



HILLTOPICS –MAY 2018

WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH WATCHUNG, NJ 07069 (908) 755-5020
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MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

There's nothing in life that compares with being named in a way that makes us feel special and cherished. Often such naming comes about from the connection between parent and child. I remember when our daughter Alison was about two and we were waiting in a doctor's office. There was a very grandmotherly looking woman waiting there as well, and to pass the time she asked Ali, "What is your name?" In very shy, muffled way, she rapidly said "Alison Grace Peters". Not hearing well, the woman politely responded, "I'm sorry, I didn't get that. What is your name?" Again Ali said very rapidly, "Alison Grace Peters". The woman still didn't get it. Finally she decided to take a new angle. She asked, "What does your mom call you?" This time, loud and clear, Ali said, "SWEETHEART!"

Hearing a parent use a term of endearment can soften the most hardened heart. I thought about this when I read Fr. Greg Boyle's first book, *Tatoos on the Heart*. (Some of us are reading his second book, *Barking to the Choir* in preparation for our May 23rd potluck and book discussion and please see the details about this evening in the announcement on p.4 of this Hilltopics!) Fr. Greg works with former gang members in California as they struggle to leave their old life behind. In an interview on NPR, he recounts a story about one of his young friends which he also writes about in *Tatoos on the Heart*.

I met this kid, and he was kind of gang-posturing mode. And I said, 'What's your name? And he said, 'Sniper'. I said: 'Trust me when I tell you your mom didn't take one look at you and name you Sniper when you popped out. What's your name?' And he said, 'Gonzales'. I said, 'well, I know the staff here calls you Gonzales, but I still, I'm looking for your birth certificate here. What's your mom call you?' And then he says, 'Cabron' which is kind of a salty word in Spanish. And I said, 'I don't doubt that she calls you that on occasion. I'm looking for birth certificate here.' And then he kind of quiets down and gets very gentle and transformed a little, and he says 'Napoleon'. And I said, 'wow, that's kind of a noble, different name, but I still don't believe that she calls you the whole nine yards, Napoleon. What does your mom call you?' And then I watched this kid sort of go to this distant, untraveled place, and he gets very quiet and very age appropriate, and he says: 'Sometimes when my mom's not mad at me, she calls me Napito.'

I think about how Mother's Day has become such an important celebration in the month of May and some of us can recall feeling the kind of warmth and love I'm talking about from mothers, or parents, or significant parental figures in our lives. Others of us still long for what we feel like we never received growing up. The honest truth is that Mother's Day can be a mixed bag. Yet, my main point is this: all of us can hold on to the safety and security of knowing we don't have to rely solely on human relationships in order to hear what we long to hear. This is no small reality to absorb. God names us too, you know. God calls us *beloved*. I hope you can hear that as the term of


endearment it truly is and do so picturing the way a parent would say to a precious child, "YOU are so beloved!" Are you truly able to hear this as your naming and let the truth of it seep in and soften any hardened corners of your heart? I hope so. If you don't, the fact of the matter is, I hear it for you. Others do as well. Isn't it your time to hear it too?

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

P.S. I hope you will be able to join us Mother's Day, May 13th for our service. I'm delighted that our daughter Ali will be assisting me in leading worship that Sunday! She is currently a student and Union Theological Seminary in NYC.

May 6, 2018
Our Worship Service Will be in Fisher Hall
And Will Feature
The Jazz Trio
Join us in the afternoon at 4:30pm for the
Bell Concert and Potluck Supper!
See our Announcement on Page 3 for Further Details

Communion Sunday The Sacrament of Communion



May 13th, 2018

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated in our Sanctuary. If you are wondering whether or not to participate, be assured that you are invited and encouraged to share in Communion as one who loves Christ and seeks to walk with Him.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Happy May! We are in summer mode and I want to get you in on a couple of big dates this month and in June!

May 20th is our annual Spaghetti Dinner to raise money for our mission trip to Port Arthur, TX to help with the relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey. I promised you a Spaghetti Dinner that is bigger and better than ever and we are delivering. Not only will you get to enjoy the dinner on May 20th at 5:30pm, but we will include a basket auction and be entertained by Gabe Rodriguez who has not only been featured in our choir on Easter, but has been a performer in many touring Broadway shows during his professional career. It will be an amazing night with all proceeds going to cover our efforts in TX! You'll be able to buy tickets directly through our website, Facebook, or in person at our services during the month of May.

