

PROCLAIM



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

A Newsletter of Christ Chapel

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John-Paul Lotz
Senior Pastor

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

“Is the Past the Future?”

This year, all across the northern hemisphere, Christians are reflecting on the life of John Calvin, the Genevan reformer from the 16th century, whose theology continues to impact the church globally today. Born 500 years ago on July 10, 1609, Calvin

was one of the later reformers, blossoming in the second generation after the initial volleys by Luther and Zwingli. But he became the most articulate voice of the reformation period, synthesizing the many critiques of Catholicism, as well as the substantial advances by the reformers, into a holistic worldview. One of the reasons his legacy has endured the tests of time is precisely because his writings tended to be timeless in their interpretation of what is true and right and good according to scripture. And this is the challenge for all good intentioned souls who come to the text of scripture in their own generation and cultural settings. What is true with regard to divine revelation, and which elements of the tradition are *adiaphora* (non-essential) in the language of culture and tradition.

As I write, I am listening to the Psalms sung by the college of Kings Choir Cambridge in the style of

Anglican chant. This was a metrical way of singing the psalms by matching the natural speech-rhythms with music. It was an adaptation of the way monks used to ‘plainchant’ psalms in Latin, but was adapted to fit the needs of the reformation, and was very popular up through the 18th century. Today, these are only sung in cathedral churches in England, or in some liturgically minded parishes. The psalms are sung in a beautiful fashion, but it is very much a cultural reflection of the late medieval period of Catholic monastic piety, adapted by the needs of the English reformation, which was always semi-Roman in its culture and ethos. In this case, it is the psalm that is being sung which is timeless, and the chant which is time-bound, however lovely to the particular ear that is attuned to its style.

There is a lot about Calvin that is time-bound, particularly his views on social life, which features in some of his writings on piety and church order. But much is such deeply orthodox theology, that it differs in substance little from the Scholastic theologians of the middle ages, or from Augustine, the greatest interpreter of the apostle Paul. What is timeless in Calvin has stood the test of time, what was time-bound, such as the black coats, the flat hats, and the division of men and women in worship, has not.

~ Continued on page 7 ~



“What is timeless in Calvin has stood the test of time”

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Thomas Crumb
Associate Pastor

WORSHIP NOTES

Taste and See...Heaven on Earth

We are a people committed to God-centered worship.

According to Acts 2:42 this commitment was evidenced in four particular ways among those who comprised the early church: devotion to the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. The "breaking of bread" refers specifically to the practice of the Lord's Supper, a vital part of every growing Christian's life of worship. Though on an external level it may seem to be primarily a symbolic act that calls us to remember Christ's death and resurrection, the experience of sharing at the Lord's Table is much deeper and richer than that. Joining with Christ at His table is filled with profound spiritual implications. When we come to this table humbly, reverently, and expectantly, God meets us with His grace, strengthens our union with Him, and refreshes our spirits with the reality of His presence.

The focus of the Lord's Supper is the entire drama of salvation. In the minds of many, the chronicle of redemption begins at Calvary, but this is far from being the whole story. Calvary is actually the climax of the narrative! The story begins with creation and God's purpose for humanity. It includes His dealing with His people through the centuries and the reasons for the incarnation. It ends with remembrance of the life of Christ, as well as His death and resurrection and the

anticipation of His second advent.

Feasting at the Lord's Table provides a foretaste of heaven. It whets our appetites and is intended to keep steering us on the course that leads inexorably to perfect union with Christ and the eternal delight

Photo: Zsuzsanna Kilián



"The focus of the Lord's Supper is the entire drama of salvation."

in the blessings and benefits that are ours as His brothers and sisters. Many scenes at the Old Testament temple and many Christian traditions emphasize the fact that, in worship, heaven and earth come together. The Lord's Supper is certainly one aspect of how God has provided both opportunity and occasion for this coming together as we approach Him in worship.

As it relates to worship, much of early Protestant theology was built around a strong ascension theology which understands that Jesus'

ascended body is now in heaven. The reformers had a vivid sense that our eating and drinking at the Lord's table are, in fact, a "sharing" in Jesus' body and blood (1 Cor 10:16). They taught that the Holy Spirit unites us to Christ, crossing the boundary between heaven and earth in order to knit us all (saints past, present, and future!) together as Christ's body.

