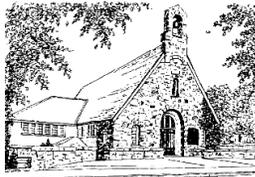


DECEMBER

2019

Volume LX

Number 10



HOUGH'S NECK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

310 Manet Avenue, Quincy, MA 02169

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings Beloved of God!

I hope Thanksgiving Day was filled not only with food but with meaningful moments with family and friends. As you know, Thanksgiving came later in the month this year, so Advent comes right on its heels. For those of you that may not be familiar with church lingo, Advent begins the official church year, celebrating the birth of the Christ Child - Jesus. For the month that includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, Advent is a period of preparation and reflection on the things that are at the heart of who we are as human beings, the things that all of us long for, for ourselves, our families, our communities, our world: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

The theme for Advent around which my sermons will be based is Journey. First, hope that motivated the journey of the magi from the East, astrologers who were considered wise men (though the Bible doesn't identify them all as men - women among them was a possibility). What does this story speak to people of faith then and today? The second Sunday of Advent we will explore the peace embodied by Mary and Joseph to Nazareth as they struggled to meet the requirements of the Roman government for recording the census. Romans were fanatics about records. They wanted to know who and what they had conquered. Mary, meek and mild but no more than a teenager, Joseph, much older, had their faith tested in unexpected ways. Third, we will consider the journey of the shepherds to Bethlehem to find the newborn Christ Child, these despised of society who were scared out of their wits by heavenly choirs of angels. Why sing to the shepherds? What does the story teach us. And the fourth Sunday of Advent we will begin to make our own way to the birthplace of the one who will show us God, creator and sustainer of all that is, was, and that will ever be. And that story begins with a baby - God born in a stable, a lowly manger for a bed, surrounded by cattle and sheep. What's that about?

And, of course, Christmas Eve, we, too, will arrive to take our place around the manger with the other players of this amazing story as Christians have done for two millennia. For there, our lives are defined and redefined. There, expect to find the joy and the meaning of life - your life. Quite a journey.

-Pastor Steve



POINSETTIA PROJECT

Sponsored by **Seaside Social Club** (formerly known as **MOTHERS Club**)

_____ Small Plant \$10

_____ Large Plant \$20

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Orders may be mailed to the church at 310 Manet Ave., placed in the offering plate at Sunday worship or given directly to Nancy Jacobs. The due date is **Wednesday, December 11th**. Make checks payable to **MOTHERS CLUB**. Orders can also be emailed to Nancy at jacobs0511@gmail.com.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 7st, 2019



9:00 - 11:00

Houghs Neck Congregational Church

310 Manet Ave.

Fellowship Hall (lower level)

Elevator available to transport strollers and Grandmas

Admission: \$5.00 per person

Price includes pancakes, sausage, juice, milk,
coffee and a digital picture with Santa.

50/50 raffle

Reservations are not required.



CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE

If you would like to send Christmas greetings to your friends who attend church regularly or to our shut-ins now you can.

Christmas Post Office will be open on three (3) Sundays: Dec 8 Dec 15 Dec 22

Bring cards to your friends who attend church regularly.

Please put them in alphabetical order!

They will be postmarked and delivered after church service.

Please don't wait til the last Sunday!

Donations will benefit the church mailing costs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



The Sunday School will perform their annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 22nd
DURING the Service of Worship. There will be a pot luck lunch following the pageant.

SEASIDE SOCIAL CLUB

DECEMBER 10, 2019



The Seaside Social Club will meet on Tuesday, December 10, for their annual Christmas party. The event will be held in the fireplace room on the right side of Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church. Members will meet for a business meeting at 6:30 and the party festivities will begin at 7:00. Members and their guests should bring a wrapped \$20 grab and the theme is sparkle and twinkle. Be sure your grab gift sparkles or twinkles. Members will also bring an appetizer or dessert. Ruth Gamble will be the hostess this month. Come enjoy some holiday fun.



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY!!



