

OCTOBER 2023

ON THE COMMON

Newsletter of Slatersville Congregational Church

The Canvas of Autumn

Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall are God's seasons. I have always been a big fan of Summer and Spring and not too fond of Fall and Winter. But lately I have changed. I think it is something about those leaves of red, orange, yellow, and burgundy that fall from the trees. I feel as if I have noticed them for the very first time.

I like taking a ride and watching people setting out pumpkins in the yard with hay bales and planting mums in the yard. I am looking forward to getting some lavender and yellow mums myself for my yard and a few pumpkins.

The other day, one of my friends and I went to visit a friend who has been ill, and in her neighborhood, we noticed many yards decorated for fall. I don't remember seeing this too much in the past. Have I missed this season all these years, or is it just that as I get older I appreciate God's world just a little more?

The latter is what I concluded. The Bible says, "This is day that the Lord hath made, and I will rejoice in it." Each day He has given me beauty to enjoy, so I think I should sit back and take in this glorious creation.

God is the best artist in the world, for only He can create such different themes. We see many artists that try to capture the seasons on their canvases by painting what they see around them, and they do a wonderful job.

(Continued)...

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Ruth Mills, Clerk
Jean Meo, Financial Clerk
Margaret Hanoian, Treasurer

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John Staples, Director of Music
Jill Boday, Handbell Choir
Hope Paul, Nursery Attendant
Donna Myers, Administrator
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, Christian 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

The Canvas of Autumn ... (Cont.)

However, neither picture nor paint could ever replace the real thing splashed across the sky and spilled over the earth like the Master's display of His finest artwork. God's creativity is unmatched, for every day is different, just like every snowflake in winter.

When people say there is no God, I know they do not see with eyes like mine. They must see a plain, white canvas or a black drop cloth and not the blue skies that fade into light pink in the evening. Nor do they see the flowers that no paint on any artist's palate could attempt to match or the trees that were each given a certain color leaf to change into when autumn arrives. 'No God,' they say. It is just that they do not know the Master of the seasons, the One who has created such magnificent displays of perfect art.

Instead of always looking forward to the Summer and Springtime, I have decided to enjoy the Master's Autumn masterpiece for the rest of my life

Psalm 147 4, 8, 16-18 (NIV)

4 He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.
8 He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.
16 He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.
17 He hurls down his hail like pebbles.
Who can withstand his icy blast?
18 He sends his word and melts them;
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

Credit - Online Devotional
By Cathy Irvin, 2022

Community Missions Saturday a Success!

BY MARGARET HANOIAN

September 30 was a great day for our church! Twelve people gathered in Globe Hall to assemble 91 Blessing Bags. Blessing Bags are Ziploc bags filled with food, toiletries, and a blessing card. Anyone in the congregation may distribute to those in need. In the past, Blessing Bags have been given out in parks, on street corners, and in shelters. Giving out a Blessing Bag is a blessing for both the giver and the recipient.

After enjoying Gretchen's delicious oatmeal muffins and pumpkin bread, the group started the bag assembly line. Everything had been set up earlier in the week by Missions Committee members Gretchen, Alison, and Teri. This made it easy -- the supplies were organized into neat piles, along with instructions, such as "2 Granola Bars". We started off slowly (except for speedy Martha!), but then got into a steady rhythm. We finished it all by 9:30!

Then we were off to Woonsocket to participate in the Community Care Alliance's Annual Shelter Walk. For over three decades, this inspiring event has been a poignant declaration of community spirit and solidarity against homelessness. This year, our church was a sponsor of this event. There was a short speaking program, and then our group joined about 50 other people to "walk a mile in their shoes".

"It was fun to work together and an easy way to help people who are less fortunate. We were relieved when it didn't rain. Then there was the sobering reality that the homeless are outside in all kinds of weather", said Ruth Mills.

Chris Bonas added, "Simply put ... not only was the Blessing Bags/Shelter Walk a great cause to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless, it gave me the opportunity to get connected with other members of the congregation!"



Thanks to all who participated in these events: Christine, Gretchen, Helen, Jan, Jim, Joan, Marcia, Margaret, Martha, Matt, Richard, Ruth, and Sandi!



Missions Moment

BY ALISON PEIRCE

In response to the devastating news of earthquakes across Morocco's mountainous region, the Missions Committee decided to donate \$500 to World Central Kitchen. The WCK's Relief Team was on the ground within hours, using helicopters and 4X4 vehicles to pinpoint hard-hit communities in need of relief. They are providing sandwiches, fruit, and water to offer immediate support and will coordinate with their team in Spain to bring food trucks and kitchen equipment to Morocco so they can begin cooking fresh meals for those in desperate need.