Continued on next page:

July 1st is our one day trip to Babylon! We weren't able to have our VBS this year due to the storms that extended the school year, but we are undaunted! We plan to bring Babylon to Wilson on July 1st! This is an intergenerational event designed to give you the full experience of Daniel's life in Babylon and you can experience his story and enjoy the sights and sounds of the city through the afternoon! EVERYONE should mark their calendar to be with us that day! More info to follow, but for now, keep JULY 1st open for our DAY IN BABYLON!

Blessings, Michael

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...

The sun is finally shining, and hints of spring are in the air! The winter has been tough on the outside of the church as well as the inside. We are looking for assistance in help cleaning and sprucing up the church on Saturday May 5, from 8-11. An hour or two of your time is needed. We will have tasks lined up for all to work at their own or with others. Bring gloves and any tools that you can, and we can sure put you to work! Some garden mulch is needed, along with garden soil, to help with the Memorial and other gardens. If you can't be there but would still like to help out, this can be left behind the Narthex wall by the pine tree. Contact the church if you need assistance. We have inside work to do as well, such as cleaning woodwork, tidying up the kitchen, etc. Thank you and see you there! Lorri

BOARD BRIEFS...

1. **MINISTER'S REPORT** – Barbara reported that while we only got in two of our Soup Suppers and services due to weather issues, she cherishes the time some of us did have to share a simple meal and worship together.
2. Barbara attended an Enneagram Personality Type theory workshop the first weekend in April, which, as she learned Proctor and Gamble is using for employee training. The Enneagram is a wonderful tool for self-discovery, and for understanding the difference between us and others. The second workshop she is attending at the end of April focuses on the applications of the Enneagram for Spiritual Directors as well as those working as Executive Coaches or Mental Health Therapists.
3. There will be two upcoming Chapel Wednesdays before they resume again in the fall, May 2nd and June 6th. Come to the Chapel at 7:15pm for a contemplative experience of spoken reflection, guided meditation and silence. The gatherings last 45 minutes. Invite others to join you!!
4. Barbara has begun the 8-week series on Grief Recovery, which meets Tuesday evenings.
5. On Sunday, May 6, the Jazz trio will once again be joining us during our Worship Service. The service will be in Fisher Hall that day due to the set up in the Sanctuary for the joint bell concert that afternoon. We are grateful to Pam for setting up this concert between our church, Union Village Methodist and First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. The time is 4:30pm with a potluck to follow. Please mark your calendars and come and show your support.

6. A note of thanks goes to Carolyn Musacchio for offering the yoga class to us for the last 4+ years. Due to declining attendees, she has decided to hang up the yoga mat for this class. Thanks to Carolyn for introducing yoga to so many in our church.
7. **YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Second Sunday went well. The beach party was attended by 5 kids and their parents, playing in the sand, listening to music and dancing the limbo!
8. VBS was cancelled for summer 2018 due to extended school year and inability to adjust the planned dates. VBS is now being planned this year as "VBS In A Day" on a Sunday, July 1st.
9. Mission trip update – enrollment closed; current enrollment: Eight.
10. **FACILITIES** – Paul Ost and Tony Cito are experimenting in the Chapel with LED lights versus current incandescent lights; Tony met with electrician to get scaffolding or other safe equipment for dealing with lighting.
11. The trees in front of the Frippery are still scheduled to be taken down and mulch to go on the trail behind the church parking lot, as soon as the tree company is done with dealing with the Nor'easter damage.
12. Sample UV films were installed on two of the sliding doors of Fisher Hall, so that folks can view the options in a bigger area. The congregation was asked to vote on which film they like, so that it can be scheduled for installation.
13. Roofing companies have been contacted to come back and remediate some of the leaks in both Fisher Hall kitchen and the Sunday School wing.
14. Clean-up of the area behind Blackburn Hall to be scheduled, so that Christmas decorations can be put away, along with spare building supplies. Shelving is to be put up to assist in keeping stuff off the floor and keeping it orderly.
15. **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** – A new "Welcome to Our Church" pamphlet has been completed, and is scheduled to be placed in the pews shortly.
16. **MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT** – Scout Enzo Ruta's Eagle project has been approved for the History Room, and will begin shortly. The small task group will be meeting with Alex Ruta to go over the plan for a fence and play area behind Fisher Hall. Matthew Stefanovic's project has been held up by the town requesting further documentation of the site.
17. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – The emergency response team will be researching companies to submit a bid for installing an emergency generator.
18. **NEW BUSINESS** – A church cleanup is to be scheduled in May.
19. **PERSONNEL** – The new position for Church School Admin position has been posted.
20. **OLD BUSINESS** – Fundraising –The new committee will schedule a meeting before the next board meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

May 6th We continue the Bible story and lessons of "Fruit of the Spirit" and the teachers will then continue the lesson with some Bible skills and games.

