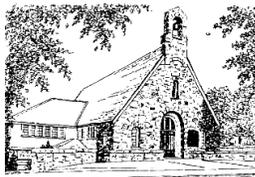


MARCH
2018
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HOUGHS NECK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Stephen Vandergrift

Astronomical High Holy Days

It's March! And with March comes glorious Spring! It's about time. It seems it's been a long time coming this year. Spring, also known as the Vernal Equinox begins when Earth, in its orbit around the Sun, is positioned such that the the Sun shines directly over the equator. On that day, the first day of Spring ,at the Equator, the length of the day is equal to the length of the night. What's amazing is that the seasons of the year can only happen if Earth's axis is tilted relative to the Sun. If we weren't tilted, our axis (an imaginary line running through the north and south poles around which the Earth rotates) would be perpendicular to the Sun's rays and, over the course of a year, the Sun would always shine directly over the equator and it would be like Spring (or Fall if you like) for us year round (hmm, maybe that wouldn't be so bad!). But we are tilted 23.5 degrees. For us in the northern hemisphere, when the axis is tilted toward the Sun it's Summer, when tilted away from the Sun it's Winter. In the Fall and Spring the axial tilt is that 23.5 degrees I mentioned but to the side relative to our Earth's position. If your confused, get out the globe and walk it around a lamp (without the shade) that represents the Sun and see how the Sun would shine on it. Remember though, that the axis is always pointed in the same direction as you move around the Sun (lamp). Incidentally, that direction the north axis is always pointing to is what star?

On March 21st, for us here in Quincy, the Sun will rise to 48 degrees above the southern horizon by noonday. Yes, it does seem like the lengthening of the days has been slow in coming. But from here on, the lengthening of daylight will come much quicker and, with the changing to **Daylight Saving Time (DST) on March 11**, Voila! We can enjoy being in the light until late into the evening.

March also brings Holy Week this year, beginning with Palm Sunday (March 25), followed by Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. But Easter this year falls on the first day of April - April Fools Day. I've always appreciated the irony when the two days, Easter and April Fools Day, coincide. The resurrection of Jesus - God's enthusiastic AMEN! to a life that revealed God's dream of what it means to be human - a life that was so pleasing to God, a life lived passionately, with integrity, with love and compassion, a life that stood for what is just and right. A life that fed the poor and dispossessed with good food and good news, a life that sought to liberate all who were captive or enslaved to powers that degrade life, sap it of its joy and beauty. Yes, the powers-that-be that felt threatened by this life of life thought they could snuff it out, silence him by killing him, crucifying him. But God had/has the last word - the joke's on you. April Fools! You thought ultimate power over life and death was yours, that you had the last word - no, April Fools!

As the apostle Paul says, “we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness...” You would have to be a fool to believe that the God of all creation, creator of all that was and is and will ever be, the great I AM, mystery of mysteries, was incarnate in this man, Jesus of Nazareth, a man chosen by God, yet a man mocked, tortured and killed. The Crucified Christ...whom God raised from the dead. What does that say about reality! That’s right, Paul says, “we are fools for Christ.” Yep, that’s who we are.

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

-Pastor Steve

SEASIDE SOCIAL CLUB

Seaside Social Club
Houghs Neck Congregational Church
310 Manet Avenue, Quincy
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 - 7:00 pm

Let’s Paint Rocks!



In case you haven’t noticed, rock painting has become very popular recently. Some people paint them to add to their flower gardens, fairy gardens, to share inspirational messages, and to leave them at parks and beaches for others to find. Come join the fun and paint some rocks. We will have lots of painting suggestions regardless of your artistic ability. The program is open to the public and there is no charge.

Members will conduct a business meeting at 6:30 prior to the program.

Pirate Fest - March 24, 2018



Avast ye Maties, gather your wee pirates for a Pirate Fest at Houghs Neck Congregational Church, 310 Manet Ave., Quincy, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Saturday, March 24. There will be treasures, crafts, activities, games and snacks plus a special pirate raffle. This event is planned for pirates from pre-school through elementary age. The cost is \$10.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult. Pirate costumes are optional (but please - no pistols, swords, daggers or other weapons).

