



# THE BELL TOWER



“PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE WORLD  
JESUS LIVES OUR GOD REIGNS”

Vol. 61 No. 5

East Rockaway, N.Y.

May 2021



## **Dates to Remember:**

May 31...Memorial Day  
June 14...Flag Day  
June 20...Father's Day  
June 21...First Day of Summer  
July 4...Independence Day  
September 6...Labor Day  
September 7...Rosh Hashanah  
September 11... Patriot Day  
(20 Years!)

September 12...Grandparents Day  
September 16...Yom Kippur  
September 22...First Day of Autumn  
October 11...Columbus Day  
October 31...Halloween

**Lay Readers and Ushers are needed for Sunday Worship. Please sign up on the sheet in the Hallway or speak with Maryanne (516-599-5768) in the office or Stephanie Maddolone (516-355-1970). Lay Readers will be required to assist with the service and read two (2) Bible passages for that Sunday. Please speak to Pastor Mark for further directions.**

### **NEW OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday**

**9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon**

**(Closed Thursdays)**

**The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

# Solidarity

One morning I was watching the news on TV and the director of the CDC came on to tell us, (among other things), that it was probably okay to go outdoors without a mask if you are fully vaccinated. Well, that made my day. Seems like a little thing, but it meant that we are turning the tide on this pandemic. It means that every time I go to walk my dog, or take a bike ride, or go digging in my garden, I don't have to look for the thing. But the thing is, I found myself making sure I had one, if not on my face, then certainly in my pocket, anyway. Not because I don't believe the CDC, I do. I worked for the government for several years, and I learned that while our government employees on average do a remarkable job, they are not good at the things that make for conspiracies, (like keeping secrets). So, no, I don't believe in conspiracy theories like "Q." No conspiracies here, folks, just earnest public sector workers trying to do their jobs, whatever their personal opinions or feelings.

So, I can go outside and not bring my mask, at least as long as I am not around folks who are still vulnerable. That's great. But when in doubt, I'm wearing mine anyway, because I don't know who is or isn't vulnerable and I don't want to be the guy that infected someone. But there is another reason, and it is just as important. When I wear the mask, erring on the side of caution, it is a symbol of solidarity and caring about my community and my fellow human beings. The mask on my face, is a sign of my discipleship because it says that I understand the meaning of sacrifice, and that I understand as well, that there is something more important than my convenience or even my rights, and that is the health of my sisters and brothers. The commandment to love God, neighbor and self is something that transcends all the "me and mines." It is a call to seize the day and to make something redemptive out of it. A call to be part of a collaboration of God's

people working together to make the world work for all of us in this time of crisis.

Finally, let's face it, wearing a mask, like getting the vaccine, is an act of self-preservation. There are many variants of this virus floating around, and every vaccine depends on "herd immunity" to be fully effective. That means that the longer it takes to vaccinate everyone, the longer we will be forced to settle for less than the full and abundant, worry-free lives that Jesus willed for us. The longer we will have to wear masks and worry about the vulnerable people we love and the longer we will have to keep taking vaccines to keep the disease at bay. Cooperation and collaboration are what is required, everyone doing their best, from the scientists and doctors who are developing the vaccines and the guidelines, to the essential workers, and everyone else who is determined to pitch in and do what is necessary to free us from the pandemic's grip. We do not have the luxury of going our own way, or of giving into our fear or of flouting the requirements if we want to see an end to this thing and to be prepared for the next challenge that comes along, because we know there will always be another challenge and another decision as well; to work together for the good of all, or to go it alone, trying to look out for me and mine.

The thing is, we can't afford to hang on to these "go it alone" myths anymore. We were created as the Bible says for community and communion, not isolation and competition. Human beings would never have survived this long without the imperative toward the other that drives us to form groups and work together to overcome adversity and make life better for us all. We need each other. Remember, Jesus said, "wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be also." Jesus is found in and through love, and love is found in relationship. It

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is love that makes us children of God because love is the essence of God and when we act in love, when we band together, ready to sacrifice and fight for each other and not just ourselves, we are building the kin-dom of God, a realm built not on coercive power, but on the power of love, and the solidarity it creates for the good of all.

**O**n Pentecost, the disciples sat in a locked room, praying with all their might. They were defeated, depressed, and destroyed by the principalities and powers who executed their rabbi as a state criminal and a blasphemer as well. The work that they had done, this incredible faith that had transformed their lives seemed over and they didn't have a clue as to what to do next. Until the Holy Spirit came upon them like a rushing wind, lighting up their hearts and their souls and sending them out to realize their destinies as children of God, as great evangelists, leaders, teachers and even martyrs. The bible tells us they held all things in common, each taking as they needed, no one doing without and everyone was valued, whether their gifts were large or small, maybe because they finally understood that we are all in this together, we are all one, and that our faith truly is a decision, one that we make every day, blessings or curses, love or fear, life, or death.

**M**aybe we need to follow their lead. After all, we've either got to learn to look out for each other, or we will all perish. The world is too small for us to act as if it we have somewhere else to go or that the rules that protect other's lives do not apply to us. The virus surging in India will be in Texas or Florida or here in New York in short order, unless we act to help our sisters and brothers over there. The mask wearing will never end unless we get vaccinated, follow the rules, and wear it until we can be assured it's safe for all of us. But we know that, it's gospel 101. Now we need to share what we know by being ourselves Good News to our fellow children of God; by looking out for each other, wearing our masks, leading by example in our words and our deeds. We are resurrection people, the children of God who makes hope from despair, love from hate and life from death. This is our time. The Spirit of God is upon us, mask up and let's go!

*Happy Pentecost,*

*Pastor Mark*



***Bethany Bell Tower*** ...is a monthly publication of

**BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

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***Statements made in editorials, signed articles or letters, do not represent an official position in this church.  
Persons with differing opinions are invited to expres their views in letters to the editor.***

Are you less than perfect? Welcome! We are a community or imperfect people (including but not restricted to): squirming children and their harried parents, happy and sad people, people with challenges, seniors, young people, middle aged folks, people of every race, poor people, rich people, in between people, LGBT and straight people, true believers, seekers, agnostics, odd and ordinary people, extraordinary people, un-churched and unsure people, people with disabilities, hypocrites, saints, sinners and everybody else. Because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here just as you are!



## Greetings from your Bethany Moderator

*In peace, Janet Moser, Bethany Moderator*

### **May Greetings!**

It is wonderful to be able to spend time outdoors again. So good for the body and soul. Well – sort of good. I spent quite a few hours last week doing yard work and gardening. I was so sore the next morning, I could hardly move! That is the price paid for a winter of inactivity, but I have no doubt I will get this body back into working form!

As much as I enjoy gardening, one early spring task is a difficult one. Plant life of all sorts is popping up everywhere! What do I want to nurture? What goes into the compost bin? Which plants do I want, and which are weeds?

Just what exactly is a weed? It seems rather arbitrary. Oxford Languages defines it as *a wild plant growing where it is not wanted and in competition with cultivated plants*. Merriam Webster says a weed is *a plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth especially : one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants*.

Well, that is indeed a subjective decision. So, anything I did not invite into my garden is a weed? Is a wild plant a bad thing? I'm not too comfortable with that. Who knows what will grow in our gardens, courtesy of the birds and wind, given a chance? We might be yanking out treasures beyond belief. Those violets that keep showing up in flower beds and even lawns are real pretty in bloom. That mystery plant that grew two feet tall was a real eye catcher! I really don't recall planting that flower in the corner.

Both weed definitions used terms such as unwanted, not valued, in competition with the chosen plants. Unwanted and unvalued by whom? Most people are not fans of dandelions and spend a lot of time and unfortunately, chemicals on trying to eliminate them. Are they without value? Far from it! Dandelions are an important early food source for bees. We know how important those pollinators are. They are also edible, used for medicinal purposes, and actually good for your lawn. Read more at this site - <https://www.mofga.org/resources/weeds/ten-things-you-might-not-know-about-dandelions/>

I think sometimes we are a little too quick to decide what has value and what does not. Let's leave the garden for a moment. What else in our world gets treated as weeds? Yes, I'm talking about people here. Do we look at others and make judgements as to their worth? When someone a bit different enters our circles, do we consider them a weed, unwanted competition? Too many people in our world are treated as weeds, unwanted, unvalued, and therefore, deprived of nurturing and opportunities. Whether it be based upon race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual identity, religion, or whatever, too many people receive that designation of weed.

We need to, and we can, turn this around. It starts by realizing that everything and everyone has value and a role to fulfill in God's creation. Not everything or everyone on this planet is "cute" and that's okay.



## **FROM THE TRUSTEES:**

**A**nother Boy Scout from our own Troop 121 will be working on his Eagle Scout Project right here at Bethany! The plan is to take care of the back yard by cleaning out what is there, leveling with dirt and seeding. Plus, he will put in a fence across the back (along the parking lot by the dentist behind Bethany). This is in anticipation of the Nursery School we hope to have in place before September. (It really needed a good clean out, anyway.)

**Y**ours in Christ, Richard Eaves

**[www.bethanycong.com](http://www.bethanycong.com)**

## **Bethany's Sunday School Fundraiser**



**The prize will be as BIG as your hearts!!!**

**Tell your friends, neighbors and family...  
the more the merrier!!!!**

**(50% of the pot is for the winner and 50% to Bethany)**

**Tickets are only \$5**

**You can purchase as many as you want!**

**See if your ticket number is called on  
Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> (after service)**

**Tickets are available after service on Sunday or  
reach out to**

**Tina Lewald 917-270-6509  
or [Tina2000\\_10465@yahoo.com](mailto:Tina2000_10465@yahoo.com)**



**Thank you !!!!!**

## **BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesdays, beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

**Weekly Book Club,**

**Led by Pastor Mark - via ZOOM.**

**If interested, please contact the Office at 516-599-5768.**

**The Thrift Shop is OPEN!! Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

## **FROM THE EDITOR:**

Condolences to the family of Marion Wright. Janet Moser, our Moderator, is Marion's daughter. Marion was a much beloved member of our Congregation. She will be deeply missed.



### *Fun With Puns*

Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.

What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.

Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.

Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.

If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.

Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.

A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.

I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.

Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.

Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.

When I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps, he gave me a blank stare.

Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."

Prison is just one word to you, but for some people, it's a whole sentence.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.

I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.

What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, their, they're.

I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.

I went to the toy store and asked the assistant where the Schwarzenegger dolls are and he replied, "Aisle B, back."

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

*courtesy of Don Gillies*

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## **TROOP 121:**

Troop 121 went on an outdoor excursion to Schiff Scout Reservation on April 18, 2021. The Scouts had a great time and the weather was fantastic. The Patrols competed in a chopped cooking competition using ingredients such as peppers and ground beef, using cooking skills they created dishes that had the judges asking for more. The Scouts also had a fire building contest and participated in lots of fun outdoor activities. All and all, it was a fun and exciting day and a much needed day ...outdoors and back to nature.

Troop 121 is excited to be attending this years ScoutO'ree on May 22nd. The Scouts will be competing on a skills trail as well as hosting an Orienteering type skill for other Troops to compete in.

Troop 121 has two (2) Scouts with upcoming Eagle Projects. Nate Gagliardo on May 14th and May 15th, We will be cleaning out the playground at Bethany Church, laying down top soil and grass seed as well as installing a fence. Robert Pszybylski on May 15th at Bethany and May 16th at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. We will be building benches to be placed around the village for visitors to enjoy various events.

(For more information, please visit the troop's website: <http://troop121ny.org>)

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 121**  
**TODAY'S YOUTH... TOMORROW'S LEADERS**

### **Write for The Bell Tower**

The Bethany *Bell Tower* is our newsletter. Let's make it really ours by submitting articles of interest. This can prove to be especially beneficial to writers and readers alike in this isolation. Following are some suggestions but feel free to improvise.

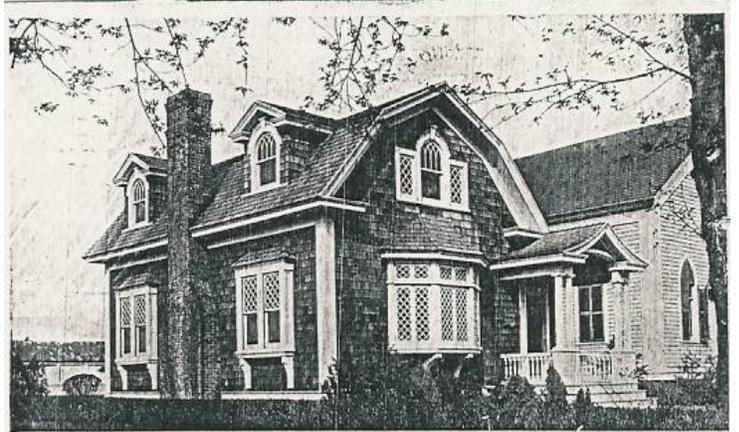
Do you know some Bethany history? A person of interest for a Spotlight article? Let's hear it. We know that some of our congregants are personally involved with a variety of charities. For example, "Locks for Love". If you are involved or know of someone, please drop us a note. Everyone would love to hear about it. Have you read a great book recently? Have you seen a great movie lately? Share a book or movie review. Perhaps a product review? How about having a recipe swap? A 30 minute meal for during the work week? Do you have a favorite poem or prayer? How about a nice clean joke? Do you have a favorite restaurant? Find a new one? Give us a review. Great vacation? Fun getaway place? Tell us.

You can email submissions to Charles D'Agostino at [cjdagostino@gmail.com](mailto:cjdagostino@gmail.com) or drop them off to the Church office. You can even mail to him directly: 70 Sunrise Drive, Lynbrook, NY 11563. *Thank you!*

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# *History of the East Rockaway Public Library*

Prior to 1900 a small group of friendly women of East Rockaway had been exchanging books among themselves. Members of this group included Mrs. Olive Denton, Mrs. Robert Davison, Miss Amelia Davison and her sister Miss Irene, Miss Mary Baisley, Miss Ella F. Carman and Mrs. A.E. Hewlett and her daughters, the Misses Ida and Hattie Hewlett. After several years they decided to make their books available to more people, and Mrs. Hewlett offered space in the Post Office, which was located in the Hewlett Store on the corner of Ocean Avenue and Main Street. A table was put in one corner and at specified days and hours one or two of these women were present to loan books from their small collection to the public.



The people of the Village appreciated being able to borrow these books, and the idea of establishing a Library grew until on Saturday evening, November 22, 1902, a group of men and women met at the home of Mrs. Hewlett to take steps in organizing an association to maintain a Library in the Village. They decided to call it the East Rockaway Free Library, and they applied for and were granted a Provisional Charter by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York on December 4, 1902.

The East Rockaway Free Library was first opened to borrowers January 24, 1903. It was still located, by invitation, in the Hewlett building and started with 200 books. The Librarian and her assistants volunteered their time and services. During the first six months 808 books were circulated to 97 borrowers and 348 new books were added by purchase and gift.

The first to serve on the Board of Trustees were Mr. C.L. Phipps, Pres., Mr. T.H. Beeson, Mr. O.T. Hewlett, Mrs. Robert Davison and Miss Irene C. Davison. Mr. Hewlett was elected Treasurer and continued in that office without interruption until 1939. Miss Amelia Davison was appointed Librarian, a position which she held until 1926.

In its beginning the Library was supported by the annual association dues of \$1.00 per member and by entertainments such as lawn fetes, boat rides, food sales, dances, euchres and voluntary contributions as well as state aid varying from \$25 to \$100 per year. Books were bought at Bargain and Hurt Book Sales and at Second Hand Book Stores, and from the start books have been generously donated by friends of the Library.

Gradually the Library grew. More books were added, a new shelf was built for them. Books were borrowed from the State Library in Albany a case at a time.

In 1907 late one warm summer afternoon Miss Baisley came home from serving her turn as librarian to find a visitor, Mrs Russell Sage of Lawrence. Miss Baisley explained that she had been taking her turn as librarian that afternoon. Mrs. Sage became interested and wanted to know all about this library. She thought these women were doing a splendid, pioneering work and wanted to help in some way. Through Miss Baisley, Mrs. Sage gave money to purchase the plot of ground adjoining the Bethany Church on Main Street and further gifts which paid for a building and left a small surplus in the hands of the Trustees.

That same year an absolute Charter was granted by the State and, at the request of Mrs. Sage, the name was changed to the Baisley Free Library

.....to be continued

(submitted by Stephanie Maddolone)

# May is National Mental Health Month

## WAYS TO CREATE JOY AND SATISFACTION

**Strengthen Your Funny Bone** You can keep it together by cracking up: It's hard to be irritated, worried or glum when you're rolling in laughter. And gentle humor often helps defuse a tense situation.

