



Greensboro Gleanings

September 2017

From the pastor's desk ...

Dear Friends,

Recently, the Deacons and I have been discussing worship: why we worship, how worship helps us to open ourselves to experience God's presence, how it moves us to greater compassion, how it sends us out to serve in the world. In our summer book study book, *The Heart of Christianity*, the author, New Testament scholar Marcus Borg, writes of "thin places," a concept from Celtic Christianity:

"Thin places" has its home in a particular way of thinking about God. Deeply rooted in the Bible and the Christian tradition, this way of thinking sees God, "the More," as the encompassing Spirit in which everything is. God is not somewhere else, but "right here." . . . This way of thinking thus affirms that there are minimally two layers or dimensions of reality, the visible world of our ordinary experience and God, the sacred, Spirit. . . . "Thin places" are places where these two levels of reality meet or intersect. They are places where the boundary between the two levels becomes very soft, porous, permeable. Thin places are places where the veil momentarily lifts, and we behold God, experience the one in whom we live, all around us and within us.

Borg states that worship can become a thin place, and he details how this can happen through any and all of the various elements of a worship service. He begins, though, with music, saying, *The primary role of music within worship, whether performance or participatory, is to become a thin place.* He goes on to say, *More Protestants report being moved by hymn singing than by any other element of the service.*

I agree with Borg that music can be a thin place in worship. I've experienced this many times, and have had many people, in the churches I've served, say that music is often the most moving part of a service for them. This church is especially blessed by its excellent acoustics, such that, even on those stormy winter Sundays when our numbers are small, our voices still fill the sanctuary with a rich and joyful noise.

With this in mind, I'd like to tell you about an upcoming opportunity to sing some of the grand hymns of the church and to learn something about the history of Christian hymnody. On September 17th, Greensboro UCC will be visited by ten hymn writers, from Bishop Ambrose of Milan, of the 4th century, C.E., to Sydney Carter, of the 20th century. They will tell us a little bit about themselves, and what prompted them to write their hymns, and then invite us to sing the hymns. These are hymns that have been well-known and well-loved in our tradition, and it is fascinating to learn how they came to be.

I hope that you will come and join your voice to the creating of a thin place in our worship, on the 17th, through the beauty of timeless sacred music.

*Yours in Christ,
Rona*

THANK YOU



September Ushers and Greeters

Sept. 3 — Judy & Roger Waible
 Sept. 10 — Dianne & Dan Predpall
 Sept. 17 — Rick & Jackie Lovett
 Sept. 24 — Patti Foster &
 Andy Dales



September Coffee Hour Hosts

Sept. 3 — Lucy Keefe
 Sept. 10 — Roger & Judy Waible
 Sept. 17 — Nancy Hill
 Sept. 24 — Alden & Patty Launer

GUCC MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to love as Jesus loved, caring for others and joyfully serving God, our community, and the world.

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September 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sundays 8:30am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall 10:00am Worship Service Sanctuary	10-11am Mondays & Wednesdays Growing Stronger Fellowship Hall	12pm Global Campus Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall			1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY	5 12pm Global Campus Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	6 4:30pm Mission Board Parsonage	7 8:30am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	8	9
10	11	12 12pm Global Campus Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	13 1:30pm Deacons Meet Parsonage 4:30pm Meditation Pastor's Study	14 8:30am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	15	16
17 Rev. Kinsley On Vacation Following Service. She returns October 3	18	19 12pm Global Campus Fellowship Hall 12pm Global Campus Fellowship Hall	20 7:00pm Trustees Meet Parsonage	21 8:30am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	22	23 3:00-5:00p.m. Pastor Candidate Meet-and-Greet Reception Fellowship Hall
24 Pastor Candidate To lead Service Acceptance Vote follows immediately	25	26 12pm Global Campus Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	27 6:30pm Church Board Parsonage	28 8:30am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Pilates Fellowship Hall	29	30

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has selected a candidate to be considered by our congregation as our settled pastor. We had the opportunity to interview him, share meals, and hear him preach a few weeks ago. He met and exceeded everything for which we have been searching and hoping and praying. His social, theological, and leadership qualities show confidence, compassion, competence and spiritual maturity.

He and his wife will be in Greensboro the weekend of Saturday, September 23rd and Sunday, September 24th. On Saturday, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, our Deacons are planning a meet-and-greet reception to allow the candidate, his wife, and congregation to share conversation in a casual setting. There will be a question and answer session immediately following light refreshments.

On Sunday our candidate will lead us in worship during our regular church service. After worship the congregation will vote on accepting him as our settled pastor. PLEASE BE THERE IF YOU CAN. Our prayer is not answered until you say AMEN!

