

## From the Pastor

The Rev. Keith C. Alderman

### I Never Had Anything Go Wrong In My Life

At this time of year, sometimes my mind wanders back and I spend some time with those I've loved and have gone on to heaven. They are men and women, young and old. Each of them, in their own unique and particular way left something with me that I still remember to this day.

Lately, I've been thinking about a minister I had when I was a boy. He came to our church in retirement in the late 1960's. He had begun his ministry at a very young age, in 1922 in Pennsylvania.

When I knew him, he had been married for fifty years. He had three daughters. Later on, his wife had died, and he married another woman years younger than he. He eventually outlived her, too. He brought up a family during the Great Depression, and put himself through Yale graduate school. When World War II came along, he enlisted as a Chaplain, because he said that he had been preaching against Hitler for years and if he didn't go off to war he would be a hypocrite. He eventually became a Chaplain at a B - 17 bomber base in England. I can remember him telling us stories of all the brave men he met in the service during the war. He told us, too, about losing many, many friends. He told me once that one day he had to bury thirty dead in a single day. Sometimes he would sneak on to one of the B - 17's (with the knowledge of the crew) and go with them on bombing missions over Germany. This was against the rules of the Geneva Convention, but he said "How can I counsel men if I don't know what they are going through."

Here was a man who lived a lot of life. Once, when he was about the age of 100 (he lived to 107) I heard him say, "I never had anything go wrong in my life." I thought at the time, "How can he say this?" He had outlived two wives. He had seen

bravery and a great deal of tragedy in the war. He had been through everything that you and I go through, but he only had positive things to say about it. How could he say this, that nothing had ever gone wrong in his life? I'll tell you how. He never let a negative thought exist in his mind. If something negative came in, he would push it out immediately. Immediately. He did this throughout his whole adult life. Amazing. He never let a negative thought live in his mind. Jesus said,

*"Whoever hears these words of Mine and does them, will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain came down. The water came up. The wind blew and hit the house. The house did not fall because it was built on rock" (Mt. 7:24-25).*

This year, build your spiritual house on solid rock. Never let anything negative live in your mind. Even for a moment. If you practice this, if you live this, you will have good years ahead no matter what life brings to your door.

Blessings to you in the New Year,

*Rev. Keith*



## MODERATOR'S MOMENT

### LIGHT IN THE WORLD:

I am not finished talking about light. Why so much emphasis on it? Primarily because it speaks entirely of our Christian walk. The gospel of John reminds us that the light in us (8:12) is Christ himself. Jesus also makes it clear that this same light within us shines for others to see. He is there with us when the worst imaginable thing has happened to us. During those times, how do we keep ourselves from flickering, drowning in melted wax (the goo of our own sorrow, doubts and negative thoughts) or letting our light go out altogether?

For self-reflection, try this test of the strength of YOUR inner light.

Answer with either Yes, Sometimes, or No

\_\_\_\_\_ I have felt my faith in God flicker at times, but I know what it takes to turn myself around and renew my faith. It is not always easy but I can do it.

\_\_\_\_\_ One of my biggest joys is coming to church. Not just because of the people there but because it is the few moments in my life where I can reflect on what my faith means to me and refresh it.

\_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy Christian friendship and fellowship. It has gotten me through some tough times.

\_\_\_\_\_ I use prayer as my alone time with God. I find myself in prayer daily, even about the small stuff.

\_\_\_\_\_ I use prayer as my solace in trouble. In the past I have poured my soul out to God and found comfort.

\_\_\_\_\_ God answers my prayers when I need it most - I get answers.

\_\_\_\_\_ I think about living the way God intended me to, more often than just at church one time a week.

\_\_\_\_\_ Forgiveness is a difficult process for me, but I recognize my responsibility to forgive others just like God forgives me of the dumb things I do. It is hard, and I know what makes it hardest is to also show love in return.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have acted as peacemaker between family, friends or my church family, instead of taking sides.

\_\_\_\_\_ I get joy helping out around my church. I find myself volunteering sometimes even when I know I don't have enough time in the week to do what I need to do. It's hard to say no to my church family.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am easily moved or get emotional when I hear about how God has worked in someone's life.

For each yes, give yourself a 3, if sometimes give yourself a 2, if never or rarely give yourself a 1. Add them up.

Answers are at the end of this newsletter.