**Studies show that:** Positive emotions can decrease stress hormones and build emotional strength. Laughing decreases pain, may help your heart and lungs, promotes muscle relaxation and can reduce anxiety.

**Check out some tips:** Watch or listen to comedy via TV shows, old movies, podcast or website. Or get a laugh the old-fashioned way—through the comics section. Or keep a humor tape in the car and steer clear of traffic frustration. Try to laugh at some of the hassles in your life if you can. Finding what's a bit absurd or amusing in a challenging situation just might offer relief.

**Find Some Fun:** Whether it's engaging in an enjoyable activity or goofing around, having fun isn't just, well, fun. Leisure activities can boost our effectiveness, broaden our perspective, increase creativity and restock our energy supply. Leisure can combat stress and provide an emotional lift by offering social support, chances to build confidence as well as distractions from difficulties.

**Have some fun!** Free up some time. Can you afford to scratch something off your calendar? Is there anyone you can ask to help lighten your load? Set aside a time for fun and keep it like it was a doctor's appointment. Do something you loved to do as a kid. Run through the sprinklers, hang from the monkey bars, make a mess with finger paints. Do something you've always wanted to do. Bake a soufflé, build a tree house, learn to knit. If you're not sure how, take a class or look for a local group dedicated to the activity. Pursue a creative interest. Writing, singing or making music all have therapeutic effects. Or just turn on a song you love: Brain images show that music can trigger feel-good hormones. Do it with someone you love. Get an extra boost from your leisure by sharing it. Good times build relationships, and good relationships are key to our happiness.

**Go Ahead, Indulge:** Though there probably isn't much research on the emotional value of a good soak in the tub, we all need some kind of relaxing refuge.

**Consider these options:** Therapeutic massage. A massage can relieve muscle tension, stimulate the body's natural painkillers and boost your immune system. It can also help you feel less anxious and more relaxed. Meditation or a meditative form of exercise. Try tai chi or yoga, which use soothing, flowing motions. A nature break. A blue sky, lush bushes, a scenic lake. Walking in—or even just looking at—nature calms our nerves and relieves mental fatigue. A mental vacation. If you can't hop on a plane to someplace soothing, just close your eyes and envision a scene you love. Try to fully imagine the experience of being there.

**Get More Out Of What You've Got:** Sometimes, we don't need to add new activities to get more pleasure. We just need to soak up the joy in the ones we've already got. If we don't stop to notice the positives in your life, it's like they barely exist. Unfortunately, our daily demands sometimes block our ability to savor. Practice mindfulness, or the experience of being fully aware. You can start by really relishing a meal. Feel the textures, taste the flavors, enjoy the aromas. Don't rush, don't answer the phone. Remind yourself to be conscious of other experiences throughout the day, like how your shower feels on your skin or how the sun feels on your face. Share the joy. If you want to more fully experience your positive experiences, tell a friend about them. That way you'll get to relive the moment—and enjoy your friend's reaction.

Excerpted from an article at [mhanational.org](http://mhanational.org) – Visit Mental Health America for more information!

**Wishing You a Wealth of Health!!**

*Submitted by Carol Henck*

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**THRIFTique**

We are pleased to announce that the Thrift Shop at Bethany Congregational Church located at 100 Main Street, East Rockaway, NY, is open for business once again. Our hours are Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Entry of people will be limited to few at a time, temperatures will be taken, hand sanitizer and masks must be used and social distancing will be put into practice to help keep both customers and staff healthy and safe.

We carry many items in our shop and there's something for everyone!

Looking forward to seeing friends  
- old and new - real soon!



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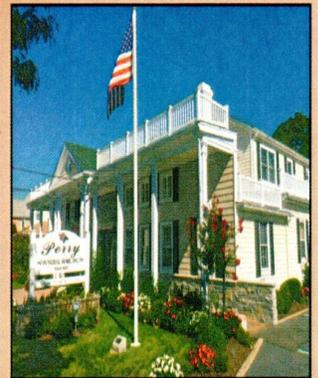
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# THE BELL TOWER

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Mural in the Fellowship Hall

Courtesy of Diana Harrison and Anthony Claverie