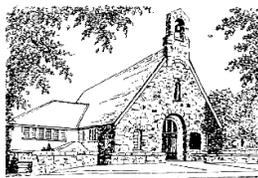


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# HOUGHS NECK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Beloved of God,

In last month's newsletter I spoke of my interest and fascination with the cosmos and the privilege of teaching physics and astronomy for several years. Actually, earlier in my teaching career I taught biology. The topic that fascinated me most in biology was genetics and how life on planet Earth evolved. One of the resources I used was a PBS film series on evolution. One episode of the series explored why some primates form social groups around dominance and aggression while others intuitively form communities based on cooperation and mutuality. The film documented a study of Chimpanzees and Bonobo monkeys. These two species are nearly identical in genetics and lineage. In fact, humans share 99% of our DNA with them. They are more like us (or we are like them) than gorillas. But these two species have radically different social instincts.

The film follows a tribe of Chimpanzees living north of the Congo River in Africa that have organized their social structures based on hierarchy and physical strength. The alpha male rules the tribe. If he's entering a tribe for the first time, he kills all the babies to establish his dominance. Once in control, he rallies the other males to patrol their borders to protect their land and resources. If they discover vulnerable chimpanzees close to their perimeter, they will kill them without hesitation.

But south of the Congo river lives another tribe of monkeys called Bonobos. Unlike the Chimpanzees, the Bonobo monkeys have built a tribal society led by the females of the tribe. They rarely fight. In fact, they refuse to mate with males who show aggression. They protect their young. They share with each other - food, affection, power. Compared to the chimpanzees to the north, they live a life of peace and leisure.

What makes them different? One theory is that Bonobos living south of the Congo River live in a resource-rich environment and don't have to fight for food or worry about protecting scarce fertile land. For thousands of years, they have lived in a place of abundance, which has nurtured and **rewarded** an instinct for sharing, concern for each other, and collaboration.

The chimpanzees and gorillas who live on the north side of the Congo river live in a less abundant environment. They must protect the food sources they discover from other tribes or animals also seeking sustenance. There is a fight for survival, and it doesn't pay to share with others.

Scientists believe that these two tribes split about 6 million years ago as the Congo River formed and drove them apart. Today we can see the power of evolutionary experience to shape our base instincts.

I remembered this film as I have lately reflected on the tensions of our current culture and the kind of future we might create together. So far, ours has been a story more closely aligned with the experience of the Chimpanzees. We fight for resources, protect our lands and borders, and sustain hierarchies primarily by brute force. It's delivered results. Still, I wonder if it's the instinct we need going forward.

Like Bonobos, I believe we have within our DNA at least the possibility of building a more compassionate culture. When fairly distributed, we have the resources and technology to provide abundant life for every living creature on this planet. We live in a resource-full world, though we tell ourselves the false story of scarcity.

Perhaps this is the primary evolutionary question before us, and the one spirituality is best positioned to answer. In our Christian tradition, the Apostle Paul teaches in Ephesians 4:31-32, "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

I hear that as "Be like the Bonobos."

*Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Steve*

## Weekly Lectionary for September 2022

Season after Pentecost Year C	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> September 4, 2022 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Jeremiah 18:1-11</u>  <u>Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</u>	<u>Deuteronomy 30:15- 20</u>  <u>Psalm 1</u>	<u>Philemon 1:1-21</u>	<u>Luke 14:25-33</u>
<b>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> September 11, 2022 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28</u>  <u>Psalm 14</u>	<u>Exodus 32:7-14</u>  <u>Psalm 51:1-10</u>	<u>1 Timothy 1:12- 17</u>	<u>Luke 15:1-10</u>
<b>Holy Cross</b> September 14, 2022 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Numbers 21:4b-9</u>  <u>Psalm 98:1-5</u> <i>or</i> <u>Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38</u>		<u>1 Corinthians 1:18-24</u>	<u>John 3:13-17</u>
<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> September 18, 2022 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Jeremiah 8:18-9:1</u>  <u>Psalm 79:1-9</u>	<u>Amos 8:4-7</u>  <u>Psalm 113</u>	<u>1 Timothy 2:1-7</u>	<u>Luke 16:1-13</u>
<b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> September 25, 2022 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6- 15</u>  <u>Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16</u>	<u>Amos 6:1a, 4-7</u>  <u>Psalm 146</u>	<u>1 Timothy 6:6-19</u>	<u>Luke 16:19-31</u>

# BAKE SALE AT THE CHOWDAFEST SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

## Bake Sale at the Chowdafest

Bay View Ave. at the public landing  
September 10, 2022 2:00 – 6:00

The Houghs Neck Congregational Church will sponsor the bake sale at the Chowdafest to benefit the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program at the Quincy Public Schools. This valuable program helps children in our school system who are in transition. From their brochure: Individuals who are eligible to receive these services include children and youth who:



- Do not have a permanent home.
- Live in motels, hotels, scattered sites, trailer parks or campgrounds.
- Live in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, or similar settings.
- Share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Are considered an unaccompanied youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Some of the ways this program assists students could be gift cards for groceries and clothing, personal items/toiletries, school supplies, bedding supplies, athletic gear, dues and fees, yearbooks, prom packages, graduation expenses, and much more.

