

JUNE 2023

ON THE COMMON

Newsletter of Slatersville Congregational Church

A Few Thoughts...

BY REV. KORTE

Hello again friends. Starting Wednesday, May 31st, and continuing through August 23rd, we will meet on the common in front of the church between 6 and 6:30 pm each week for a Taize-style Ecumenical Compline service of sorts. All in the community at large are invited, so please, let folks know.

What is Compline? What is Taizé? Where do I even begin? Taizé? Let's start with Taizé. Taizé is a lovely style of chanted prayers set to some of the most beautiful music I have ever heard. It is named for the town of Taizé, France, which has been a home for an Ecumenical monastic community since 1940.

In 1940, near the beginning of World War II, a 25 year old man named Roger Schütz from Zurich, Switzerland rode his bicycle to a small town a couple hundred miles south of Paris, to an unoccupied part of southern France. Roger was the youngest of 9 children. Along with his sister Genevieve, Roger raised enough money at home to buy a house in Taize in which, Christian and Jewish refugees alike were housed.

In November of 1942, the Gestapo raided the home while Roger was raising funds back home. He was not able to return to the home until France was liberated in 1944. Upon returning, Roger converted the home into a monastic Christ-centered community focused on the simplicity of following Christ. All Christians were welcome, and by 1949, seven had committed to be "brothers" in monasticism at Taizé. The order uses Eastern Icons and chants, scripture and psalms for inspiration and worship, and has long been known to sing in many different languages. French composer Jacque Berthier wrote much of the lovely music the community sings in prayer.

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2023 OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Jenni Hull, Moderator
Ruth Mills, Clerk
Jean Meo, Financial Clerk
Margaret Hanoian, Treasurer

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Korte Yeo, Bridge Minister
John Staples, Director of Music
Jill Boday, Handbell Choir
Donna Myers, Office Administrator
Hope Paul, Nursery Attendant
Romeo Mendes, Sexton

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Michell Eskeli, Diaconate
Alma Morin, Hospitality
Bob Meo, Stewardship
Martha Hunt, Music
Rick Stelle, Property
Gretchen Westhoven, Missions
George Briggs, Chrisian Ed
Bob Meo, Fundraising
Bob Meo, Projects

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Christine Bonas
Marilyn Briggs
Marsha Brodeur
Richard Brodeur
Sandy Gamache
Martha Hunt
Darlene Magaw
April McAllister
Stephen Wowk

A Few Thoughts... (Cont.)

Brother Roger believed strongly in Ecumenism, the joining of many on the walk of faith with unity across denominational lines. The community has affected hundreds of thousands of people of faith, and thousands more visit every year, soaking up the simple yet powerful hymns and learning about the community of faith which has stood for peace and justice for over eight decades.

Compline

In Catholic and Orthodox circles and monastic communities, five times of prayer are observed every day. You may have heard of “Vespers”, which generally takes place around 5 or 530pm. “Compline” (or “evening”) takes place at the end of the day, which, for people who get up at 3:30 or 4am, takes place around 7pm. Compline generally includes scripture, some liturgy being read by a leader, and prayer. I was moved by the way a group of “street chaplains” I worked with for nine years adapted Compline for Ecumenical use in a sort of Bible study which took place at a men’s shelter in Waltham, MA.

I liked that so much that I adapted the service once again while serving a church in Dedham. They had been having outdoor Vespers services in the spring. We added Taizé music, interspersed with scripture or other readings, along with prayer and voila - the service we will be sharing with the community on your lovely common was born.

The primary purpose of the service is to give people a period of time in which to slow down, to prayerfully reflect on the day, to leave the worries of the day behind and focus on a restful evening and a good night’s sleep. Easier said than done for many of us, but that’s the goal. Outside with the background noise of the world, of the street is perfect. We embrace quiet amid noise, peace amid the stress of the world, inviting ourselves to dwell for a time on the Peace of Christ amid chaos, and be channels for that Peace to flow into our lives, our church, our community.