Your prayers have sustained and brought us to this crucial juncture. Your continued prayers are crucial to this decision that helps determine the health and well-being of our congregation.

Please feel free to contact any of the Search Committee members with questions or suggestions. The committee members are Susan Coffey, Nancy Hill, Shelly Jungwirth, Jeff Pierpont, Janet Travers, Roger Waible, and John Hewett.

Roger Waible
Chair

MILESTONES

Happy SEPTEMBER Birthday to

Vivian Acheson Koch, Beth Belote, Penny Bretschneider, Bruce Buckley, Chelsea Collier, Philip Cook, Paul Fixx, Ken Hall Jr., Lisa Hewett, Tony Hinds, Alden Launer, Nathaniel Launer, Janice Leonard, Sally Lonegren, Andrew Meyer, Tim Nisbet, Susan Rankin, and Doug Steimle. **And a Happy Anniversary** to Alden and Patty Launer; Martha and Bill Niemi; and Clarence and Lorelei Wheeler.

Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed.



THE MUSIC CORNER



With September here, our music ministry continues with our mission to *Serve God Through Music*. Here are our offerings for the beginning of Autumn which is my favorite season:

Sept. — Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612) composed sacred motets that are timeless. Our anthem today, *Dixit Maria*, was written in 1591 during the Renaissance period of music when motets were the rock music of the time. With the text from *Luke 1:38*, “Gabriel came to Mary the blessed one, and Mary in silence heard the message of God,” we will sing it in Latin in a moderate tempo with all four voices rejoicing in the message.

Sept. 17 — We are delighted to help lead the singing in today’s hymn festival. The selections that are included are some old favorites: *Of the Father’s Love Begotten, A Mighty Fortress in Our God, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, Now Thank We All Our God, Blessed Assurance, Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, Shall We Gather at the River*, and several others. It will be fascinating to hear the background of each hymn as it came to be from each “composer.”

Sept. 24 — For this important service we have chosen the joyful anthem *In Every Land Begin the Song* by Paul Williams and Joseph Martin. Although this contemporary piece was originally written for the Christmas Cantata, *Canticle of Joy*, the text of this upbeat, brisk musical offering is appropriate any day of the year: “Love transcending, never ending, love excelling, never failing....”.

The prelude and postlude will be performed by our early music consort which will feature *La Matignon (Op 33, 1731)* by Joseph Bodin de Boismortier. Musicians are Gina and Sonia on recorders, Tom on Gamba and Hal at the harpsichord. We are grateful to Sonia who, while in Boston, shops at Early Music shops and brings home delightful pieces of music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods of music. We are also thankful that she has begun to help maintain our very delicate harpsichord as Peter Fisk, our technician, has moved from the area.

Hal Parker
Music Director



NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

Sept. 3 ~Exodus 3:1-15 • Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b OR
~Jeremiah 15:15-21 • Psalm 26:1-8 ~Romans 12:9-21
~Matthew 16:21-28

Sept. 10 ~Exodus 12:1-14 • Psalm 149 OR Ezekiel 33:7-
11 • Psalm 119:33-40 ~Romans 13:8-14 ~Matthew
18:15-20

Sept. 17 ~Exodus 14:19-31 • ~Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-
11, 20-21 OR ~Genesis 50:15-21 • ~Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-
13 ~Romans 14:1-12 ~Matthew 18:21-35

Sept. 24 ~Exodus 16:2-15 • Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 OR Jo-
nah 3:104:11 • Psalm 145:1-8 ~Philippians 1:21-30
~Matthew 20:1-16

FROM THE MISSION BOARD

Thank you to all who donated to the summer mission opportunities. We appreciate the donations made to Church World Service School Kits and dictionaries purchased for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program.

The Greensboro UCC's Annual SERRV Sale will be happening at the church on Saturday, November 18th. Please mark that date on your calendar and plan to attend. The Mission Board is looking for volunteers to help coordinate additional vendors and food donations. Please contact Cathy Pollard at cathyand-coreypollard@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with these tasks.

Recently I was asked by a summer resident why we did not do a SERRV Sale in the summer anymore. The answer I gave was that the SERRV Consignment catalog is now only available in the fall. For those who are unable to attend our sale in person and wish to order from the SERRV catalog – there is a link online that you can use to place orders and have it delivered directly to you. You can link to it by typing in www.serrv.org/.

Cathy Pollard
Chair

WARNING

There will be a congregational meeting of the Greensboro United Church of Christ on Sunday, September 24, 2017 immediately following morning services in order to decide on a new settled pastor. Please make plans to attend the service that morning to hear the pastor and remain afterward for the meeting.

Harold Gray, Clerk