Among the services provided include meals and referrals to food stability programs, transportation to their school of origin, tutoring, mentoring, school supplies, fees for athletics and field trips, clothing, and much more.

How can you help? Come to the Chowdafest and make a financial donation at the Bake Sale Table. Do you like to bake? Bake cookies or brownies or bars to donate to the table. Package the cookies 6 to a bag and the brownies or bars 4 to a bag. We will be setting up that day beginning at noon, and I have some availability to pick up items that morning (call 617-653-5928). Thank you, Gayle Mackay for the Houghs Neck Congregational Church.



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

### SEPTEMBER

Michael Stewart  
 Diane Robbins  
 Joe Flores  
 Bethany Keenan  
 Josselyn Prendergast  
 Ashley Flibotte  
 Kelly Stewart  
 Robert Paul Gordon

Mary Alice Morris  
 Ann Beaumont  
 Shirley Pearson  
 Taylor Hall  
 Robin Praetsch Kriech  
 Suzanne Cranston  
 Jill Hockney  
 Ralph Jacobs  
 Scot Batson

## SEASIDE SOCIAL CLUB SEPTEMBER 13th at 7 pm



The Seaside Social Club at the Houghs Neck Congregational Church, 310 Manet Avenue, Quincy, is excited to announce our opening program for the year and a special historical series which will be offered throughout the year. As the club begins its 77th year, we want to share a bit of information about the club which has been active since 1945. Although part of the Houghs Neck Congregational Church, members do not have to be affiliated with the church. Women from across the community are welcome to join. The club aims to provide socialization, entertainment, education, and good will. The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month September through December and March through June. Business meetings are generally at 6:30 and programs start at 7:00. Although the members must be female, most programs are open to everyone in the community, male or female. Dues are just \$20 for the year and support the work of the club.

Our opening meeting will be held on September 13, and will also serve as the kick-off for a series of talks/slide shows on historical Houghs Neck. The September talk, presented by Houghs Neck historian Patti Williams, will be:

Shipbreaking at Nut Island, 1885-1903.

Between 1885 and 1903, 18 steamships were broken up at Nut Island in Houghs Neck. Shipbreaking is an industry that has grown up around shipping and the sea since earliest times. In the late 1800's it involved breaking up wooden ships in order to recycle the iron, copper and other metal used in their construction. The superstructure of the ship would be dismantled and what was left of the ship would be burned. Some of the parts of the ship, such as the pilot house, cabins, railings, doors and timbers were sold off. In Houghs Neck many of these parts were recycled into cottages. Even today homeowners find tongue-in-groove sheathing and large timbers from these ships that have been incorporated into their homes. Come and learn about the ships, the ship-breaking process and see photos of some of the cottages made from parts of these ships.

Please mark your calendar for September 13 and pick up a schedule of the Houghs Neck historical talks for the year which will not be on our meeting night in future months and a schedule of the Seaside Social Club programs. Bring a friend, we look forward to welcoming you.

# Giant Indoor Yard Sale

Saturday, September 17, 2022

9:00 – 1:00



Houghs Neck Congregational Church  
310 Manet Avenue, Quincy

Donations may be dropped off Sunday after church  
(11:00).

We will also be available to accept donations on  
Thursday, 9/15 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
or Friday, 9/16 from 9:00 – noon.

To have items to be picked up, call  
Gayle at 617-653-5928.

No large furniture please.

The yard sale will benefit the general fund of the church.





## SPIRITUAL MESSAGES

Scripture: *Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say on the Lord.*

-Psalm 27:14

Quote: *Teach us, O Lord, the disciplines of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work.*

-Peter Marshall

Scripture: *You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

-John 8:32

Quote: *Jesus Christ Himself is the final exegesis of all truth. He is all that we need to know about God, and He is all that we need to know about man.*

-Major Ian Thomas

Scripture: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose.*

-Romans 8:28

Quote: *When God closes a door, He always opens a window.*

-Woodrow Kroll

Scripture: *We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.*

-2 Corinthians 4:18

Quotes: *God knows the way, He holds the key, He guides us with unerring hand.*

-Maxwell Cornelius, hymnist

Scripture: *I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*

-Luke 15:7

Quotes: *I was a sinner, but now I'm free, His wondrous grace has rescued me.*

-Lida S. Leech, in her hymn,  
"He Rescued Me"

### NOTES FROM NEAR AND FAR

Thank you from Margaret Milne Kelly to Ms. Pearson and the Houghs Neck Congregational Family:

Way before Leo passed, he told me where he wanted the remaining monies in his campaign funds to go.

Houghs Neck Cong. has always been a special place for Leo. From being a member of Troop 6 in the 1930's and 40's, to the years of making sure Houghs Neck knew who he was with his cast of characters from Houghs Neck Cong. To the Community leaders and finally his terms on the City Council.

Leo talked about 'the Cong.' as he called it many, many times, with fondness and love he had for the 'Cong.' family.

Thank you for all the support that your members gave Leo over the years.

See you at your Christmas Fair!!

We are enduring a serious heatwave in Houston! I'm looking forward to my visits to Boston in the very near future. New England summers are like no where else on earth. 😊

- Dannette Costas-Carrion  
Houston, TX

