

PROCLAIM



Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! - 1 Chronicles 16:24

A Newsletter of Christ Chapel | Issue 28, Volume 1

December 28, 2007

FROM THE PASTOR



Rev. Paul Beck
Senior Pastor

Exceeding Expectations

One of the secrets behind any effective church (and for that matter any well-lived life) is persistent prayer. C. H. Spurgeon, the great London preacher of the 19th century, was once

asked by guests from America, “What was the secret to the success of his ministry?” When the worship service concluded he took them into the church basement where there were hundreds of people praying.

Prayerlessness is often found in the life of a believer, but it can also pervade a church. Samuel, the prophet and judge of Israel, knew that his failure to pray was a sin. He once said to King Saul, “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you” (2 Samuel 12:23). We sin against the Lord when we fail to pray for others.

What happens when a church really prays? Prayer changes people because God changes us and conforms us to His image when we pray. Prayer also changes

churches. So the issue is quite simple: do we believe that great things happen when churches pray? In Acts 12 we find a powerful account that is a reminder that something happens when the church begins to pray. At this time the church was passing through a period of persecution. Herod was killing the apostles and was seeking even more blood. He killed James and now he was on the prowl for Peter. Herod dumps him into prison. The church responded by coming together in the face of this emergency to pray. “So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church” (12:5).



Photo: Geri-Jean - S1kxchg.com

“What happens when a church really prays?”

One evening while Peter is in his cell an angel comes to him, stirs him from his sleep and sets him free. As he makes his escape, the iron gates yield to the power of God. Peter arrives at the home where the church is praying and he knocks on the door. A servant girl named Rhoda answers. She's in such shock she forgets to invite him in but runs back to the others announcing that Peter is at the door! They dismiss her wild imagination saying, “No, it can't be. It must be his spirit or his angel!”

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Rev. Thomas Crumb
Worship Pastor

WORSHIP NOTES

Remembering the Church Year

There is an important dimension that shapes much of our corporate worship throughout the year about which I think many Protestant

Christians are largely unaware. That "underpinning" or "integrating center" is known as "the church year." Historically, Protestant Christians look to Scripture for directives about Biblical worship.

Rejecting church tradition as an inadequate source for worship and theology, the Reformers sought to remove from liturgy and from the sanctuary all objects or practices that were not seen as rooted in the Word. The church calendar, crowded as it was around 1517 with hun-

dreds of saints' days and special observances, was one of the first to go. While Lutherans and Anglicans retained a basic outline of the church year, churches in the Reformed tradition generally rejected everything but weekly Sabbath celebrations, Easter, and Pentecost. Some churches in the Anabaptist tradition rejected everything but Sunday worship. Being as we are, an inter-denominational church, it behooves us to find common ground somewhere in the middle of these distinct traditions.

By rejecting the church year, early leaders within Protestantism lost a powerful framework for telling the gospel story. Soon new frameworks were introduced to guide the systematic preaching of the good news. In the Reformed churches, the Heidelberg Catechism (handily divided into 52 Lord's Days), provided an alternative to the feasts and fasts of the church year.

Very few churches today rely entirely on the catechism to shape the telling of the gospel story throughout the year, and this may well explain why many churches — even those that don't use the church year — typically celebrate seasonal festivals: Thanksgiving

Day, Mother's Day, July 4th, Memorial or Veterans Day, Labor Day and the like. We often fail to note the ways in which these cultural festivals have found their way into "unofficial" church calendars, even as some of us might resist the official church year as being "too high church."

Today, pared down to the essential observances of Christ's life, one might make the case that the church year is a healthy counterbalance to the round of consumerist cultural holidays that have crept into our worship. Like the Heidelberg Catechism, it knits together Scripture around an organizational framework. While the heart of the Heidelberg is structured by the Apostles' Creed, the

Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer, the church year is structured by the life of Christ. The church year points us in a profoundly Biblical way to a God who works in and through time for our salvation and for the consummation of history.

We have just passed through what is the beginning of the church year as the four weeks of Advent constitute the first season in its cycle. Because the spine of the church year is the life of Christ, it is appropriate that the calendar opens with this time of preparation and waiting for the arrival of the incarnate God. The Christmas cycle as a whole, (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany), is however, a relative latecomer in the development of the church year. While Sunday celebrations go back to the apostolic era, and Easter itself to the Jewish feast of Passover, the Christmas cycle came into being gradually. Advent, as a season for preparation and fasting, was probably practiced in the Eastern church from the mid-fifth century, and was formally inscribed into the Western calendar by Pope Gregory the Great by the end of the sixth century.