May 13th Second Sunday: Mother's Day / Kids Church
Happy Mother's Day! All ages will worship together.

May 20th Youth Sunday This is Youth Sunday, Teachers Appreciation Day and the end of the current Sunday School session. This is an exciting day, as our 3rd grade class will receive their personalized Bible during the worship service. This is also the last day of Sunday School for the 2017/2018 session. We thank the Women's Guild for their loving support and generosity to the Sunday School and purchasing the personalized Bibles presented to the students.

We'd like to say thank you so very much to all our teachers, substitutes and those who gave of their time this 2017 – 2018 Church School year. We have a wonderful Church program, thanks to each and every one of you. We would like to acknowledge all those who participated in the Sunday School lessons this year. The 2017/2018 year teachers are: Laurie Conley, Lara Grundman, Yvette Whitley, Lori Goucher, Lisa Shpunder, Carol Osbourne and Michael Droege.

Thank you to Deidre Seidel for her help in the Sunday School office this year. We continue to post new pictures each week on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. They show what the kids have done that day in Sunday School. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Sunday School.

Sunday School office: (908) 755-5020 (Sunday)
Home: (908) 668-0974 (Monday – Saturday)
Love in Christ, Arlene and Roger Seidel

CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE IN MAY AND JUNE...

Join Barbara on **May 2nd** and **June 6th** in the Chapel from 7:15p.m.-8:00pm. We live such hectic lives, consider this your time for personal renewal. Chapel Wednesdays are held on the first Wednesday of the month as schedules allow. Each evening gathering consists of music, a very brief reading or spoken reflection on the theme of the night, a guided meditation and then a period of silence that you are welcome to use for your own private prayer practice. Printed instructions are always available for the practice of Centering Prayer. The theme for May 2nd is "Courage" and the theme for June 6th is "Rest". Please invite anyone you think might be interested!

WOMEN'S GUILD...

The Women's Guild will meet on Thursday, May 3rd at 11:30 am. Bring your own sandwich luncheon following the meeting. Dessert and beverages supplied. The program will be **BACKYARD INVADERS** presented by the Somerset County Environmental Center at 12:30pm. These programs are informative and interesting. All are welcome, women and men alike!

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BELLS...

Mark your calendar for this upcoming event planned for May 6, 2018 at 4:30 PM in the sanctuary. In the past, our Ost Memorial Bell Choir together with the Travnicek Memorial Ringers from the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, Tom Peters' church, have presented a wonderful afternoon bell choir concert. Something new and exciting has been planned for this year- we have extended the number of bell choirs participating in this concert to three! The bell choir from Union Village Methodist Church will be joining us. Our previous concerts have been enjoyed by all attendees and an additional bell choir will add a new element of excitement to this concert. There will be mass ringing by the combined choirs, solos performed by each individual choir, as well as pieces that include trumpet, flute and organ accompaniment.

Admission to the program is free. Following the concert, a potluck dinner will be held in Fisher Hall. Please bring a dish for the potluck. The members of all three-bell choirs truly hope that you can attend this concert. We are sure it will be an afternoon that you will truly enjoy!! Pam Cox

INTERESTED IN OFFICIALLY JOINING WILSON MEMORIAL?

If you have been interested in taking your commitment to a deeper level, we hope you will consider attending one of our Prospective Members Gatherings. They are held periodically throughout the year when there is enough interest. We meet after the Worship Service and Coffee Hour on a Sunday morning. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal and provides a way to have your questions answered. Please let Barbara know if you are interested in attending one of our Prospective Members Gatherings!

BLANKETS+ SUNDAY, "MOTHER'S DAY", MAY 13TH ...

What a wonderful way to celebrate Mother's Day! Please consider paying tribute to your own mother or special friends by either specifically ordering a blanket (just \$5.00/ blanket) or making a monetary contribution in their names. Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity to assist people in need around the world. Your contribution provides the means for Church World Services to help individuals and communities when faced with an emergency situation as well as to just give assistance in providing basic essentials for everyday living. Church World Services has worked for over 65 years in partnership with local communities to first identify their needs and then access the resources needed to build the foundation for a more viable future.