#### *Helpful hints "When in doubt"*

Pray a simple prayer: "God, I feel myself slipping from you. Show me the way to return. Please send me help to find you." Find a person whose faith you admire most, and watch how they interact with people. See if there are things that they do that you could also do, in your own way. Open yourself to be inspired by Christians around you who seem to be glowing with inner light. If you are still struggling, talk to your pastor. Most importantly, open the bible to the Gospel of John and read only a few verses at a time until you have reached a point where you just want to think about what you have read. Allow God to speak back to you in that way.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



January 1, 2013, volume



### A word from the director

Have you hugged a child today? At the time I am writing this, there has been a lot of tragedy in the country and even in our faith family at PCC. One of my greatest comforts at times like this is to remember God's love for us all. I know that those that have passed are now fully with God and can truly know what it means to be a child of God. The closest we can get here on earth is the unconditional love of a child and what better way to let them know God's love than by letting it pour through us to them. So go and share some love today and hug a child.

#### What is your talent?

Please consider making a commitment to participate in our program one of your new year's resolutions. We have numerous ways to participate, just talk to Natalie and we will find the perfect fit for your talents.

#### High School Group

It was so great to see such a large group of young people lighting the Advent candles this season. Thank you to Eva Kelly and Sharon Romick for providing leadership to this group. This High School Group meets on the last Sunday of each month offering a chance for all of our High School Students to reconnect with each other and the PCC family of faith.

#### Please Register

I hate to say it but our records are not completely up to date. If I don't have a current registration from you, I will be sending one home with your child at the first of the year. In accordance with our Safe Church policy we must have current contact and medical concern information for every child that is in our program. Thank you to all that have already registered.

#### "Super" Pageant

It was wonderful to see the children of our congregation engaging with the age old story of Jesus' birth in a new way this year. Thank you to all the children that worked so hard to learn their lines and the parents that brought them to rehearsal. I was to say a special thank you to Beth Wilson and Elizabeth Raymond for directing when I was without a voice to do so.





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Razia Bhatt
- 1/2 Joseph Banda
- 1/3 Henri Paquette
- 1/5 Cathy Nicastro
- 1/6 Douglas Nickel
- 1/8 Herb Clafin
- Laura Gronroos
- Melissa Bible
- Alicia LaClair
- 1/10 Whitney DiGeronimo
- Wendy Arena
- 1/12 Charles Milhans
- Jason Vallee
- 1/13 Sharon A. Frechette
- 1/14 Denise Pierce
- 1/17 Erica Vargo
- 1/21 Sue Cade
- 1/25 Michelle L. Rightmyer
- 1/26 Rev. Keith Alderman
- Julie French
- 1/28 Mary Mullahy
- Rosemary Banda
- 1/31 Eunju Milhans



## COFFEE HOUR

In January, 2013, the Pastor/Parish Committee, with the help of Council members, will host Coffee Hours.

## PRINTER CARTRIDGES

I am still collecting all types of printer cartridges. I turn these into Staples, and the church receives



\$2.00 in credit for each cartridge recycled in the store. Drop them off at the office at anytime!

*Penny Alderman*

## FOOD PANTRY

Our food procurers are seeking donations of regular soup and canned vegetables for the month of January 2013. We appreciate all the donations you bring in to help those in our community who are in need of a helping hand.

## THANK YOU'S

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. I'm not doing too bad. Will be 78 Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. My VA nurse is giving me good marks.



I just received your Market Basket Gift. Merci Encore. Today is the 21<sup>st</sup> and we are still here. I'm having rehab for pain in my hip; fell last Friday and needed help to get up. I'm OK

though. Joyeux Noel.

*Henri Paquette*

Dear Pilgrim Friends,

Thank you so very much for your kind words, cards and prayers while we mourned the passing of our Uncle Bill Weber. It is truly a blessing to have such wonderful Friends!

In Christ's Love,  
*The Schaffter Family*

Thank you to the Anonymous person who left a green and white box on Penny's desk, with a Christmas card addressed to "The Aldermans". Unfortunately, you did not sign the card, but we thank you for the box of

cookies, candies and fudge. We are enjoying all the goodies!

Blessings,  
*Rev. Keith and Penny*

Good afternoon Keith,  
The congregation at Pilgrim was warm and welcoming. I appreciate the support that you and the church have given to Habitat. Thanks for the opportunity to speak to your members. *John Mims, Faith Relations Liaison, Habitat for Humanity.*

Thank you to *Mary Mullahy* for filling in for me on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. Mary printed the worship order and bulletin, and sent out the weekly e-mail. Thanks again, Mary.  
*Penny Alderman*

\*\*\*\*\*



Several of our church friends and members have suffered losses since our last edition of "The Messenger". We

express our deepest sympathy to the following:

**Laura and David Sykes** on the death of their daughter, *Colleen*.. Rev. Keith said a prayer at her graveside service on Nov. 21st.