~ Continued Page 5 ~



Photo: Gail Jean - Shutterstock.com

“The church year points us in a profoundly Biblical way to a God who works in and through time for our salvation and for the consummation of history.”





Pete Axelson
Youth Pastor

YOUTH NEWS

The Bugaboo of Humility

Since I have such an amazing capacity to be humble, I thought I might bestow my wisdom to those fortunate enough to read this column so

etc.? This sort of response immediately tells me I still have some work to do at being humble. Thank God for the example of Jesus that Paul goes on to give.

Alright, just three more verses. "Who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with

God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (vs. 6 - 8).

Wow! You don't get a much better example of humility, service, and sacrifice than that. There he was, the Lord coming to earth in the form of a man, and willing to be a humble servant making the ultimate sacrifice for all of mankind.

I know I haven't arrived spiritually speaking, and I have lots to work on, but one of the specific things I sense God is challenging me to in 2008 is greater humility.

What about you? Are you humble in your parenting style, or do you provoke your kids to anger (Eph. 6:4). How are you doing at really serving your spouse? How do you handle instruction from your boss? I could go on and on, but I can only handle so much conviction at once. Anyway, with God's help, being more humble is something I'm going to work on. Maybe in a couple of months I can do a follow up column on how good I've been doing.

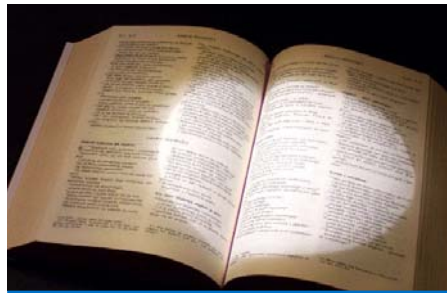
Oops! Never mind.

that all of you may benefit from my vast wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of humility. Obviously that was a joke. That kind of attitude reminds me of that song we used to sing as kids; "Oh Lord it's hard to be humble, when your perfect in every way." I can't wait to look in the mirror; I get better looking each day. To know me is to love me, I must be one heck of a guy. Oh Lord it's hard to be humble, but you've gotta know that I try."

Why all the musing about humility, you may ask? It's just something I was reading about recently; reading about Christ's example of humility in Philippians chapter 2 that is. And, unlike the intro to this column, through Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul gives us a superb example. The whole passage is so challenging and inspiring, but for the sake of space, allow me to focus on just two verses.

"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3 & 4).

Do you know what first jumps into my mind when I read the words "count others more significant than yourselves?" What if they aren't? What if I work harder than them, am more motivated than them, have a higher level of integrity than them etc., etc.,



"Do you know what first jumps into my mind when I read the words 'count others more significant than yourselves?'"

MANAGING YOUR EMOTIONS: Adult Sunday School Class Begins January 6

Emotions can be troubling, frustrating, and untrustworthy. Yet emotions play an important and complex role in our lives; they are deeply entwined with what we believe to be facts and what we have faith in.

God created us to experience emotions, yet there are still godly and ungodly ways to manage them.

In this 12 week series, we will be looking at Psalms in order to learn how to manage our emotions. Pastor Thomas will share instructive material from the Psalms, followed with time for discussion and class interaction.



Help in the Neighborhood!

Yes, right here in our neighborhood, a woman and/or her partner can find the assistance needed in dealing with the distress of an unplanned pregnancy. Such a woman faces many pressures both internal and external and is often sitting in the same pew we occupy at church, yet she is unable to reach out to those she knows for help. We at *A Woman's Concern*, located at 48 Camp Street in Hyannis, use a combination of licensed professionals, trained staff, and volunteers to come alongside each client with neighborly love and practical support. Our services are free and confidential.

We are building a healthy community for life through four initiatives: intervention, prevention, preparation, and restoration. Services ranging from pregnancy testing, diagnostic ultrasound, options counseling, sexual integrity education, parenting classes, mentoring birth fathers, referral networking in the community, and post-abortive Bible studies enable women and couples to make healthy decisions concerning themselves and their pre-born babies.