Reservations are required as space is limited. Please e-mail Sue at hncc@comcast.net. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Seaside Social Club is once again sponsoring an Easter Plant Drive. If you would like to purchase a plant(s) to be displayed in the sanctuary please fill out the order form below and they will be purchased for you.

Each plant will be \$15- see below for the options.

If you are paying by check please make it payable to **MOTHERS CLUB** and mail to the church at 310 Manet Ave. Quincy MA 02169 or you may place your order in the offering plate during worship service.

The deadline for orders is **Sunday, March 25th**. For more information contact Nancy Jacobs at 617 479-6441 or jacobs0511@gmail.com

Name _____ phone# _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

_____ Tulips @\$15 each _____ Lilies @\$15 each _____ Daffodils @\$15 each



GIGANTIC INDOOR YARD SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 7th

**HOUGH'S NECK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
9A.M - 1 P.M.
310 Manet Avenue**

**Kitchen items, household items, dishware, toys, clothing, holiday decorations, etc.
available at great prices!**

Snack bar open during the sale.

Items may be dropped off on Friday, April 6, from 9:00 - noon.

If you need items picked up, or have questions, please contact Nancy

617-479-6441 or jacobs0511@gmail.com.

YOGA SCHEDULE

Certified Yoga Instructor Amy Ross teaches classes on Thursdays at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday classes will resume in April with 1 or 2 Pop-up classes along the way.

Yoga uses postures and conscious breathing in combination with mental focus to develop awareness,
strength, flexibility and relaxation.

Come awaken your mind, body and spirit with gentle yoga.

Please bring a mat, water and \$5.

DIACONATE NEWS

MARCH 2018

Lent began this year on February 14th, Ash Wednesday, and the Diaconate has the devotional, "Love Life, Love Lent", available to church congregants and friends to be used in our walk of faith during this Lenten season. The daily messages bring to light that we can offer and give something special during these 40 days of Lent. The Diaconate welcomes you to use this devotional and be encouraged, guided and inspired this Lenten period.

Interfaith Social Services is once again seeking partners to help with their Easter Basket Program during the upcoming Lenten and Easter season. ISS has asked for various donations of small gifts and candies. The Easter baskets will be distributed to children they serve in their food pantry. The Church Diaconate again decided to support this effort by purchasing and donating 135 children's books titled, "The Very First Easter". This age appropriate book about the actual Easter story is a wonderful book, which reinforces the actual Easter story. Families can share this book with their children during the Lenten period. A donation jar will be placed in the Coffee Room for those who would like to contribute to this ministry we take part in with ISS.

Put Saturday April 28th on your calendar and join the Hough's Neck Congregational Church team for the ISS 44rd Annual South Shore Walk/5K Race! The theme this year will be 'Stop the Stigma'; the proceeds will be used to support friends, neighbors and family members affected by mental illness or addiction. The route features beautiful views of the Boston skyline as seen from the Squantum and Marina Bay regions of Quincy, MA. The Family Fun celebration after the walk/race includes: food, bouncy house, kid's crafts, balloon animals, airbrush tattoos, face painting, music, raffles, and much more! In addition the New England Revolution Battalion will be there with fun games! Interfaith's South Shore Walk has been an annual tradition for hundreds of families and individuals from all over the Greater Boston area for over four decades. All of the proceeds from this event make it possible for Interfaith Social Services to assist thousands of local families that turn to us for help every year. Through this event we can all show that we stand with our friends, neighbors and family members affected by mental illness or addiction. All funds will support Interfaith Social Services' New Directions Counseling Center. Registration begins at 9:30 A.M. and the race begins at 10:30 A.M.

Also hold Thursday, May 3rd, on your calendar as the Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held to coincide with the National Day of Prayer. The Quincy Prayer Breakfast brings together representatives from many local houses of worship, government officials, business, community, and religious leaders. It is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a city in the spirit of interfaith prayer for the well-being of our community. All proceeds from the annual event benefit Interfaith Social Services, Salvation Army – Quincy and The Esther R. Sanger Center for Compassion -Quincy Crisis Center. Our church will once again sponsor a table. Contact Pastor Steve or the Diaconate if you have an interest in attending.