**Peter and Lisa Hauge and Family.** Peter's mother, Patricia Hauge, died Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in Uxbridge. Rev. Keith was asked to say a prayer at the funeral collation.

**Eva and David Kelly and Family.** Eva's aunt, Eva Thomas, passed away on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Private funeral services were held.

**Jeff Brosseau, Eric Choudhary, and Michelle D. Brosseau.** Our beloved friend, faithful church and choir member, *Michelle L. Brosseau*, died unexpectedly Dec. 17th

during what was to have been routine surgery. Rev. Keith officiated at Michelle's funeral, held at Pilgrim Congregational Church on Saturday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Christmas Craft Fair

Thanks to all members and friends of Pilgrim Church, who either contributed, helped set-up, or worked at the fair. Our final total received is \$900.

Save your items for our 3rd Annual Christmas Craft Fair next December.

### Cookie Walk

Due to the many donations of our great baker elves, we were able to add \$200 toward the church budget.

### Mardi Gras Tea

Save the date of February 2nd, snow date February 9th. Tickets will be on sale January 13th after church. Cost - \$6.00 each. Details to follow.



### MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

PCC Missions Scholarships: Five recipients were awarded scholarships of \$400 each from the Missions Committee. These members were: *Christine Barry, Ashley Keogh, Charles Milhans, Jr., Wendy Arena and Bria Pichette*. Best wishes to these members for the Spring Semester.

Missions committee would like to thank everyone who donated to the Caring and Giving tree, the Friendship Tree and Hat and Mitten tree. Thank you all who think of others during the busy Christmas Season.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Missions committee again will participate in this event in February .

All proceeds will be donated to the PCC Food Pantry.  
Thank you again on behalf of Missions Committee  
Deb M, Jackie L., Bev S, Mary M, Eunju M .  
and Bria P.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS**

The Confirmation Class would like to thank everyone who participated in our fall fundraisers including God’s Creation Calendars, Apple Pies, Crisps and Turnovers. We raised \$357 to go towards defraying the cost of our March retreat. Thank you again so much.

Sincerely,

The Confirmation Class

*Clara Schaffter, Emily Davis, Brittany Dauphinais and Stephanie Palis*

Youth Fellowship



**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

will be held Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at Pilgrim Congregational Church – 9:30 a.m. and is open to all

High School students and their friends.

**MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS CONCERT**

Sunday, January 6, 2013 – 7:00 P.M. We will be hosting the ringers at a potluck supper at 6:00

P.M. Please bring a dish to pass (for 8-10 people) and have your dish at church before 6:00 P.M. The dinner is for the Merrimack Valley Ringers and PCC friends and members – it is



NOT open to the public.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Kindred Nursing and Rehabilitation River Terrace invites us to a special presentation on “The Journey from Loss to Healing Acceptance” on Wed., Jan. 23 at 6:00 P.M. Presented by Robert M. Girard, Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator, Beacon Hospice of Leominster. Please RSVP to Kristi Mendoza at 978-365-4537 by Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> if you will be attending this program. Offered at River Terrace, 1675 Main St., Lancaster, MA.

**Board of Deacons**



**DEACON OF THE WEEK**

Jan. 6, 2013

– Bonnie Hathaway

Communion servers – Karen McNall, Deb Walker, Charlie Milhans, Sophia Kelly and Mary Mullahy

Jan. 13 – Rod Schaffter

Jan. 20 – Charlie Milhans

Jan. 27 – Sophia Kelly

**SCRIPS/HANNAFORD ORDERS**



Orders will be taken Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013.

**UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

**Jan. 13, 2013 – Budget Review Meeting after service**

**Jan. 14, 2013 – Annual reports due – electronically if possible, please**

**Jan. 20, 2013 – Safe Church Open Forum Meeting**

**Jan. 27, 2013 – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

## “Star Maker”



God made stars to shine at night.  
Sparkling stars to give us light.  
Who but he can make a star?  
One that twinkles clear and bright?  
God, the Maker of each star  
Knows just where they shine at night.

And the God of every light  
Formed each child with love just right.  
Who but he can make a child?  
One that smiles with such delight?  
God, the Maker of each child  
Prosper them to sparkle bright.