**Wish a happy birthday with a smile, a call
or a card to our DECEMBER birthday folks!**

DECEMBER

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Beth Little | | |
| 4 | Joyce Flibotte | 25 | Cynthia Carlson Jansson |
| 5 | Karen Bishop | | Lois Zulauf |
| 7 | Rick Praetsch | 27 | Kurt Johnson |
| 8 | Mark Paul Jr | | Wayne Batson |
| 10 | Harry Olson | 31 | Arthur Davis |
| 11 | Kathleen Little Taylor | | George Oakes |
| 12 | Bonnie Sparks Schaefer | | |
| 14 | Patrick Flibotte | | |
| 15 | Judy Blowers Crowley | | |

SPIRITUAL MESSAGES



Scripture: *How precious also are Your thoughts to me O God! How great is the sum of them!*
 -Psalm 139:17

Quote: *Our response to the study of theology of Scripture should be that of the psalmist who said, "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!"*
 -Wayne Grudem

Scripture: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.* -Romans 8:14

Quote: *Man is most free when controlled by God alone.* -Augustine

Scripture: *You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.* -Genesis 50:20

Quote: *God never foreordains an evil event without a good purpose.* -John Frame

Scripture: *And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.* -1 John 3:22

Quotes: *Of two evils, choose neither.* -Charles H. Spurgeon

Scripture: *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more.* -Philippians 1:9

Quotes: *Abounding grace has abounding work for its aim. And abounding work needs abounding grace as its source and strength.* -Andrew Murray



PRAYER LIST

Anne Baxendale
 Linda DellaCroce
 Linda Beck
 Marie Blanchard
 Bob Craig
 Mary Giggey
 Donnie Gamble

Edward Duddy
 Elizabeth M. Orchard
 Sheena Giggey Curley
 May Keith
 Maeve Hughes
 Jane Neale
 June Paul

Martha Chase
 Jaime Toby
 Joan Kirby
 Beth Little
 Laurie Milligan
 Kelly Stewart Cassier
 Mark Paul

Jim Hogrell
 Paula Younie
 John White
 Harry Olson
 Eileen Menz
 Wink Wakelin
 Bernie Van Tassell

hncc memories

125 years

Keep your eyes open in newsletters throughout the rest of our 125th anniversary year for remembrances or comments submitted by church and community members in honor of our 125th.

Hough's Neck Congregational Church memories by Don Gamble.

At age 7 my family moved from Codman Square area in Dorchester to Hough's Neck. My mother grew up on Bayview Ave along with her three sisters. My dad loved it here for his short time of life. He passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack at the age of 41. We lived on Manet Ave. There were 6 of us kids and my mother was devastated. My grandmother Opie owned a nursing home in Dorchester and helped my mother to get through a trying and tough time. God bless her.

On Saturday night, we would have beans and franks for super and baths so that we could all attend church on Sunday. I remember so many people from this church. To mention all of the families would take too long and do injustice to anyone that I might have forgotten. Most are gone now. At the age of 8, I was in Cub Scouts. Pack 6. Jack Morris was our leader. He would take us to Red Sox games. One game in particular, I will never forget. Ted Williams hit a home run at Fenway Park.

After my father's passing, my mother attended church more frequently. She made friends there and became a member of the Mother's Club. The church was our lifesaver. As I grew older, my brother John and Chris were also in troupe 6. I would save my paper route money, so that I could attend Camp Massasoit each summer for a week. Camp Massasoit was a great spot on Elbow Pond, where we would work on our merit badges. I still think of Bill McPeck, Pete Little, Ernie Fitzgibbons, Pop Josselyn, Uncle Arthur, Jack Anderson and Richard Wainwright. So many great mentors.

I credit the church, scouts and Jr. fellowship for many lifelong friends. Bob Blowers, Tom Logan and Jack Cairns. We went on hayrides, apple picking, ran car washes etc. I graduated from Norfolk County Agricultural School. My girlfriend began attending church with me in 1964, Mrs Alicia Corea married us. Our 4 children were baptized by her as well and they all attended Sunday school here, joined scouts and Jr. high fellowship. My memories of this church are still with me 74 years later. I feel someone is watching over me.

My chance to give back to the church arose in the mid 80's, when I was working for A.A. Will, an excavating co. I became aware that the church needed to sell some land situated behind it. The property needed to be filled in and graded off. I went to my boss and set up meetings with the Coreas. My company filled and graded the property at no charge and lots were sold off to build houses. After church one day, the Coreas stopped me to thank me. They said "what can we do to repay you?" "I told them that "they already have." I saw a tear in her eye or maybe just a reflection in my own eye.

This church has taught me many things. One is God is God and he is always around. We are His messengers. God really does bless us and our nation. The Gamble family are proof of it.

God bless the Hough's Neck Congregational Church and the United States of America.