Blessing to all,
The Diaconate

TROOP 6 NEWS

Troop 6 is happy to report that Eagle Scout candidate, Jacob Walsh, has chosen an Eagle Scout project, which is a tremendous benefit to our church. His project to purchase and install an EAD, automated external defibrillator, will be completed by the end of February and it will include training classes (CPR and EAD) for those in the church and the community that would like to be prepared to use the unit and to be certified for using an AED. The AED unit will be stored in a very visibly marked cabinet in the Narthax, making it easily accessible for use on both the sanctuary and fellowship hall levels of the church. An AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses a life threatening heart incident (arrhythmia) and is able to treat it through defibrillation, the application of electricity. This unit is able to help adults and children, who might have a heart incident. If you missed the two initial training classes, there are plans for a third training class to be held in March. We are very thankful to Jacob Walsh and all those who assisted him with this very beneficial and important project that may one day save a life. Thank you Jacob!!

SPIRITUAL QUOTES

The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.
Martin Luther

If you believe in God who controls the big things, you have to believe in a God who controls the little things. It is we, of course, to whom things look "little" or "big".
Elisabeth Elliot

Real true faith is man's weakness leaning on god's strength.
D. L. Moody

True peace comes not from the absence of trouble, but from the presence of God.
Alexander MacLaren

When we all reach the end of our earthly journey, we will have just begun.
Billy Graham



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!!

WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY WITH A SMILE, A CALL OR A CARD TO OUR MARCH BIRTHDAY FOLKS!

MARCH

- 1 Kevin Murphy
- 2 Karen Grillo
- 3 Robert Bassett
- 4 Karen Christie
- 5 James Mackay
- 13 Cheryl Baldwin Shaw
- 19 Kindred Joy Sparks
- 23 Robert Rheault
- 25 Carrie Hallett MacLean
- 26 Joan Kirby
- Laura Hallett
- 27 Robert Sparks
- 29 Jane Griffin



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

Edward Duddy
 Hailey Hennessey
 Sheena Giggey Curley
 Leah Davis
 Barbara Dickson
 Jane Neale

Mary Panasci
 Elizabeth M. Orchard
 Joan Kirby
 Beth Little
 Laurie Mulligan
 Kelly Stewart Cassier

Jaime Toby
 John White
 Sandy White
 Melissa Hughes
 Richard Shaw



It's that time of year again for income tax for the calendar year 2017. If you are in need of a written form of what amount you gave to the church during the year for income tax purposes, please give your name to our financial secretary Shirley Pearson at 617-479-1918.

March 2018 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

March

Thursday, March 1 Morning Pss. 27, 147:12-20 Evening Pss. 126, 102 Gen. 42:29-38 1 Cor. 6:12-20 Mark 4:21-34	Tuesday, March 6 Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Gen. 45:1-15 1 Cor. 7:32-40 Mark 6:1-13	Sunday, March 11 4th Sunday in Lent Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Gen. 48:8-22 Rom. 8:11-25 John 6:27-40
Friday, March 2 Morning Pss. 22, 148 Evening Pss. 105, 130 Gen. 43:1-15 1 Cor. 7:1-9 Mark 4:35-41	Wednesday, March 7 Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Gen. 45:16-28 1 Cor. 8:1-13 Mark 6:13-29	Monday, March 12 Morning: Pss. 119:73-80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Gen. 49:1-28 1 Cor. 10:14-11:1 Mark 7:24-37
Saturday, March 3 Morning Pss. 43, 149 Evening Pss. 31, 143 Gen. 43:16-34 1 Cor. 7:10-24 Mark 5:1-20	Thursday, March 8 Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12-20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Gen. 46:1-7, 28-34 1 Cor. 9:1-15 Mark 6:30-46	Tuesday, March 13 Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Gen. 49:29-50:14 1 Cor. 11:2-34 Mark 8:1-10
Sunday, March 4 3rd Sunday in Lent Morning Pss. 84, 150 Evening Pss. 42, 32 Gen. 44:1-17 Rom. 8:1-10 John 5:25-29	Friday, March 9 Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Gen. 47:1-26 1 Cor. 9:16-27 Mark 6:47-56	Wednesday, March 14 Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Gen. 50:15-26 1 Cor. 12:1-11 Mark 8:11-26
Monday, March 5 Morning Pss. 119:73-80, 145 Evening Pss. 121, 6 Gen. 44:18-34 1 Cor. 7:25-31 Mark 5:21-43	Saturday, March 10 Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Gen. 47:27-48:7 1 Cor. 10:1-13 Mark 7:1-23	Thursday, March 15 Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12-20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Exod. 1:6-22 1 Cor. 12:12-26 Mark 8:27-9:1