Here in Hyannis, we are only one of the six centers called *A Woman's Concern* located throughout the greater Boston community, South Coast and North Shore. Our administrative offices and Brookline Center have recently relocated to 1105 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston where we've begun to more effectively serve the university population. Locally, we have welcomed a new director, Elizabeth McHugh, who brings much needed energy to make us known Cape wide.

Because we are a non-profit Christian ministry, we depend totally on the gifts of friends and churches like Christ Chapel. In September, many of you got involved in our fund raising banquet held at the Cape Codder. Between underwriting and gifts, \$45,626 was raised - the most ever for this annual event here on the Cape. We praise God and thank those of you who participated in so many different ways for your generous outpouring.

If you are new to Christ Chapel or didn't have an opportunity to attend the banquet, we hope you will be on the lookout for the **Baby Bottle campaign to begin on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 20, 2008.** Just take a baby bottle which will be located in baskets by the doors as you exit the church and fill them with your loose change and then return them when full. It's a great way to get your family tangibly involved in healthy life choices!

In addition, we hope you will stop by our center on Camp Street in Hyannis. Our usual hours are 9 -5 Mondays through Thursdays. Someone is always on hand to give you a personal tour through our facility and answer any questions you may have. And for those who need us, remember - there is help in the neighborhood!

~ Marcia Duncan



A Women's Concern

**Baby Bottle Campaign
begins on Sanctity of
Human Life Sunday,
January 20, 2008**



Epiphany Event: Three King's Day

Cape Cod Opera's presentation of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* will feature our own Pastor Thomas in the role of Melchior, one of the three wise men.

This fully staged, English presentation of Menotti's opera will take place at Christ Chapel on Saturday, January 5th at 3:00 p.m. This wonderful opera will

**Cape Cod Opera
presents**

Amahl and the Night Visitors

**Christ Chapel
Saturday, January 5th
3:00 p.m.**

delight the whole family and celebrates the journey of the three wise men to Bethlehem to greet the newborn King.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth 18 and under. Call 508-246-0039 for credit card orders; for more information call 508-945-9274

JANUARY SERMONS

JANUARY 6
*New Series: Walking in
Wisdom Toward Outsiders*
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS
1 Thessalonians 4:12

SUNDAY @ 6

JANUARY 13
*Walking in Wisdom
Toward Outsiders*
IMITATE GOD
Ephesians 5:1-20

SUNDAY @ 6

JANUARY 20
*Walking in Wisdom
Toward Outsiders*
AVOID HYPOCRISY
Romans 2:17-29

SUNDAY @ 6

JANUARY 27
*Walking in Wisdom
Toward Outsiders*
STOP JUDGING
1 Corinthians 5:1-13

No Evening Service

SEVERE WEATHER SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

*In the case of heavy snow,
please check any of the
following media to see if
Sunday morning services
have been cancelled.*

TV Channels 4, 5, 7 & 56
WBZ NewsRadio 1030
WRKO 680 AM, WQRC
www.whdh.com/stormforce

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WINTER STORM CLOSING *Automatic Alerts on Your Cell Phone*

Would you like to be alerted on your cell phone if Christ Chapel will be closed for services on a Sunday morning or if other meetings have been cancelled because of inclement weather?

If the answer is yes, please sign up for **7 NEWS - WRKO's** new "Closing Bell on Your Cell" service!

Its easy...

1. Go to **www.whdh.com**
2. Click on **Closing Bell on Your Cell**
3. Type in your cell phone number and select the name of your carrier
4. In the **Search for Schools, Institutions or City** box
- type in **Christ Chapel** under search
- select - **Any Type** - under type
5. In the **Search Results** box,
- click in the box next to **Christ Chapel/Centerville**
- push the **Add to my profile** button
6. In the **Settings** box,
- change the earliest & latest times to receive calls unless the default settings are acceptable.
- push the **Save Changes** button
7. Check to make sure **Christ Chapel** has been added to the **Closings** box at the bottom of the page.

Feel free to search for other schools or institutions and add them to your profile so that you will receive notification on your cell phone if those facilities are closed as well.

WORSHIP NOTES - CONTINUED

Remembering the Church Year ~ *Continued from page 2~*

In the Western church, Christmas, or "Christ's Mass" became the central festival for the incarnation. This was celebrated in Rome by the early fourth century. In the Eastern church, Epiphany emerged as the central festival of the incarnation, a celebration of the ways in which Christ is "God in flesh made manifest." As the church liturgy and hierarchy were systematized between East and West, the two festivals - "Christ's Mass" and Epiphany - were joined, resulting in a Christmas season that encompasses the twelve days between December 25 to January 6 (hence the "Twelve Days of Christmas"). This became the season for celebrating the central mystery of the incarnation.

Epiphany highlights Christ's manifestation to us: the revelation of Christ to the magi, Simeon and Anna acknowledging Christ as the long-awaited Messiah, Christ's temptation in the wilderness, his baptism in the Jordan, the opening of his public ministry at Cana, and the calling of the disciples. Christ's transfiguration is generally celebrated on the last Sunday of the season: the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The season as a whole calls us to see Christ as our model for mission and witness. Taken together, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are a deep testament to our profound longing to see "Christ with us." Taking these seasons seriously can give us fresh eyes to see the Word revealed in Scripture and see Christ manifest in the work of the church.

In our February issue we will consider the next big season of the church year: Lent, Holy Week, and Easter and see how they function together to guide our continued focus on Christ's life and work among us.



Exceeding Expectations

~ Continued from page 1 ~

I love this story because it tells us that great things happen when a church prays - even when the church doesn't think much can happen when it prays. Obstacles that we think are immovable dissolve before our eyes. Barriers we once felt were there forever melt before the power of God in answer to prayer. Supernatural things happen when we pray. The Moravians understood the power of prayer. In August 1727 they began a prayer meeting in Hernhut in Saxony, Germany. Their prayer meeting was revived and it triggered a 100 year continuous prayer meeting. Adults agreed to pray 24 hours of every day, and this pattern lasted for the next one hundred years!

When Peter was finally permitted to enter we are told, "But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, 'Tell these things to James and to the brothers.' Then he departed and went to another place." When we pray surprising things happen even when we don't expect them. God exceeds our expectations when we pray.

This passage teaches us several lessons about prayer. First, God answers genuine prayer. It may be difficult for us to know when we're hearing an effective prayer or not because we are unable to look into people's hearts. But God knows when He hears genuine prayer and He always responds. Secondly, in verse 5, Luke tells us their prayer was also earnest. Literally translated the word means, 'stretched-outedly.' That's not a word in English, but it still makes sense. As they prayed they were stretching it out. Earnest prayer is persevering prayer.

I believe God answers personal prayer, but I believe God's power is present when the church gathers to pray and is united in its spiritual aspirations. God moves among His church when we dare to fall on our knees and ask for what only He can provide.

There is one more lesson we can learn from this passage. When the church prayed, their prayer was specific. James once said, "You have not because you ask not" - and the sense of that statement is - "because you did not ask specifically." We often do not get what we need because we haven't asked. On one occasion, D. L. Moody asked a man to open a meeting in prayer. As it sometimes happens the gentlemen

stood to his feet and he waffled, and waffled, and waffled. As he prayed he went all around the world trying to pray worthy prayer. Finally, Moody tugged the back of his coat and said, "Just call Him Father and ask for something."

We can be so complicated at times. However, all God desires is for us to come to Him like a little child and ask for something. Oswald J. Smith once wrote,

God promised He would answer prayer.

Well, then, His promise plead,

And come to Him in Jesus' name:

He lives to intercede!

Behold Him now at God's right-hand,

Our Savior, Christ the Lord.

O, trust Him in the darkest night,

Rely upon His word.

Our every need He will supply,

He hears us when we pray:

O, let us then our faith renew

And trust in God today.

It matters not how great the test,

God always makes a way -

Then let us take Him at His word:

He will not say us 'Nay'.

The hills before His presence melt,

The mountains disappear.

He answers prayer in Jesus' name,


Our cry He'll surely hear.

As 2008 begins I want to challenge you to make corporate and personal prayer a vital and dynamic discipline all year long. As you pray, believe that God's hands are never tied. Pray earnestly and persistently for the things He places on your heart - and be specific. May this year be full of the incredible blessing of watching God hear our prayers and answer them in ways beyond anything we could imagine.