Contribution envelopes along with an informational insert will be placed in the church bulletin on May 6th as well as on May 13th. Please be generous in your support of BLANKETS+. You are not only honoring your mothers and friends but are providing comfort to those who so desperately need assistance at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Cox (908-756-8223).

ONE EVENING ONLY BOOK GROUP, MAY 23RD ...

Have you wanted to attend a book group but couldn't fit it into your schedule? Here is your opportunity to attend a book group **just for one evening!** On Wednesday May 23rd, we will meet and discuss ***Barking to the Choir*** by Gregory Boyle. You may have read his first book, *Tattoos on the Heart*. In ***Barking to the Choir***, Fr. Greg continues to reveal how compassion is transforming the lives of the gang members he works with. We will meet at **6:30p.m.** for a simple potluck supper (bring a dish to share) and begin the discussion around **7:15p.m.** or so. Please purchase and read ***Barking to the Choir*** ahead of time. It can be found through any bookseller. Let Barbara know if you are planning to attend, stirlingpeters@verizon.net.

THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP...

The Frippery is the yellow house in the top parking lot and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-12:30pm and first Saturday of the month, through June, also 9:30am-12:30pm. We will be open Saturday, May 5th from 9:30am-12:30pm.

If you've never had a chance to visit "The Frip", now is the time. Since we are only open 2 days a week there are actually under 20 "days" left until we close for the summer. We are fully stocked with things you NEED for your home, vacation house, child heading off to college in September. (DON'T wait till September!) Perhaps you know someone in an assisted living or nursing home that you could pick up a "gift" for. We have 1000's of items at garage sale prices. In our clothing department we have men's, women's and children's items galore! Most items are \$4 and during the MONTH of MAY you can FILL a level Kings paper shopping bag for \$10!!!!

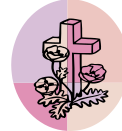
Checks are accepted from church members, stop in and discover Watching's best kept secret!

CELEBRATE WITH MICHAEL AND CAROL! ...

Join Michael and Carol for some pre-wedding celebration at their Open House Reception at the Manse on Friday, June 15th. The house will be open from 7 pm till the last person goes home. We have so many people who we want to celebrate with and our post-ceremony reception venue can only hold a limited number, so this was our solution! Please join us! We thank our church for constant support. We look forward to celebrating with you! Michael and Carol

LOOK FOR BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IN THE FALL!

Our church is such a busy place! Because of scheduling issues, we are now planning to hold our Blessing of the Animals in the fall. Do you love animals? Would you like to work on planning the celebration? Please don't hesitate to let Barbara know of your interest!



SYMPATHY...

We extend our sympathy to the family of Brian Day who died on April 11, 2018. Brian was the husband of Wendy Kreis Day and the brother in-law of Harold and Ailian Kreis. A service was held at Wilson Memorial Church on April 16th, 2018.



PERSONAL ITEMS...

We continue to pray for those suffering with health problems: Fran Ellis, Diane Ray, Joan Baylis, Russ Funk, Howard Beyer, Janet Meeks, Joyce Possien, Ellie Groves, Gladys Andrews, Joy Jurgens, Eva Wehof and Alison Barr.

May 2018

Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7:00-9:00pm Fisher Hall Boy Scouts Meeting- Library 7:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm	2 Chapel Wednesday 7:15-8:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting- Library 7:30pm	3 Women's Guild Meeting 11:30am Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	4 AA 8:30pm	5 Frippery 9:30am- 12:30pm
6 Worship Service 10am Bell Concert Sanctuary 4:30pm AA 8:00pm	7 Bells 7:30pm	8 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7:00-9:00pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	9	10 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	11 AA 8:30pm	12
13 Worship Service 10am Blanket Sunday Mother's Day Communion AA 8:00pm	14 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Bells 7:30pm	15 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7:00-9:00pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	16	17 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	18 Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9am AA 8:30pm	19
20 Worship Service 10am Youth Sunday GS Meeting 1:30 – 4:00pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30pm AA 8:00pm	21	22 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7:00-9:00pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	23 Book Group "Barking to the Choir" 6:30pm	24 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	25 AA 8:30pm	26
27 Worship Service 10am AA 8:00pm	28 Memorial Day Office Closed	29 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 7:00-9:00pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	30	31 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm		