



Cape Neddick Tide

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

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Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Family of Faith,

As I have been pondering what to share in this issue of *The Cape Neddick Tide*, I have found myself drawn back to John Bunyan's prose allegory *The Pilgrim's Progress*. In this work from the 17th century, Bunyan relates a dream in which he sees a man named Christian who is weeping and wondering what to do to avoid the prophesied destruction of himself, his family and his town.

A man, by the name of Evangelist, comes and warns Christian to flee his corrupt generation. He tells him to journey to the gate beneath the shining light in the distance. Closing his ears to the entreaties of his family and neighbors to remain, Christian flees the City of Destruction and sets out for the Celestial City beyond the gate. He wanders into the Slough of Despond from which he cannot

escape because of the weight of the burden of sin on his back. (A slough is a deep depression or hollow usually filled with mud and mire.) What Bunyan is picturing here is a state of deep despair and moral degradation. Christian finally escapes when he is rescued by someone named Help.

He then meets Mr. Worldly Wiseman who urges him to give up his dangerous journey, to have his weighty burden removed by Mr. Legality and to settle down in the comfortable village of Morality nearby. Christian is ready to accept Mr. Worldly Wiseman's counsel until he is rescued by Evangelist who warns him against being led astray again. At the gate, Christian is led in by Mr. Goodwill and shown the straight and narrow way that leads to the Celestial City. He comes to the Cross, and his burden of sin falls from his back and rolls into the

Holy Sepulchre (the burial tomb) nearby.

His journey proceeds past Hill Difficulty, House Beautiful, the Valley of Humiliation, the Valley of the Shadow of Death. He comes upon individuals whose names are Hypocrisy, Formalist, Simple, Pliable, Obstinate, Presumption and Mistrust. He also meets other folks with names like Discretion, Piety, Charity, Prudence, Faithful, Watchful and Sincere.

He comes upon Doubting Castle where he is caught by a Giant named Despair. The Giant confines him in a dungeon along with a companion he's picked up along the way, named Hopeful. The Giant beats them both until Christian remembers that he has a key called "Promise" which will unlock the prison door. Following a series of further adventures, he eventually makes his way to the River of Death, crosses over with the help of Hopeful, and is met

on the other side by angels who lead them both to the gate of Heaven.

We are—all of us—on a journey like that pictured by Bunyan. We may know people whose characters would find them apt holders of names like those in Bunyan's book. We all know someone or perhaps we are someone who might be called Mistrust or Formalist, Hypocrisy or Obstinate. But we also know or are the Faithfuls, the Hopefuls, the Watchfuls...the Christians.

When we have heard, and accepted the message of Jesus, when we have confessed and repented of our sins, when we have been baptized and have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have begun to live the resurrected life, the life for which our Savior went to the cross.

Each one who desires to live eternally in the presence of God must pass through the gate that is Jesus (John 10:9). At the foot of His cross, we lay down our burdens and we walk the straight and narrow way (Matthew 7:13-14). But, as Bunyan's Christian discovered, there are pitfalls along the way, attacks by the enemy, steep climbs, distractions from the holy life.

Some modeling for staying on track is offered in Acts 2:42-47. There we find a call to devotion, devotion to the apostles' teaching (immersion in the Word); fellowshiping (breaking bread together, growing in friendship and Christian caring); praying; sharing; and attending to social concerns. We are also called to stand in awe as we see God's power evidenced in signs

and wonders; His miracles are there for us today as they were in the first century.

We are pilgrims progressing along the paths set for us by our Lord. May we, as individuals and as a church, live glorious resurrected lives through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Love in Christ Jesus, Pastor
Donna



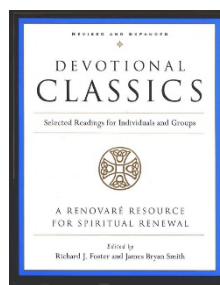
NEW SUNDAY STUDY: Goliath Must Fall

Beginning May 19, 8:45-9:30 AM

(Led by the Pastor and Deacons)

In *Goliath Must Fall*, Louie Giglio examines the story of David and Goliath to reveal how we must slay the giants of fear, rejection, complacency, anxiety, anger, and addiction in our lives. The six-session study shows how the key to living free from our giants is not better slingshot accuracy, but keeping our eyes on the one and only giant-slayer: Jesus. Put your hope in him, and watch Goliath fall.

NEW SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



GROUP: Caring for Our Souls

Beginning Wednesday, May 15, 2 PM, in the Parsonage

(Led by the Pastor)

Tired of snorkeling around in your relationship with God?

Ready to go deep? Are you thirsty for more of God than you've been experiencing? **Revival** is the answer and this course is for you. Over our six weeks together, we will focus on **discovering a richer and more balanced spiritual life infused with joy, peace, and a clearer understanding of God**. We will center on **the contemplative way of life** and practice various forms of **Christian meditation**. We will practice **the ancient art of Lectio Divina** (listening deeply—through meditation, prayer and contemplation—to hear with the ear of our hearts). We will engage in **the Augustinian and Ignatian methods of reading scripture** ("virtual experiences" of the Word where you read the passage and then use your imagination to put yourself in the scene). We will also consider how to create and maintain a **spiritual journal**.

The York Association American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Meeting

We hosted the York Association American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 4. Mary Duval and Sue Norton organized the day with the assistance of Crystal Butler and Dianne Hludik. We provided beautifully decorated tables and delicious treats. Andrea Dresser, led a segment on "The Artist's Way," and our Pastor led a segment on Christian meditation and prayer. Carolyn Sweeney, President of the York Association ABWM, pronounced the event the best of these in her memory. At the close of the day, Pastor Donna was invited to lead a plenary session and two workshops at the state ABWM

gathering at China Lake August 15-17. [Photos: Crystal Butler]



Iron Sharpens Iron



Several of our men were among the more than 500 who attended the Iron Sharpens Iron

conference at the First Baptist Church of Portland on Saturday, May 6. Keynote speakers included Gary Rosberg and Rex Tignor. Workshop topics ranged from anger to authenticity in marriage, from fatherhood to finding strength for the journey. [Photo: Gene Hailson]



The Board of Christian Education will be arranging for the church's honoring of our 2019 graduates in June. If you are graduating or you have someone in your family or know someone in the community who is graduating and you would like that graduate to receive a card of acknowledgement of his/her accomplishment, please let Dianne, Sheri or Sue know by June 1st.



Throughout May the CE Board will be receiving and reviewing applications for the CNBC Sunday School Scholarship for the academic year 2019-2020. For more information contact any member of the Board of Christian Education.



It is not too early to register for Summer Camp. CNBC will be providing camperships for those affiliated with CNBC who wish to attend Christian summer camp sessions at China Lake Camp (China, ME), Oceanwood Camp

(Ocean Park, ME) or even Aviation Camp (Mapleton, ME). Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Alpha Pregnancy Center



The CNBC is participating in a fund-raising effort for the Sanford-based Alpha Pregnancy Center, filling baby bottles with coins, bills and checks. The ministry provides free pregnancy tests, both by appointment and walk in. The organization serves and cares for those who come in for pregnancy options information and continues to serve and care for individuals as they move through their pregnancy and parent their children. The goal is to not only speak life in regard to the baby a woman is carrying, but also to instill hope and provide support. The baby bottles are available at the rear of the sanctuary.

Welcome Packets

We are in the process of creating new welcome packets that will have inserts with information about everything from our vision to mission efforts, from our pastor's profile to the sundry ministries we conduct and support.

Also included in the packet are a ballpoint pen with our church name and contact information, and an outreach New Testament with a full text in the New International translation, cross-references, footnotes, the ABCs of Salvation, maps on Bible lands, and helps on getting started in the Word.