—MaryAnn Sundby

## Freedom in Christ

No man in this world attains freedom from any slavery except by entrance into some higher servitude. There is no such thing as an entirely free man. If there were one such being, he would be lost in this great universe, all strung through as it is with obligations. It is not whether you are free or a servant but whose servant you are; this is the question. It is not by striking off all allegiances, but by finding your true Lord and serving him with a complete submission, that you can escape from slavery.

—Phillips Brooks

\*\*\*

## Get moving

Faith is the word that describes the direction our feet start moving when we find that we are loved. Faith is stepping out into the unknown with nothing to guide us but a hand just beyond our grasp.

—Frederick Buechner

\*\*\*

## Special dates

- New Year’s Day, January 1, 2013
- Epiphany, January 6, 2013
- Baptism of the Lord, January 13, 2013
- Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday

Observance, January 21, 2013

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2013

\*\*\*

- “Laughter rises out of tragedy, when you need it the most, and rewards you for your courage.”  
—Erma Bombeck

- “Faith never knows where it is being led, or it would not be faith. True faith is content to travel under sealed orders.”  
—J. Oswald Sanders

- “Transitory gods are not able to save or bring happiness to the human heart. Only God is able. It is faith we must rediscover.”  
—Martin Luther King Jr.

- “We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.”  
—Edith Lovejoy Pierce

\*\*\*

## For the dark times



Lighthouses are now a popular decorating theme for living rooms, calendars, cards, screen savers, towels and more. Many images are infused with shimmering light to symbolize

Christian faith and hope.

Yet the purpose of a lighthouse isn't to look pretty against a sunny sky — although it does — but to illumine a ship's way beneath heavy, dark clouds or a moonless night. Indeed, the lighthouse itself doesn't even light up until its surroundings grow dark!

Surely Jesus loves to share our joys, and we praise his glory during life's bright times. But God's primary purpose for coming to live among us was to save us from the storm of sin; to illumine our path through the darkness of death, in all its forms; to be the light guiding all people safely home. Jesus' light shines for us day and night, rain or shine, to bless us with faith and hope.

\*\*\*

## For the new year

H old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

A ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

P ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

P ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Y ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

\*\*\* N eglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

E xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

W ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Y ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)

E xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

A im for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)

R edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)  
—Gus Nichols

## Only is enough

God is not looking for the best qualifications, best ability, best charisma, best prospects type of people — not that he would turn down these sorts automatically, because it's also

true that some of the most gifted people in our society have also been some of God's best servants. But that is a coincidence and not a requirement. I think that is because God knows that the vast majority of men and women fall into the "I am only" category. But only is enough with God's help, and it would amaze you what God can make of them.

—Alastair Symington

\*\*\*

## Fresh start

Here's a mixture of fun and serious thoughts about the fresh start we receive with each new year of life in Christ:

- "The best angle from which to approach any problem is the try-angle." —Author Unknown

- "Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings." —C.D. Jackson

- "God gives us dreams a size too big so that we can grow into them." —Author Unknown

- "Life is full of obstacle illusions." —Grant Frazier

- "Four steps to achievement: Plan purposefully. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently." —William Arthur Ward

- "Nothing is impossible with God." —Luke 1:37, NIV

\*\*\*

## Reading the Bible with children

As infants, my sons received children's Bibles. The short stories and bright pictures were perfect for their early introduction to the Christian faith. Soon they started reading the stories back to us. But as their comprehension improved, children's Bibles became "too young" for them, while the regular Bible wording was still beyond their grasp.

Then I tried reading from a modern-language paraphrase. I chose The Message, but others will work, too. No need to worry about a lack



of pictures; kids are adept at imagining events. Not sure what passages to read? Consult the scripture references accompanying the stories in a children's Bible. Read the story yourself first, to know where to stop and to avoid less child-friendly passages.

However you share God's Word with youngsters, there are no sweeter words to a Christian adult than "Mom [Dad, Grandma, Auntie ... ], let's read the Bible!"  
—Heidi Mann

\*\*\*

## A voice

Despite a brain tumor that took her voice for two years, Pranitha Timothy has led more than 50 rescue operations to save slaves in India. As director of aftercare for International Justice Mission, she works to give "a voice to the voiceless."

Timothy credits God for protecting her during the dangerous missions, which have included run-ins with slave owners. "God goes before us into the places of darkness and makes the paths straight for us to bring rescue," she says.