Blessings for a Happy New Year,

Pastor Paul



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork</i> Psalm 19:1</p> <p>6 Morning Worship - 8:30 & 11 Sunday School - 9:45 am Sr. High Winter Retreat Boys Brigade - 5:45 pm Pioneer Girls - 5:45 pm Sunday @ 6 ◆ <i>Noah Driscoll</i></p>	<p>7 CPR - 3:45-5:00 pm Christain Ed - 7 pm</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day Office Closed</p> <p>8 Men's Bible Fellowship 7-8:30 am Mashpee Small Group - 7 pm Yarmouth Small Group - 7 pm Elders 7 pm Trustees - 7 pm</p>	<p>2 First Light Biblical Worldview Study - Falmouth - 6:30 am Jr. High League - 6:30-8 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Sr. High Winter Retreat Man to Man - 6 am</p>	<p>5 Cape Cod Opera: Amahl and the Night Visitors - 3 pm ◆ <i>Nancy Zarle</i></p>
<p>13 Morning Worship - 8:30 & 11 Sunday School - 9:45 am Sr. High Group - 5:30 pm Boys Brigade - 5:45 pm Pioneer Girls - 5:45 pm Sunday @ 6</p>	<p>14 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed 1st & 2nd Sandwich Small Groups - 6:45 pm</p>	<p>15 Men's Bible Fellowship 7-8:30 am Newsletter Submission Deadline Hyannis Small Group - 7 pm</p>	<p>16 First Light Biblical Worldview Study - Falmouth - 6:30 am Prayer Meeting - 1:00 pm Jr. High League - 6:30-8 pm ◆ <i>Betty Roberts</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Man to Man - 6 am Prayer for the Nations - 11:30-12:30 ◆ <i>Paul Beck</i> ◆ <i>Devonia Keller</i></p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Morning Worship - 8:30 & 11 Sunday School - 9:45 am Annual Reports Due Sr. High Group - 5:30 pm Boys Brigade - 5:45 pm Pioneer Girls - 5:45 pm Sunday @ 6</p>	<p>21 CPR - 3:45-5:00 pm 1st Sandwich Sml Grp-6:45 pm</p>	<p>22 Men's Bible Fellowship 7-8:30 am Trustees - 7 pm Mashpee Small Group - 7 pm Yarmouth Small Group - 7 pm ◆ <i>Matthew Dahl</i></p>	<p>23 First Light Biblical Worldview Study - Falmouth - 6:30 am Prayer Meeting - 1:00 pm Jr. High League - 6:30-8 pm</p>	<p>24 ◆ <i>Arnold & Sharon Clark</i></p>	<p>25 Man to Man - 6 am Prayer for the Nations - 11:30-12:30 ◆ <i>Dorothy Waldo</i></p>	<p>26 Wedding of Ann Lundstrom & Kevin Worthington - 10 am</p>
<p>27 Morning Worship - 8:30 & 11 Sunday School - 9:45 am Sr. High Group - 5:30 pm</p>	<p>28 First Light Men's Bible Study Centerville - 6:30 am CPR - 3:45-5:00 pm 1st & 2nd Sandwich Small Groups - 6:45 pm</p>	<p>29 Men's Bible Fellowship 7-8:30 am Hyannis Small Group - 7 pm Elders 7 pm</p>	<p>30 First Light Biblical Worldview Study - Falmouth - 6:30 am Prayer Meeting - 1:00 pm</p>	<p>31 ◆ <i>Lisa Beck</i> ◆ <i>Lauren Fogle</i></p>	<p>Rejoice with those who are celebrating! ◆ <i>Birthdays</i> ◆ <i>Anniversaries</i></p>	

Be Part of *Proclaim*

Please considering contributing ministry updates, coming events, Christ-centered testimonies, short stories, photos and poems for publication in *Proclaim*!

**Please submit contributions
for the next issue by:
January 15, 2008**

CONTACT US

**For more information on
Christ Chapel, please...**

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Centerville, MA 02632

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CHRIST CHAPEL CLASSIFIED

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CHRIST CHAPEL

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Proclaim!

January 2008 Edition

*The heavens declare the
glory of God and the
sky above proclaims
His handiwork.*

~ *Psalme 19:1*