December 2019 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

Begin Year 2**DECEMBER****Sunday, December 1
1st Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 1:1–5, 13–2:8
1 Thess. 5:1–11
Luke 21:5–19

Monday, December 2

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Amos 2:6–16
2 Peter 1:1–11
Matt. 21:1–11

Tuesday, December 3

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Amos 3:1–11
2 Peter 1:12–21
Matt. 21:12–22

Wednesday, December 4

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Amos 3:12–4:5
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 21:23–32

Thursday, December 5

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Amos 4:6–13
2 Peter 3:11–18
Matt. 21:33–46

Friday, December 6

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Amos 5:1–17
Jude 1–16
Matt. 22:1–14

Saturday, December 7

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Amos 5:18–27
Jude 17–25
Matt. 22:15–22

**Sunday, December 8
2nd Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 6:1–14
2 Thess. 1:5–12
Luke 1:57–68

Monday, December 9

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Amos 7:1–9
Rev. 1:1–8
Matt. 22:23–33

Tuesday, December 10

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Amos 7:10–17
Rev. 1:9–16
Matt. 22:34–46

Wednesday, December 11

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Amos 8:1–14
Rev. 1:17–2:7
Matt. 23:1–12

Thursday, December 12

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Amos 9:1–10
Rev. 2:8–17
Matt. 23:13–26

Friday, December 13

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Hag. 1:1–15
Rev. 2:18–29
Matt. 23:27–39

Saturday, December 14

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Hag. 2:1–9
Rev. 3:1–6
Matt. 24:1–14

**Sunday, December 15
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 9:11–15
2 Thess. 2:1–3, 13–17
John 5:30–47

Monday, December 16

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Zech. 1:7–17
Rev. 3:7–13
Matt. 24:15–31

Tuesday, December 17

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Zech. 2:1–13
Rev. 3:14–22
Matt. 24:32–44

Wednesday, December 18

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Gen. 3:8–15
Rev. 12:1–10
John 3:16–21

Thursday, December 19

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Zeph. 3:14–20
Titus 1:1–16
Luke 1:1–25

Friday, December 20

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
1 Sam. 2:1b–10
Titus 2:1–10
Luke 1:26–38

Saturday, December 21

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
2 Sam. 7:1–17
Titus 2:11–3:8a
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

**Sunday, December 22
4th Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
2 Sam. 7:18–29
Gal. 3:1–14
Luke 1:57–66

Monday, December 23

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Jer. 31:10–14
Gal. 3:15–22
Luke 1:67–80 or Matt. 1:1–17

Tuesday, December 24

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 32; 114
Isa. 60:1–6
Gal. 3:23–4:7
Matt. 1:18–25

Wednesday, December 25**Nativity of Jesus Christ /
Christmas Day**

Morning: Pss. 2; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 98; 96
Micah 4:1–5; 5:2–4
1 John 4:7–16
John 3:31–36

Thursday, December 26

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 119:1–24; 27
2 Chron. 24:17–22
Acts 6:1–7
Acts 7:59–8:8

Friday, December 27

Morning: Pss. 34; 148
Evening: Pss. 19; 121
Prov. 8:22–30
1 John 5:1–12
John 13:20–35

Saturday, December 28

Morning: Pss. 2; 149
Evening: Ps. 110; 111
Isa. 49:31–23
Isa. 54:1–13
Matt. 18:1–14

**Sunday, December 29
1st Sunday after Christmas**

Morning: Pss. 96; 150
Evening: Pss. 132; 97
1 Sam. 1:1–2, 7b–28
Col. 1:9–20
Luke 2:22–40

Monday, December 30

Morning: Pss. 93; 145
Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
89:19–52
1 Kings 17:17–24
3 John 1–15
John 4:46–54

Tuesday, December 31

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 45; 96
1 Kings 3:5–14
James 4:13–17; 5:7–11
John 5:1–15

Contact Information

FOR ALL

PASTORAL CONCERNS:

Please contact the church office at 617-479-8778, by email hncc@comcast.com or mail to 310 Manet Ave Quincy, MA 02169

hncong.org

FOR THE BULLETIN:

Please remit in writing to church office by Thursday for the following Sunday or hncc@comcast.net or mail to 310 Manet Ave Quincy, MA 02169

FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Please remit in writing to Christine Keating by the 15th of the month to appear in the following month's newsletter. cmon1695@hotmail.com or mail to 16 Thomas St. Quincy, MA 02169

Weekly service of worship

**Sundays
at 10:00 a.m.**

Reverend Stephen Vandergrift

There is a potluck Coffee Hour each Sunday in the Conference Room after our service. All are welcome, please join us! We serve coffee, tea and whatever goodies are donated. Please volunteer to make and serve coffee and clean up!