Although Timothy's voice returned feebly, she says it's powerful in God's hands. Most importantly, she says, God has transformed her heart and filled her with compassion.

\*\*\*

## The difference

There's a significant difference between having religion and having a relationship with Christ. The key word in religion is do. It is a present-tense verb. Do. Do. Do. You need to be baptized. You need to join the church. You need to learn the catechism. You need to be confirmed. You need to take communion. You need to .... And the list goes on. Religion is based on the idea that we must do things in order to win the favor of God and receive salvation.

Having a relationship with Christ is not based on the word do; it is based on the word done. Everything we need for salvation has already been done. We have been accepted by God "through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10, NIV).

—Edward G. Dobson, *Simplicity: Finding Order, Freedom, and Fulfillment for Your Life*

\*\*\*

## The ultimate resolution

Resolutions are easy to make but oh so hard to keep. In fact, many people refuse to make them for that very reason. After all, by February, most people have broken them, and by March they don't even remember what they were. It's just too hard to change, so why try?

Yet Scripture exhorts us to be more like Christ, to forgive our enemies, to tithe and to be thankful in all situations. Shouldn't we resolve to put some of these into practice, even if ever so imperfectly?

Peter admonishes us to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). That's the ultimate New Year's resolution — all but certain to be broken repeatedly before the sun sets on the first day. Yet though we fail, are we not better for trying?

\*\*\*

## Are you ready?

"It is a solemn thing to part company with the old year," said J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), the first Anglican bishop of Liverpool. "It is a still more solemn thing to begin a new one. All before us is uncertain; we know not what a day may bring forth, much less what may happen in a year."

Ryle offered this challenge for the days and months ahead: "Walk more closely with God, get nearer to Christ, seek to exchange hope for assurance. Oh that you may endeavor so to grow in grace every year, that your last things may be far more than your first, and the end of your Christian course far better than the beginning!"

\*\*\*

## Bible Quiz

**A•men**  
(ā•men')  
adv., interj.

What is the Hebrew meaning of the word Amen?

- A. So be it.
- B. We praise you.
- C. Thank you.
- D. Please, God!

Answer: A

\*\*\*

## A New Year poem

Another fresh new year is here ...  
 Another year to live!  
 To banish worry, doubt, and fear,  
 To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me  
 To live each day with zest ...  
 To daily grow and try to be  
 My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity  
 Once more to right some wrongs,  
 To pray for peace, to plant a tree,  
 And sing more joyful songs!

—William Arthur Ward

## Celebrating Epiphany

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or

wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle, star, crown, gifts and a globe. Epiphany has become a time for reaching out and “showing” Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions.

\*\*\*

## Christian symbol

Christian flag

Dating to the early 20th century, the Christian flag represents all of Christianity, though it's been used primarily in the Americas and Africa. The red Latin cross symbolizes Jesus' blood shed on Calvary to grant us eternal life. The blue background represents Christ's faithfulness even unto death, as well as our baptism into Christ. The white field signifies Jesus' purity, nonviolence and surrender to God's will, plus the peace we gain by surrendering ourselves to Christ.

## Women's Book Bash



Women's Book Bash

January 27, 2013

As we begin a new year, our January selection, *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, takes us on an

archeological journey through several centuries as we follow the path of a holy book.

We will meet at the home of Karen McNall, 267 Willard Street, Leominster, MA from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Karen's phone number is 978-537-6351. Come join us on **Sunday, January 27, 2013** to share your thoughts and feelings with other women of the church. Call Beth Lyle at 978-537-6964 if you have any questions or need a ride.

### *People of the Book*

**By Geraldine Brooks**

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding --- an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair --- she begins to unlock the book's mysteries. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation back to its creation.

In Bosnia during World War II, a Muslim risks his life to protect it from the Nazis. In the hedonistic salons of fin-de-siecle Vienna, the book becomes a pawn in the struggle against the city's rising anti-Semitism. In inquisition-era Venice, a Catholic priest saves it from burning. In Barcelona in 1492, the scribe who wrote the text sees his family destroyed by the agonies of enforced exile. And in Seville in 1480, the reason for the Haggadah's extraordinary illuminations is finally disclosed. Hanna's investigation unexpectedly plunges her into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultra-nationalist fanatics. Her experiences will test her belief in herself and the man she has come to love.

