



# Cape Neddick Tide

*What's Coming and Going at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church  
March 2019*

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## **Pastor's Ponderings**

Dear Family of Faith,

It has always been my practice to originate all of my own "Pastor's Ponderings," but I was so taken by an "At the End of the Month" message recently forwarded by our denomination's Regional Resource Minister, Dr. Al Fletcher, that I have decided to share a portion of his comments in this space. Al's post centered on the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. The volume, first published in 1937, has been described as a modern classic, and it has inspired millions around the world, including Al and me.

Bonhoeffer was a German pastor, theologian, and key founding member of the Confessing Church. He was also known for his staunch resistance to the Nazi regime. His vocal opposition to Hitler's genocidal persecution of Jews led to his

arrest, imprisonment in a concentration camp, and eventual execution in 1945.

In *The Cost of Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer spells out what he believes it means to follow Christ; the most oft-quoted part of the book deals with a distinction Bonhoeffer makes between "cheap" and "costly" grace. According to Bonhoeffer, "cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

Cheap grace, Bonhoeffer says, is to hear the gospel preached as follows: "Of course you have sinned, but now everything is forgiven, so you can stay as you are and enjoy the consolations of forgiveness. The main defect of such a proclamation is that it contains no demand for

discipleship. In contrast to cheap grace, costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus. It comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. It is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: 'My yoke is easy and my burden is light.'"

Bonhoeffer argues that as Christianity spread, the Church became more "secularized," accommodating the demands of obedience to Jesus to the requirements of society. In this way, "the world was Christianized, and grace became its common property." But the hazard of this was that the gospel was cheapened, and obedience to the living Christ was gradually lost beneath formula and ritual, so that in the end, grace could literally be sold for monetary gain. For Bonhoeffer, "when Christ calls a man, He bids him come and

die.” Without sacrifice, there can be no discipleship.

Bonhoeffer thought that the organized church over the generations cheapened the preaching of the forgiveness of sins, and this has seriously weakened the church. “The price we are having to pay today in the shape of the collapse of the organized church is only the inevitable consequence of our policy of making grace available to all at too low a cost. We gave away the word and sacraments wholesale, we baptized, confirmed, and absolved a whole nation without condition. Our humanitarian sentiment made us give that which was holy to the scornful and unbelieving...But the call to follow Jesus in the narrow way was hardly ever heard.”

Al responded to his reading of Bonhoeffer with the following reflection: “what was true in Bonhoeffer's day seems to be true in ours. It is time to return to discipleship that is costly, that differentiates the life of the church from the life of the nation, that calls for habits and practices that identify our love and commitment to Jesus Christ and His Way, Truth, and Life.”

Al concluded with a reminder that “sacrifice is the heart of discipleship” and that “grace is costly. Grace cost God His own Son. Whatever cost God His own Son can never become cheap for us.”

In this season of Lent, in this season of contemplation, let us ponder anew the costly discipleship to which we are called, a costly discipleship that is transformative and life giving,

but never cheaply pursued or secured.

Love in Christ Jesus, Pastor  
Donna

### Deacons’ Retreat

The Pastor led a retreat for the Deacons at the Marie Joseph Spiritual Center in Biddeford, Maine, on Tuesday, March 5. The day-long gathering centered on the Word, prayer, meditation, contemplation, reflection and education.



### America for Christ Offering During March

Galatians 6:9-10 (“Let us not become weary in doing good”) - reminds us that mission and ministry are rooted in service and that God’s grace extends to all, regardless of location. Please help support the AFC offering that ministers to marginalized children, disaster response, prisoner re-entry and aftercare, immigration and refugee resettlement, public witness and advocacy, resources that equip Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to those in hospitals and nursing homes, and so much more.



### Lenten Devotionals

There are a number of Lenten Devotionals for both adults and youth at the rear of the sanctuary. ABC-USA has an on-line Lenten Devotional at <http://www.abc-usa.org/?s=lent>.

These devotionals will help prepare our hearts for Holy Week, the Cross and the sacrifice that Jesus made for all mankind.



Join us on Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9-10AM for our annual Easter event. “The Greatest Thing Ever” will include an egg hunt, hands-on object lessons, snacks, fun and surprises. Expect a joy-filled time. All are welcome. Be sure to watch our website and check your mailboxes for further details as they unfold!



The CE Board members are making plans for our VBS 2019 taking place this summer. We want your input as we try to choose the best week and the best materials to use to fill our needs here at Cape Neddick Baptist Church. Sue, Sheri, Pastor Donna and Dianne would enjoy hearing your thoughts. Volunteers will be needed and appreciated in all areas of service. Follow our website for details!



Have you noticed any changes in the two youth rooms and in the vestry this past month? What has been taking place is part of an effort which developed from last year’s strategic planning.

These rooms are being transformed by reorganizing and updating. The goal is to make these spaces attractive, safe and user-friendly. Our under-eaves and attic storage will be mapped so that items that are stored are easily accessible. New things will be purchased and the first floor nursery/youth room will be painted and decorated appropriately. We have already been able to send boxes of printed materials/books to Love Packages and will soon be sending music/music books to Bagaduce Music Library in Blue Hill, Maine; consequently, our used materials can be of benefit to others.

**American Baptist Women (ABW)**



Meet Ernesto! Our ABW group is sponsoring Ernesto through World Vision. He has the same birthday as Mary Duval! He has two brothers and seven sisters! We hope he will be able to go to school through our sponsorship. Please pray for Ernesto and his family.



The ABW gals have been busy ripping, measuring, sewing, and rolling...bandages, that is! Altogether, we have rolled over 75 bandages to be delivered to White Cross recipients in the Democratic Republic of Congo! Our bandages will combine with many more to help doctors and nurses care for sick and injured in DRC.



**Birthday and Anniversary**

Sheets are on the back table. If there is anyone interested in having their name added to the sheets, please call. Betty Lovering. 207 363 8009

**Faithcrafting.....well**  
 "Just Because" Wednesday  
 March 20th 2-3:30pm  
 We need YOU to come join a fun fellowship time to create a few everyday cards for yourself to give & for the food pantry for others to choose to give!  
 I will have a fun card crafting

selection which of cards which will make things easy as 1-2-3! Nothing needed to bring, just a smile!  
 Please RSVP to me so I can prepare my supplies.  
 207-752-1994



**Sunday Flowers at CNBC**  
 Would you like to donate flowers?

In memory  
 Honor of a birthday  
 Anniversary  
 Special occasion

Please contact:  
 Sheri Nadeau 603-505-2196

OR, if you would like to assist with the flower responsibility for a week or month, please let me know.

"Many hands make light work!"

Thank You!  
 A very BIG thank you to Eleanor Todd for her years of service as the Flower Coordinator each week at church. She truly has been a blessing sharing her gift!