We sure hope you will join us Wednesday evenings when you are free between 6 and 6:30pm. Oh, and don’t forget to bring your favorite lawn chair! See you soon,

Korte

Blessings in Action...



Shout Out!

BY BOB MEO

I was driving by the church the other day and saw a young man mowing our lawn. I didn't recognize him, so I stopped to speak with him. His name is Dylan Mackay. I introduced myself and we spoke for a few minutes. He said he was passing by and noticed our lawn needed mowing at the moment. So he stopped, unloaded his mower and began to mow it for us. I asked him why? He said he just noticed it needed to be mowed and he had his mower with him at the moment, so he thought he would just mow it for us.

Nice Kid! This made an impression on me. What a great act of service - almost anonymously. I want to give this guy a Shout Out, for his kindness and service to our Church. He has his own business: "Mackay's Lawn Care". If we can return the favor and throw him some business this summer, let's do it!

A Tangible Hug

BY MICHELL ESKELI

Many of you remember Jody McAssey. She attended our church and her husband Mike, who was very active in our food pantry. They lived right down the road. Mike built them a magical vacation home in Vermont. During the COVID lockdown, they decided it was time to move to Vermont full-time. Jody is still an active member in our Zoom Prayer group. Mike, unfortunately, just recently lost his fight with cancer. Before he passed, he returned home from the hospital to that home he built, with a magnificent view under hospice care. It was at this time, the prayer group suggested a Prayer Shawl. On a recent Sunday, during "Joys and Concerns" members of the Prayer Group laid hands on it and lovingly prayed over the Shawl. It was delivered to Jody, and she was happy to receive a visit, personal prayer and the Shawl as a tangible "hug" from SCC whenever it is needed. Let's continue to send prayers of peace, comfort and strength for Jody, her kids and their grands.



To my friends at Slatersville Congregational Church,

I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the lovely prayer shawl which I, we, received on Sunday. An extra thank you to Michell who drove to Vermont with this special delivery. Her presence was an unexpected blessing. To the Wednesday morning prayer group, thank you for your ongoing kindness and support. God Bless you all.

Jody & Mike McAssey



Missions Moment

BY ALISON PEIRCE

Did you know that May is National Foster Care month? As we take time to acknowledge and honor foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes, the Missions Committee voted to support Foster Forward.

Foster Forward is nationally and locally recognized leader committed to ensuring that all children and youth impacted by foster care have safe, healthy, and nurturing families. What started as Rhode Island Foster Parents Association (former name) pivoted into an organization that supports young adolescents and adults who are currently or formerly in the foster care system.

They offer programs such as:

Adult Education for youth and young adults needing to complete their GED;

Aspire Program to help young people impacted by foster care get on a path to financial independence;

Real Connections Mentoring connecting foster youth, ages, 18-26, with positive, long-term adult role models;

Your Way Home rapidly re-housing homeless youth between the ages of 18-26 who have aged out of the foster care system;

Work Wonders Program connecting 18-21 year olds to meaningful work and paid employment through skills training, one-on-one career coaching, and paid work-based learning opportunities.

Our gift of \$500 will help support these programs and empower lives impacted by foster care. If you would like to provide further support, consider visiting the Foster Forward website and clicking on the link to their Amazon Wish List where you can purchase items (bedding, towels, cleaning supplies, personal care items) to help support young adults who have aged out of the foster care system as they set out on their own.

**"Whoever receives
one such child in My
Name receives Me,
and whoever receives
Me receives the One
who sent Me.**

Mark 9:37



NS Food Pantry

For the month of June Food Pantry hours are Saturday, 6/17 at 10:00 am, Tuesday, 6/20 at 5:30 pm, Saturday, 6/24 at 10:00 am and Tuesday, 6/27 at 5:30 pm. This month we are asking for donations of Peanut Butter and Jelly and Snacks.