Because of many popular misconceptions and misapplied stereotypes about heaven, this concept can seem difficult for some to embrace. Despite greeting cards, movies, and even Enlightenment philosophy, heaven is not a place filled with fluffy clouds and chubby babies playing harps. It is not a perpetual spa or a comedy lounge. And, it is most certainly not an unknowable place disconnected from the empirical world which we can see, touch, and feel. Such ill-formed ways of imagining heaven are one of the most basic theological problems of our time.

In remarkable contrast to all this, the Bible describes heaven as the place where Jesus' ascended body is. It is the place from which the Holy Spirit moves freely into the world to accomplish God's ongoing redemptive work. It is a place from which the praise and prayers of God's people and all creation can be heard (Rev 5). It is with this Jesus in this place to whom we are united in faith. It is to this Jesus we come as we share together at His table to proclaim His death until He comes again! ■





Pete Axelson
Youth Pastor

YOUTH NEWS

Church Cliques

I have a confession to make. Sometimes I read “Today’s Christian Woman.” Sorry, but it’s true. You see living so close to the church I will often run home for a quick lunch so

I typically get the mail, and when that magazine comes, sometimes I just can’t resist the urge to open it up and see just what is going on in the life of today’s Christian women. Is it so wrong for me to want to know about “one woman’s experiment of going a month without makeup and her discovery about appearances?” Hey, cut me some slack. As far as temptations go I think it could be a whole lot worse.

It happened to me most recently when on the cover was a teaser for an article titled “Life beyond the Church Clique.” As a youth pastor of sixteen years, cliques are something I am plenty familiar with and am constantly challenging my students to avoid. But what

“If you don’t fall into any of these categories, you are probably a ‘them’.”

about us as adults? Sometimes I think we’re not any better than the students. I’m sure none of us try to be cliquey. No one ever goes into a church thinking what can I do to establish an exclusive group of friends and keep all others out. Yet slowly and subtly, it happens.

To help us realize some of our cliquey behaviors and actions I think it helps to look closer at two words: “us” and “them”. First let’s look at the word “us”.

Do you consider your self one of “us”? If you have been coming to Christ Chapel for a while, or you are involved in leadership, or you’ve grown up in the church and know all the right lingo, or you just have a general upstanding, well-to-do Christian look about you, you are probably an “us”. If you don’t fall into any of these categories, you are probably a “them”.

I realize I’m generalizing a bit, and perhaps you might even find it offensive that I would use such terms to speak of our church body, but again, this isn’t so much something that’s intentional on anyone’s part. It

just sort of happens. It might not be as blatant as the sin of partiality described in James 2:1-7, but sometimes cliques can unknowingly lead to the sin of partiality nonetheless.

So what can we do to be proactive about making sure it doesn’t happen? Let me share with you three thoughts.

1. **Sunday is not just a day for you and your friends.** I would never suggest that you shouldn’t have close friends. With Biblical examples like David and Jonathan; Jesus, Peter and John; and many others, that would not be Scriptural. Having said that, you should spend time with them at points throughout the rest of the week rather than at church on Sunday. Everyone should come to Sunday morning services desiring to get to know others and be welcoming to all.
2. **Always be invitational.** Invite others to special services, Bible studies, your home, lunch, breakfast, afternoon tea (if you happen to be a new pastor who came from across the pond), to be a part of a conversation, etc., etc., etc.
3. **Participate in Fellowship Dinners.** (*Thanks to Fellowship Dinner organizer, Nancy Freeman!*) Do you know what a Fellowship Dinner is? You should if you’ve paid attention to the church bulletin for the past month. Fellowship Dinners are intentional opportunities to help us get to know more people in our church. They do this better than the typical dinner party where you invite your close friends and maybe one couple you don’t know too well but think you might have a lot in common with. I encourage you to have occasional dinners party like that; but to participate in Christ Chapel’s relationship-building Fellowship Dinners as well.

If we follow these thoughts and make other efforts to be aware of what our relationships look like, our church will become an even more welcoming and Christ-like place to be. Not only that, but you might even find a new lifelong friend that you wouldn’t have otherwise. Lord, let us be a church where everyone feels like an us, and in the words of Hebrews 10: 24 & 25, may we “spur one another on towards love and good works, and encourage one another all the more as we see the day approaching”. ■





Global Outreach Conference

Join Christ Chapel as we celebrate the efforts of missionaries we support and respond to last year's conference challenge, "Who Will Go?"

"Here Am I, Send Me"

~~~~~ Isaiah 6:8 ~~~~~

September 27 - October 4, 2009

| <u>october Event Dates/Times</u> | <u>Event</u>                                     | <u>Speaker(s)</u>             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday, October 1, 2009</b> |                                                  |                               |
| 9:30 am                          | Women's Bible Study                              | Christine Rasulov             |
| <b>Friday, October 2, 2009</b>   |                                                  |                               |
| 6:00 am                          | Combined Men's Study                             | Brent Preston & Joe Karabensh |
| <b>Saturday, October 3, 2009</b> |                                                  |                               |
| 10:00 am                         | All Church Brunch & Children's Program           | Brent Preston                 |
| <b>Sunday, October 4, 2009</b>   |                                                  |                               |
| 8:25 am                          | Worship Service                                  | Brent Preston                 |
| 8:25 am                          | Junior Church                                    |                               |
| 9:45 am                          | Adult & Jr./Sr. High Sunday School               | Joe Karabensh                 |
| 11:00 am                         | Worship Service                                  | Brent Preston                 |
| 1:00 pm                          | Missionaries, Staff, & Missions Committee Dinner |                               |
| 6:00 pm                          | Challenge: Here Am I, Send Me                    | Brent Preston                 |

### Keynote Speaker: Brent Preston, Senior Director for North & South Asia, TEAM



Brent Preston is the Senior Director for North and South Asia with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM). Brent grew up in West Papua, Indonesia, and began his career in Java in 1987, teaching and mentoring students in church planting. He also served with other TEAM missionaries in Russia, training church planters.

Brent married Nicole Williams in 1998 and lived in Sterling, Kansas, where Brent served as pastor for their home church. In May of 2002 they moved to Russia and served in a TEAM church plant in Krasnodar. In 2006, the Prestons began another church planting effort in Odessa, Ukraine. In 2008 Brent accepted the position of Senior Director for North and Southeast Asia.

The Prestons are based in Carol Stream, Illinois, at the TEAM international headquarters. They have four children, Steel Christian, Stone Christian, Katie Erika, and Strider Christian. ■



| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                                                                                     | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                               | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                 | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                        | FRIDAY                                                                  | SATURDAY                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><i>Put your hope in the Lord<br/>for with the Lord is<br/>unfailing love, and with<br/>Him is full redemption.</i><br/>~ Psalm 130:8 ~</p> |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><i>Rejoice with those<br/>who are celebrating!</i><br/>◆ Birthdays<br/>⌘ Anniversaries</p>                                                                                             | <p><b>1</b> Missions Conference<br/>Women's Bible Study<br/>9:30-11:30 am<br/>Women's Bible Study<br/>7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Choir - 7 pm</p>                                         | <p><b>2</b> Missions Conference<br/>Combined Men's<br/>Study - 6 am</p> | <p><b>3</b> Missions Conference<br/>All Church Brunch 10 am<br/>Children's Program<br/>◆ Ann Russell<br/>◆ Judy Appleton</p> |