### **Read Ahead:**

**Feb 24:** *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

## **DO YOU KNOW.....Jackie Lozier?**



**I had a wonderful time visiting with and getting to know Jackie Lozier on a more personal level. She is full of energy and life and I'm so glad I got the opportunity to spend time with her.**

**Jackie was born in Clinton, and spent time in Lancaster as well. She was like a lot of the women in that generation and was a stay at home Mom with her two beautiful daughters. After her divorce, she was able to work for her uncle at his plastics company (Erna Plastics" in Leominster) as a quality control inspector of medical parts and Avon spray bottle caps and have the summers off to take care of her girls.**

**Jackie was best friends with Carol Whittier her entire life (and still maintains that friendship today). Carol is the one who got Jackie to come to our church, but we're going to credit Penny Alderman for asking Jackie to join the church. Penny and Jackie's bond is over their beloved pets. Jackie told Penny she would like to receive a copy of the Messenger that she enjoyed so much, and Penny asked her to become a**

**church member.....thank you Penny!!**

**Jackie was so moved by Evelyn Jiménez and Sandra DeRienzo for coming to her mom's Memorial Service and for Deb Walker who visited her and was a reader at the Memorial. She also was so moved at Reverend Keith's visits to her mom. She said she loves the church for its caring people.**

**Jackie enjoys going to the beach house in Ipswich and walking the beach, she loves taking Duke, her grand-dog, for walks in the dog parks, she loves swimming, boating and goes regularly to Orchard Hills and participates in water aerobics and yoga. She also enjoys reading and hiking.**

**She is the PR person for Realtyology which is a part time position and is Duke's nanny. She is currently on the Missions Committee.**

**If you haven't taken the time to get to know Jackie.....what are you waiting for?**

**by Bonnie Clifton (Jackie's newest BFF)**

## **A Teen's Prayer**

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray my stereo to keep.  
I pray my cordless has speed dial,  
And that my clothes will stay in style.  
That "you know who" will notice me,  
And that I will always zit-less be.  
That my phone will often ring,  
And weekends lots of fun will bring.

I pray my peers will see in me,  
Something different that they need.  
That when they ask about my life,  
I'll have the courage to share Christ.  
I pray the "in" group thinks I'm cool,  
And Christian friends stick close at school.  
And if I somehow come in late,  
I pray my car keys they won't take.

— Gayla Thornburgh  
Saginaw Park Baptist Church,  
Fort Worth, TX

## **FOR YOUR THOUGHT**

- Getting me into hot water is often God's way of keeping me clean.  
— Ruth Zimmerman
- What is defeat? Nothing but the first step towards something better.  
— Wendell Phillips
- Time is more valuable than money because time is irreplaceable.
- You can accomplish more in one hour with God than in a lifetime without him.
- Do not follow where the path may lead. Follow God instead, where there is no path, and leave a trail.
- The difference between a conviction and a prejudice is that you can explain a conviction without getting angry.
- The winter of Adam's discontent came directly after his fall.

Answers to "Light In the World":

Did you score 11-21? Then you are learning to be the light! Keep looking for God in the things around you. Check out the helpful hints in the Moderator's Moment and apply one or two of these to your life. For those questions where you may have said "sometimes" or "no", use those as keys to working on your inner light. Focus on one at a time. Most of those who live brightly in the light have accepted the fact that God's forgiveness of our daily mistakes and love for us is not an excuse to keep doing the wrong thing, but the perfect opportunity to do things the right way NOW. It's never, ever too late.

Did you score 22-27? Then you are trying to burn brighter! Do not stop! Others can see Christ in you but you may need to put your light to something where others will see it. If prayer is your weakness, choose to improve it by going to a prayer group or asking about how to pray so that you can grow your relationship with God. Geocache (find) your heart but DON'T hide it under a rock! You are in a very important place in your life. A game changer in your life, to use a cliché. This is when you can make the biggest leaps in your faith and the biggest falls. You need your connection to God more than ever. Seek for ways to find a better relationship with your creator.

Did you score 28-33? You are burning bright! My guess is that you have been in touch with your inner light for some time and being the light (whether you are aware of it or not) is becoming second nature to you. We are human and known to fall, and you are well aware of ways to stay connected to God's love and guidance in order to pick yourself back up. Revisit that knowledge in a new way. Let your light continue to shine by opening your heart to new ways of thinking, more importantly, new ways to worship God. Notice those who are struggling around you, be their guide and talk to them about your faith. Continue to be a church builder; it is a job that really never ends until God tells us it is finished.