Friday, March 16
 Morning: Pss. 22; 148
 Evening: Pss. 105; 130
 Exod. 2:1–22
 1 Cor. 12:27–13:3
 Mark 9:2–13

Saturday, March 17
 Morning: Pss. 43; 149
 Evening: Pss. 31; 143
 Exod. 2:23–3:15
 1 Cor. 13:1–13
 Mark 9:14–29

Sunday, March 18
 5th Sunday in Lent
 Morning: Pss. 84; 150
 Evening: Pss. 42; 32
 Exod. 3:16–4:12
 Rom. 12:1–21
 John 8:46–59

Monday, March 19
 Morning: Pss. 119:73–80;
 145
 Evening: Pss. 121; 6
 Exod. 4:10–20 (21–26)
 27–31
 1 Cor. 14:1–19
 Mark 9:30–41

Tuesday, March 20
 Morning: Pss. 34; 146
 Evening: Pss. 25; 91
 Exod. 5:1–6:1
 1 Cor. 14:20–33a, 39–40
 Mark 9:42–50

Wednesday, March 21
 Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 27; 51
 Exod. 7:8–24
 2 Cor. 2:14–3:6
 Mark 10:1–16

Thursday, March 22
 Morning: Pss. 27;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 126; 102
 Exod. 7:25–8:19
 2 Cor. 3:7–18
 Mark 10:17–31

Friday, March 23
 Morning: Pss. 22; 148
 Evening: Pss. 105; 130
 Exod. 9:13–35
 2 Cor. 4:1–12
 Mark 10:32–45

Saturday, March 24
 Morning: Pss. 43; 149
 Evening: Pss. 31; 143
 Exod. 10:21–11:8
 2 Cor. 4:13–18
 Mark 10:46–52

Sunday, March 25
 Palm/Passion Sunday
 Morning: Pss. 84; 150
 Evening: Pss. 42; 32
 Zech. 9:9–12
 1 Tim. 6:12–16 *or* Zech.
 12:9–11; 13:1, 7–9
 Luke 19:41–48

Monday, March 26
 Monday of Holy Week
 Morning: Pss. 119:73–80;
 145
 Evening: Pss. 121; 6
 Lam. 1:1–2, 6–12
 2 Cor. 1:1–7
 Mark 11:12–25

Tuesday, March 27
 Tuesday of Holy Week
 Morning: Pss. 34; 146
 Evening: Pss. 25; 91
 Lam. 1:17–22
 2 Cor. 1:8–22
 Mark 11:27–33

Wednesday, March 28
 Wednesday of Holy Week
 Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 27; 51
 Lam. 2:1–9
 2 Cor. 1:23–2:11
 Mark 12:1–11

Thursday, March 29
 Maundy Thursday
 Morning: Pss. 27;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 126; 102
 Lam. 2:10–18
 1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–32
 Mark 14:12–25

Friday, March 30
 Good Friday
 Morning: Pss. 22; 148
 Evening: Pss. 105; 130
 Lam. 3:1–9, 19–33
 1 Peter 1:10–20
 John 13:36–38 *or* John
 19:38–42

Saturday, March 31
 Holy Saturday/Great Vigil
 of Easter
 Morning: Pss. 43; 149
 Evening: Pss. 31; 143
 Lam. 3:37–58
 Heb. 4:1–16
 Rom. 8:1–11

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

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!