| <p><b>4</b> Missions Conference<br/>Morning Worship - 8:25 &amp; 11<br/>Sunday School - 9:45<br/>Jr./Sr. Walk to End<br/>Homelessness - 1:15-4:30 pm<br/>Sunday &amp; 6<br/>⌘ Bob &amp; Karen Holzman</p>                         | <p><b>5</b><br/>First Light Studies - 6:30 am<br/>CPR - 3:45-5 pm<br/>Christian Ed - 7 pm</p>                                              | <p><b>6</b> Men's Bible Fellowship<br/>7-8:30 am<br/>Sr. High Core - 6:30 pm<br/>Yarmouth Small<br/>Group - 7 pm<br/>Trustees - 7 pm</p>                              | <p><b>7</b><br/>Prayer Meeting - 1 pm<br/>Stephen Ministry - 6 pm<br/>Boys Brigade - 6:15 pm<br/>GEMS - 6:15 pm<br/>Jr. High Combust - 6:30-8 pm</p>                                      | <p><b>8</b> Women's Bible Study<br/>9:15-11:30 am &amp; 7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Choir - 7 pm<br/>◆ Eleanor Findley<br/>◆ Tom Grosso ◆ Ralph Bedford<br/>⌘ James &amp; Connie Berks</p> | <p><b>9</b><br/>Man to Man - 6 am</p>                                   | <p><b>10</b></p>                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>11</b><br/>Morning Worship - 8:25 &amp; 11<br/>Sunday School - 9:45<br/>Lauzon Wedding - 2 pm<br/>Sr. High Connect - 5:30<br/>Sunday @ 6<br/>◆ Tom Zarle<br/>⌘ Chris &amp; Krista Hayes</p>                                 | <p><b>12</b> Columbus Day<br/>Office Closed<br/>◆ Paul Bayvides<br/>⌘ Ed &amp; Peggi Buckler</p>                                           | <p><b>13</b> Town of Barnstable<br/>Special Elections 7-7<br/>Men's Bible Fellowship 7-8:30 am<br/>Mashpee Small Group - 7 pm<br/>◆ Ann Rockness<br/>◆ Rick Waldo</p> | <p><b>14</b><br/>Prayer Meeting - 1 pm<br/>Boys Brigade - 6:15 pm<br/>GEMS - 6:15 pm<br/>Jr. High Combust - 6:30-8 pm<br/>Missions - 7 pm</p>                                             | <p><b>15</b><br/>Women's Bible Study<br/>9:15-11:30 am &amp; 7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Choir - 7 pm</p>                                                                                  | <p><b>16</b><br/>Man to Man - 6 am</p>                                  | <p><b>17</b></p>                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>18</b><br/>Morning Worship - 8:25 &amp; 11<br/>Sunday School - 9:45<br/>Sr. High Connect - 5:30<br/>Sunday@ 6 - Singspiration!<br/>◆ Linda Guilderson<br/>◆ Cooper Marshall</p>                                             | <p><b>19</b> Newsletter Deadline<br/>First Light Studies - 6:30 am<br/>CPR - 3:45-5 pm<br/>◆ Bob Fenner<br/>⌘ Mark &amp; Kae McGuire</p>   | <p><b>20</b> Men's Bible Fellowship<br/>7-8:30 am<br/>Discover Christ Chapel<br/>6-9 pm<br/>Sr. High Core - 6:30 pm<br/>Yarmouth Small<br/>Group - 7 pm</p>           | <p><b>21</b> Prayer Meeting - 1 pm<br/>Stephen Ministry - 6 pm<br/>Boys Brigade - 6:15 pm<br/>GEMS - 6:15 pm<br/>Jr. High Combust - 6:30-8 pm<br/>◆ Sally Greene<br/>◆ Richard Holman</p> | <p><b>22</b> Women's Bible Study<br/>9:15-11:30 am &amp; 7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Choir - 7 pm<br/>⌘ Rod &amp; Evelyn Burgess</p>                                                       | <p><b>23</b><br/>Man to Man - 6 am<br/>⌘ Phil &amp; Irene Morrison</p>  | <p><b>24</b><br/>Jr./Sr. Lazer Tag Night<br/>6:30-9 pm</p>                                                                   |
| <p><b>25</b><br/>Morning Worship - 8:25 &amp; 11<br/>Sunday School - 9:45<br/>Day of Hospitality - 11:30<br/>Sr. High Connect - 5:30</p>                                                                                          | <p><b>26</b> First Light Studies - 6:30 am<br/>CPR - 3:45-5 pm<br/>Sandwich Small Grp - 6:45 pm<br/>Elders - 7 pm<br/>◆ Kwinam LeBlanc</p> | <p><b>27</b> Men's Bible Fellowship<br/>7-8:30 am<br/>Mashpee Small Group - 7 pm<br/>◆ Rev. Francis Crisci</p>                                                        | <p><b>28</b><br/>Prayer Meeting - 1 pm<br/>Boys Brigade - 6:15 pm<br/>GEMS - 6:15 pm<br/>Jr. High Combust - 6:30-8 pm</p>                                                                 | <p><b>29</b> Women's Bible Study<br/>9:15-11:30 am &amp; 7:00-8:30 pm<br/>Choir - 7 pm<br/>◆ Gladys Tonnessen</p>                                                               | <p><b>30</b><br/>Man to Man - 6 am</p>                                  | <p><b>31</b> Halloween<br/>◆ Raymond Bell</p>                                                                                |

## OCTOBER SERMONS

## COMING IN OCTOBER

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009**

8:25 & 11:00 AM

**“Here Am I, Send Me”**

Isaiah 6:1-8

*Brent Preston, TEAM*

**SUNDAY @ 6**

Missions Challenge

*Brent Preston, TEAM*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**

8:25 & 11:00 AM

**The Wedding Banquet**

John 2:1-11