The Missions Committee so enjoyed helping the church create Blessing Bags for the homeless in our community on September 30th during Slatersville Congregational Church's Community Missions Saturday. Our goal was to create 50-75 bags and want to thank all of you for your kind donations that made this Missions project possible. Any needed items to complete the Blessing Bags were funded by the Missions Fund, which is made possible by all of you and your continuing generosity.

Spotlight: Pins & Needles

BY ALISON PEIRCE

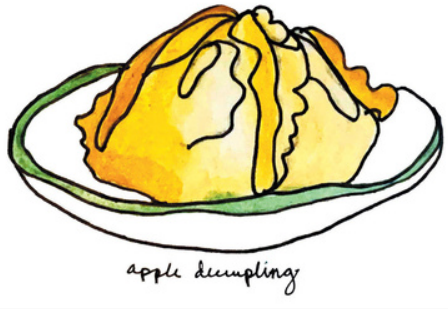
Knit (or Crochet) Your Love and Prayers into a Prayer Shawl!

A prayer shawl is a wearable hug crafted with love and intent by the Pins and Needles group for anyone in need of comfort. When a prayer shawl is prayed over in our Sanctuary and then given to someone in need, it goes with the Congregation's healing prayers and God's love. This ministry has been a part of our church fabric for many years and the need is still great, but our shawl supply is dwindling and we need your help!

If you have any level of knitting or crocheting skills, please reach out to Gretchen Westhoven, Alison Peirce, or Joan Bissonnette. Or join us each Thursday afternoon at 1:00 PM for an hour of knitting, instructional help, laughter, and sharing. We have yarn available along with easy-to-follow instructions.



Pins & Needles group members pictured:
Joan Bissonnette, Marilyn Darling, Alison Peirce
Not Pictured: Gretchen Westhoven, Diana Jackson



Apple Dumpling Gang and Pumpkin Fest!

BY JEAN MEO

Pumpkin Fest 2023 is over and it was very successful. We made around \$900, sold 105 apple dumplings, 33 whole pizzas, and quite a few ice cream sundaes. We were very pleased with the positive comments as our reputation and tradition of the apple dumplings continues! The bonus was a beautiful fall day after the date was changed due to the predicted effects of Hurricane Lee.

The Apple Dumpling Gang (kitchen crew) on Saturday was terrific. The apples were peeled and cored, the dough was rolled, and the apples were baking within a couple of hours. The kitchen and Globe Hall smelled delicious! The Gang outdid themselves as usual and realized (we hope!) the FUN part of Fundraising as they worked so diligently!!

We could not have done it without all the help we received both Saturday and Sunday in so many different ways – peeling, coring, rolling dough, setting up our booths, selling our goodies, cleaning up. A huge Thank You to everyone who participated and helped out. Our success is due to your efforts and we appreciate your willingness to show up! It takes a village – and you made it all happen!



ON THE COMMON



October Happenings...

Apple Sunday-October 15th

It's time for Sunday school!!

Apple Sunday is October 15th. Come hear how stolen apples led to our historic Sunday School's beginning. Little Bobby Meo and friends will tell the story.

After Church join us for a pot luck lunch on the common. (Inside if bad weather) Bring a dish to share!

Our first Sunday School class will be held on October 15!



NS Food Pantry - October

The dates for October's food pantry are:

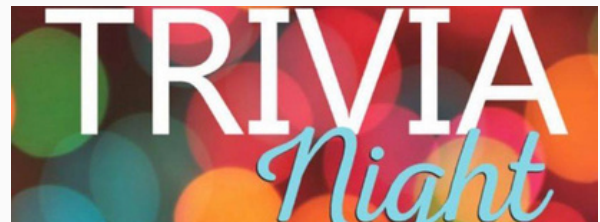
Tuesday the 24th @ 5:30pm
Saturday the 21st @ 10am
Tuesday the 31st @ 5:30pm and
Saturday the 28th @ 10am

We are asking for Cereal, Tuna and Baked Beans

Sunday School Returns



Trivia Night is Back - October 28th!



Join us for Trivia Night Saturday, October 28th at 6:00pm. We'll start off with a delicious Harvest themed meal together, then jump into the trivia battle to dethrone "Helen's Kids!" Free Will Offering in benefit of new Choir Robes. Sign up in Globe Hall!

Folding Chairs Giveaway...

SCC is giving away our folding chairs! If you would like some for yourself or know of an organization which could utilize them, please take some from the closet in Globe Hall. Feel free to touch base with Rick Stelle with any questions.