Happy Father's Day



My Father

BY GEORGE BRIGGS

George W. Briggs Jr. - was part of the 'Greatest Generation' and a World War II veteran. Church, sports, education, and hard work were important values in the Briggs household for my two brothers (Bob and Russ) and sister Darlene. Sunday was church at the Globe Congregational Church in Woonsocket. If my dad had Red Sox, Celtics, or Patriot tickets, we went to church first. Church started at 11AM. We often arrived late to the game. Church always was priority #1. My father, acting as moderator, was instrumental in the joining of Globe with SCC in 1974, and also with the addition of Globe Hall in 1988.

He said to me often: "How would you feel being a church member and never being asked to serve on a committee or read Scripture. If you're asked, your answer should be - thank you for asking. How can I help?"

He worked for many years at Owen Corning Fiberglass in Ashton in the Planning Department often attending college classes at URI after working all day. His example certainly inspired all of his children to graduate from college. My dear mother passed in 1984. My dad lived another 21 years missing the love of his life. He did live to see his beloved Red Sox break the curse in 2004. Attending church every Sunday was very important to him until failing health made it impossible. We were blessed to have such a wonderful role model for a father!

Our Father - George Briggs

BY HEATHER MOSCA, HEIDI CLEMENS, & HOLLY ALLAN
(The Briggs Girls)



Our father, George Briggs, has touched the lives of so many people - from his students, to his athletes, to his fellow parishioners. To us, he's "Dad" and we're so extremely grateful that he's ours. From a young age he taught us the value of hard work by waking up at 5am to drive us on a paper route and instilled in us the importance and value of an education. He taught us that attitude is everything and how to give back to the community and always be

willing to lend a hand to those in need. From young ages, we saw him sell candy bars from his classroom to help buy shoes for his athletes that couldn't afford them.

We often joke about his thriftiness, how he had a coupon for everything, or the fact that we took advantage of kids under 12 eat free deals for many years. However, he taught us not to focus on material things and that happiness comes from doing what you love and surrounding yourself with those you love. (Even at the age of 77, he's still out there working multiple jobs by running exercise groups for the seniors of Woonsocket, still coaching athletes in Smithfield, and volunteering any chance he gets.)

Thank you, Dad for continuing to teach us life lessons well into our adult years and now to your grandchildren. But most of all, thank you for always letting us know how proud you were of each one of us!

BY STACEY MARCHAND, GEORGE'S STEPDAUGHTER

I am most grateful to have George as my stepfather. He has proven what a man, a father, should be through his morals and values he possesses. He is, by far, a most dependable and responsible father with an absolute pristine work ethic.

I remember, years ago, when George and one of his colleagues chaperoned a class trip overseas. Had he not convinced my mother I would be safe, I would've missed out on the opportunity of a lifetime. He opened my eyes to a world of possibilities and for this, I am thankful. Happy Father's Day!

Summer Happenings...

Summer Special Music

BY JOHN STAPLES

The Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir are taking a well deserved break for the summer. That means we need YOU! If you'd like to provide Special Music during our morning Worship Services during the summer, please contact John Staples or Martha Hunt.

If you play an instrument or sing why not make a joyful noise unto the Lord? Consider sharing your talents with your church family.

Scholarship Deadline - June 30th!

The Globe Church-Ballou Fund Scholarship applications are in and available (for students who have been accepted and enrolled in an accredited institution beyond secondary level and who are working towards a certificate or diploma). The applications are in the back of the church. Don't let anyone you know, miss out on this opportunity! Deadline is June 30th!