*Dr. John-Paul Lotz*

**SUNDAY @ 6**

*No Evening Service -*

*Columbus Day*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009**

8:25 & 11:00 AM

**No Time for Religion**

John 2:12-25

*Dr. John-Paul Lotz*

**SUNDAY @ 6**

Singspiration!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009**

8:25 & 11:00 AM

**You Must be Born Again**

John 3:1-21

*Dr. John-Paul Lotz*

**SUNDAY @ 6**

*No evening service -*

*Family Night*

### **Singspiration - Sunday @ 6 - October 18**

Back by popular demand! Please plan to join us for a good, old fashioned Hymn Sing led by song leader Loring Johnson with Stan Smith at the piano. Several Christ Chapel musicians will be featured, including a well known Irish tenor and violinist. To round out the evening, the Hospitality Committee will serve refreshments following the service. This will be a great event to which you can bring a friend who loves to “sing a-long”.

### **Discover Christ Chapel Tuesday, October 20 - 6-9 p.m.**

Interested in membership at Christ Chapel? Let us know you plan to attend this membership class by noting “Membership Class” on a Welcome Card on Sunday morning, calling the church office at 508.420.1200 or emailing [Info@ChristChapelCapeCod.org](mailto:Info@ChristChapelCapeCod.org). ■

## SPECIAL HONORS

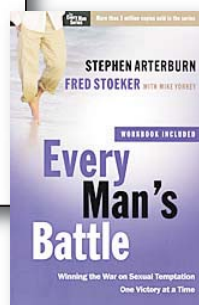
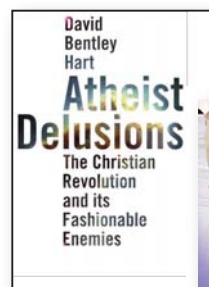
### **“Here Am I, Send Me”**



*Herb & Madaline Boyd,  
members of Christ Chapel  
and missionaries to the  
Netherlands.*

Congratulations to Herb Boyd who was selected to receive the 2009 A J Gordon Missionary Service Award given by the Alumni Board and President Carlberg of Gordon College. This award recognizes faithful service as a career missionary with at least 15 years in a cross-cultural setting, and gives special consideration to those who have served quietly in addition to those who are well-known. Gordon College’s Alumni Board and administration heartily agree that Herb has met the criteria for this award, and are thrilled to honor such a selfless alumni who has truly followed the Great Commission. ■

## FROM THE PASTOR’S BOOK SHELF



*What is Dr. Lotz reading this month?*

**Atheist Delusions:** The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies  
*by Professor David Bentley Hart*

**Every Man's Battle**  
Winning the War on Sexual Temptation  
One Victory at a Time  
*by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker,  
Mike Yorkey*





### Stephen Ministry Matches Super Bowl Experience

“Before I retired from coaching, my team was in the Super Bowl six times. I thought nothing would ever match that. Being a Stephen Minister has also been one of the greatest experiences in my life,” says Bill Arnsparger of Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla, California. Coach Arnsparger was defensive coordinator for the San Diego Chargers before retiring in 1994. He spent 23 seasons as an NFL coach with stops in Baltimore, Miami, New York and San Diego.

During his career in professional sports, Arnsparger had heard about Stephen Ministry several times. “I knew it was important to have time to devote to this ministry,” Arnsparger says. “So I waited until the right time in my life to get involved. The hours I’ve invested in Stephen Ministry have brought me closer to the Lord and to others in my congregation.”

After completing the 50 hours of training at Torrey Pines Christian Church, Arnsparger was assigned to a care receiver. They have been meeting together for two years and are moving toward closure now. “My care receiver has helped me so much more than I’ve helped him,” Arnsparger says. “I always benefit from our time together. He’s inspired me to build my faith.”

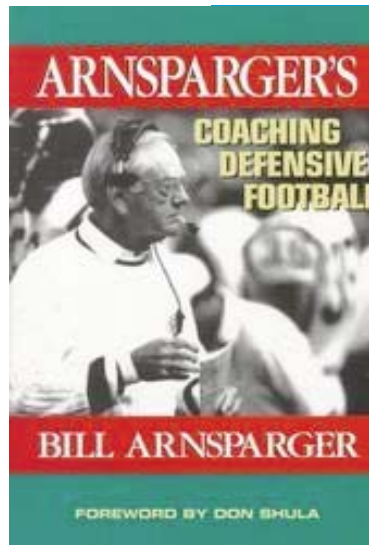
“I’ve learned that I can’t always predict and plan what our meetings will be like. I work to be open to new developments, and I hang in there with him even

when new problems come up. I know I can’t just write him a prescription to make him feel better. My job is to listen and to care. God takes care of the rest.”

Asked if there are any similarities between Stephen Ministry and coaching a professional football team, Coach Arnsparger says there are: “Stephen Ministry builds confidence, both in the Stephen Ministers and the care receivers. Stephen Ministry takes teamwork. Supervision requires us to work together to provide the best care possible to our care receivers and to one another. Each opportunity to care is a new challenge, a new experience, just as each game is.”