S.C.C.
TRIVIA NIGHT
Sat. June 10th 6pm
Cost: Free Will Offering
Email or call the office to sign up!
Dinner: Lasagna (veggie and GF opt. available), Dessert, & Rootbeer Floats
Each table will compete! Winners will be featured on the Wall of Fame with bragging rights!!
Slatersville Congregational Church
401-769-2773
slatersvillechurch@gmail.com
Slatersvillechurch.org



Celebration of
MUSIC
A very special Sunday service honoring our talented musicians, with performances by the Senior Choir, the Handbell Choir, a guest violinist, and a noteworthy children's message!
John Staples, Music Director
Jill Boday, Handbell Director
Rev. Korte Yoo, Bridge Minister
Slatersville Congregational Church
SLATERSVILLECHURCH.ORG
JUNE 11 2023 10AM



Reflection on the Common
an evening prayer
Friends and neighbors:
Join us to close the day with a non-denominational simple faith practice of prayer and music.
Every **Wednesday from 6-6:30pm**, starting May 31 through the end of August.
Outside on the Common (it will move inside if raining.)
Slatersville Congregational Church
401-769-2773 - slatersvillechurch@gmail.com



Slatersville Congregational Church
Vacation Bible School
It's Back! Save the Date!
July 10-14, 2023
9:00am - 12:00pm
FREE for all participants!!
Scan for our "Interest Form"
KIDS WILL ENJOY A FREE WEEK OF ACTIVITIES, GAMES, AND MUSIC TO LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE IN A NON-DENOMINATIONAL SETTING.
ALSO LOOKING FOR TEEN AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS!
For more information:
www.slatersvillechurch.org
slatersvillechurch@gmail.com
401-769-2773



OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS



...are with Rick Harrell's friend, Larry Thienel who is having heart bypass surgery June 16.

...are with Diane's mother-in-law, Pearl, as she enters hospice care.

...are with Janet's brother-in-law who has been hospitalized with a blood disease. Pray that they can find the cause.

...are with the people in Guam who are facing devastation after a typhoon.

...are with three-year-old Julian who is in the NICU with a lung disease. His parents, Sam and Chris, are not able to even touch him. A prayer shawl was blessed and taken to them by Tamara.

...with joy that Mary Stelle is back in church. The prayers for her recovery are appreciated.

...with joy that we are in good hands for the future with such a wonderful group of Confirmands.

...with gratitude for the prayer shawl ministry and the inspiration it gives to others.

Fundraising News

BY JEAN MEO

Many thanks to all who helped make our Yard and Flower Sale such a success! We made about \$1700 and the credit goes to all those who donated “treasures” and especially to the volunteers who sorted and organized, set up and cleaned up, and gave of their time to be there. Hats off to you! Special thanks to John Emin of Seven Cedars Farm in Smithfield for the beautiful plants and flowers that were such a big part of our success! The flowers are gorgeous and the tomatoes are delicious!! Our Mother's Day Breakfast was a hit as well. Again, our thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to the Kitchen Crew!

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US on Saturday, June 10th, for Trivia Night #2. The fun starts at 6 PM with lasagna and all the fixings on the menu. Cost is a free will offering. Come, bring a friend, join the fun and enjoy the competition and the laughs! Happy Summer!

Pastoral Search Update

BY TAMARA SYLVESTRE

Hi everyone. I hope you have all been enjoying the spring. I have not been in church much because of lots of soccer but my heart is still with you even when I am not there in person. The Pastoral Search Committee continues to be working on behalf of the congregation to find a settle minister. We have had a couple of candidates that we really felt would be a good fit, but both went with other churches. Profiles continue to trickle in. There are a lot of churches looking for pastors right now and not many candidates. It is hard for the committee to be patient during this process when we have the details of what is going on; but we recognize that it is even more challenging to be waiting without knowing any specifics. Know we feel your stress and concern for our future. We are grateful that Rev. Korte has agreed to provide us with pulpit supply through the summer while we explore candidates who are looking for settled positions. It is a special calling to be willing to step in and guide a church with limited background knowledge of our church family. We are also grateful for your ongoing prayers for the committee while we move forward. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the committee. We will share what we are able to.