“I find serving as a Stephen Minister very rewarding,” says Coach Arnsparger, who encourages other men to serve. “It’s an opportunity to work with people and really help them.”

Occasionally men wonder if Stephen Ministry is really right for them. Coach Arnsparger shows that following Jesus’ example in giving and receiving care is truly a “sport for real men.”



*“The hours I’ve invested in Stephen Ministry have brought me closer to the Lord and to others in my congregation.”*

The Stephen Ministry of Christ Chapel is looking for members of our congregation to consider serving as Stephen Ministers. We are looking forward to beginning a new class of Stephen Ministers early in 2010. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity in serving in this vital ministry. Applications are available in the Narthex. If you have any questions at all, please contact a Stephen Leader or the church office.

“Remember, God does not call the equipped, He equips the called!” ■

~ Continued from Page 1 ~

I highlight these historical niceties for a very important reason, however. We at Christ Chapel live in a culture that is in the midst of an accelerated cultural transformation. Often, these kinds of culture-shifts only happen at the turning of epochs, and are at times of national and cultural catastrophe, such as the invasion of Rome by the Barbarians, or the collapse of the Sassanids to the Arab armies under the successors of Mohammed, or the American War of Independence from government restrictions and intervention from the British Crown. Many of you do not even recognize the America that you live in, it has changed so drastically in the last 50 years. Others of you feel the same about Church. The instinct some have is to grieve the loss of the past and to try and recreate elements of it in the present, as a kind of shrine to what once was. Others simply want to withdraw from the world around, and preserve what's left of church and family. Still others have thrown the past to the wind and are trying any new form that breezes by. In all of this, there is confusion, disappointment, and not a little fear.

What has happened to the Church? Do you know that across the US, 95% of churches have either plateaued in attendance, or are declining? The church is getting progressively older and less peopled by youth and singles. We see that around us and know that something is wrong, but we're at a loss as to how to fix it. Yet there is an urgent need because those who have failed to reach the next generation have failed to pass on the whole cultural tradition of their faith.

During the reformation, the Anabaptists divided into several sects. One moved to the US as the Mennonites, some of the others integrated in Holland with English non-conformists. Four hundred years later, the Mennonites number about 1.5 million, while the non-conformists who came together as the Baptists number around 110 million. The difference? One bound the timeless truth to their culture and stultified both; the other bound the scripture to their commitment to evangelism and has impacted the world dramatically.

So what do we do with our beloved traditions, in an age that has no interest in them? What will become of our styles of worship in 50 years? What will become of our families if they are not disciplined? What will become of our culture if it is not evangelized? Are we in danger of becoming highly talented calligraphers in the age of the printing press?

The danger for each generation as they pass on the faith is two-fold at least. One may seek to promote as gospel truth the teaching of men, that is, the culture, tradition, and styles of a particular time or social group, as normative. This is precisely what Jesus encountered in Matthew 15:6, "...thus you nullify the word of God for the sakes of your traditions." Jesus' rebuke of the Pharisees was hard, and to the point. It is vital to remember that culture and tradition is a kind of language. The point of a language is to communicate and not simply to sound nice. If a language no longer communicates, it has ceased to be an effective language for communicating God's word to others, and must be laid to rest. May God give us the self-critical courage to look honestly into our cultural language at Christ Chapel and ask, are we inviting people to Christ Chapel, or to Christ.

***"As our American culture wobbles and changes, and as our church culture wrestles for relevance in an increasingly non-Christian society, how will we respond?"***

The other danger is to promote as gospel truth the medium of whatever culture, tradition or style of a particular time or social group. This is what Paul wrestled with in I Corinthians 2:13, "this is what we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." Paul faced off against Corinthians enamoured with their culture, who wanted to let the times define the message, instead of the message the times.

As our American culture wobbles and changes, and as our church culture wrestles for relevance in an increasingly non-Christian society, how will we respond? Will we sacralize the past as the future, and set up our human traditions like so many tombstones in a lifeless graveyard? Or will we blow with the breezes of every passing fad that our culture fixates on?

My hope is neither, for our culture, past or present, is not timeless, it is passing away. What we need is the courage to speak the timeless truths of the gospel in spiritual words and actions, and what that will look like is something none of us can now see, but is something we must dearly, truly devote ourselves to discovering. ■



## Be Part of *Proclaim*

Ministry updates, coming events, testimonies, short stories, photos, and poems are welcome!

**Please submit contributions for the next issue by October 19, 2009.**

## CONTACTING CHRIST CHAPEL

*We welcome you to...*

Visit our website:

[www.ChristChapelCapeCod.org](http://www.ChristChapelCapeCod.org)

Send us an email:

[Info@ChristChapelCapeCod.org](mailto:Info@ChristChapelCapeCod.org)

Call us: 508-420-1200

Fax us: 508-420-3341 or

Mail or Drop by:

1200 Old Stage Road  
Centerville, MA 02632

## CHRIST CHAPEL CLASSIFIED

Please email or deliver your ad to the church office by **October 19<sup>th</sup>**.  
Ads will run for 3 months and can then be renewed.

### FRAMING & CALLIGRAPHY

Years of experience and reasonable prices.

Contact Donna at Dowler Graphics to discuss your needs! 508-428-6836. 9/09

### CARPENTRY - HANDY MAN

Available for small or large painting, carpentry and repair projects. Reasonable rates. Contact Luke Crosby at 508-420-0649. 5/09

### KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGNER

Sell, Design, Install custom and stock cabinetry. All types of countertops, Granite, Corian, Quartz, etc. Lee & Pat Clement, Kitchen Design Center 508-477-6115 6/09

### FALL CLEAN-UPS/LEAVES RAKED

Reasonable rates for Fall Cleanups. Schedule now. Cleanups will start late October and go through November as the leaves fall. Call Martha's Mowing & Odd Jobs 508-237-0190 for an estimate and to schedule your Fall Cleanup. Friendly service. 10/09

### RECESSION-FRIENDLY DESTRESSOR

As a licensed massage therapist, I am offering a 55-minute Swedish Massage to women for only \$49.95. No tipping! Massage has many benefits: stress reduction, improved circulation and flexibility, improved immunity. Contact Ann Russell, R.N., L.M.T. 508-775-1916. 6/09

### ONE WEEK FREE AT

#### ST. AUGUSTINE FLORIDA CONDO

Stay one week, get second week free at a lovely two-bedroom, fully equipped Ocean & Racquet Resort condo through March, 2010. Details, photos and info at [www.sundazecondo.com](http://www.sundazecondo.com). Call Elayne Brigham at 508-776-4195 for more info. 9/09

### HOME SHARE - FORESTDALE

Cozy home with nicely furnished bedroom with lounge and closet for a sister in Christ at affordable rate. Call Ginny Morgan at 508-539-0174 6/09

### WINTER RENTAL

Available September 15 through May. Fully furnished 3-bedroom Cape with living room, kitchen, dining area, 1.5 baths and deck. Quiet neighborhood in Sandwich village area. \$1000 per month plus utilities. Contact Bob Loring 508-833-8531. 8/09

### TOWN HOUSE FOR RENT

Foxmeadow Condominium, E. Sandwich – Two bedroom, 1 ½ bath, new appliances, fireplace, private patio, convenient to beaches, shopping and highway. \$1,400 per month + utilities. Available 12/1/09. Contact Dave & Linda Guilderson at 508-776-772 10/09

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## CHRIST CHAPEL

1200 Old Stage Road  
Centerville, MA 02632



***Proclaim!***  
October 2009 Edition

*Put your hope  
in the Lord,  
for with the Lord  
is unfailing love,  
and with Him is  
full redemption.*

~ Psalm 150:8 ~