



The Rolling Stone

Rollstone Congregational Church

February 2020

“COME AND SEE”

Greetings, it seems that this winter season is being gentle and kind to us, except that it likes to throw snowballs at us on Sunday mornings. Because we were cautious and concerned about each of your wellbeing by cancelling church on January 19th, we missed out on a good scripture lesson that provided food for thought. So why waste good reading and discussion material, I decided to include the material here. The lesson is from the Gospel of John (1:29-42),

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” 31I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ 32And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” 34And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ 37The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ 39He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). 42He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

The text is an invitation to come and see offered by Jesus when he was asked what are you looking for and then where are you staying. Imagine briefly what would it be like if Jesus was coming to town and we were the ones to be inviting him to come and dine and stay with us? We really wouldn't expect Jesus to book a room at the Holiday Inn or some other local hotel. How would your preparations go? So, let's just imagine what might be going on in your head if Jesus was a guest in our or your house. What would that look like? First, there's no problem with the wine. As long as we have a nice bottle of Perrier, Voss or Evian, Jesus can take care of the rest.

But we'd need to make sure there's bread. And what about furniture? Do we eat on the floor? Foot-washing? "Uh, Jesus, generally we just try to wash our hands before the meal ... with soap."

And we'd want to find Grandma's Bible, and dust it off and have it lying around casually on a table ... with a bookmark in it, maybe even opened to John 3.

Put up a cross? Maybe. Could be touchy ... bad taste? Gaming consoles? Pull out that game about the Pharisees and Sadducees, called Broods of Vipers — the one with tombs full of dead people's bones. Jesus might like to play that one.

Setting the table. Plate ware, silverware.

Conversation. What do we talk about? "Hey, did you catch that chariot race?" The weather? Or small talk? "So, you were born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, eh?"

What to eat? Oh, you have some leftover fish (2?) and five slices of bread. Perfect! Wash it down with a nice shiraz. And olives. Everything about olives.

Olive oil. But avoid "virgin" or "extra virgin." Maybe black out those words with a magic marker. Can't be too careful. Maybe not necessary.

Figs. Crackers and hummus. Falafel?

Would you play cards? Maybe not, given how he knows everything ...

And would you pray? Do you even know the Lord's Prayer? How awkward to have a brain cramp at the wrong time. You don't want to sound like Sister Clarissa in Sister Act. "Bless us, oh Lord, and these thy gifts ... and, yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of no food, I shall fear no hunger. We want you to give us this day our daily bread ... and to the republic for which it stands ... by the power vested in me, I now pronounce us, ready to eat. Amen."

What would you wear? Anything as long as it's long and covers everything ...

I know we can get flustered and excited when something great is about to happen, but let's face reality that while Jesus is Messiah and Savior, he is also our friend. Jesus invites us to come and to see every week and he truly wants to just be there and he will take care of the rest. So often when there is an exciting opportunity about to happen we begin to become blinded by everything else happening and thus we lose sight of the possibilities and opportunities being extended to us.

So, Come and See, experience and enjoy the presence of Christ every time we enter the church or gather with friends from the church family. Jesus would love for us to just come in sometime to laugh, cry, learn, dine, and pray.

See you in church sometime soon! Join with us as many exciting things will begin to take place in the next several months and beyond.

Pastor Dave



Relay for Life June 12th and 13th 2019

MT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
444 Green St. Gardner, MA 01440.



Our Vendor's Fair was held on Saturday November 23rd this year. I would like to say Thank You to all that helped and those who came and supported us at the fair. We raised just over \$1,200.00 this year. This will be turned in at the January Captain's Meeting Relay for Life 2020

Relay for Life 2019 we raised a total of \$10,026.00.

Over the last 11 years we have raised a grand total of \$76,207.63 This year we would like to have some meetings to get ideas to raise more money this year. We will keep you posted on when the meetings will be (I will try to make them on Sundays after church if everyone is okay with that).

We have 6 of our team members that have signed up so far. We have plenty of room for more team mates. Come and join us. If you would like to join the team or make a donation for next year. Please go to Greater Gardner Relay for Life and find Rollstone Rollers or use this link it is our Team Page

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=my_team&fr_id=96448

Mary Lyman & Kim Bourque



Co-Captain Rollstone Rollers

ROLLSTONE CHURCH DINNERS

Saturday, February 1st 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Baked Haddock Dinner with Scallop Potatoes and Green Beans

Vanilla or Chocolate Cake

Wednesday, February 12

Spaghetti Supper

News from the Church School - February - 2020



Most of us have favorite Bible Lessons! One of our favorite Church School lessons is centered on learning to be - not simply fishermen, but “fishers of men”. Nothing would help our congregation to grow more than each of us bringing new people into our church family. First we need to be properly equipped = know what the Bible teaches. Next we can’t just sit around reading the Bible, we have to talk about our church and be sure to speak up or show by our actions what we learn. Finally we need to have patience. Not all will listen or follow right away but we can invite, be helpful and kind, be knowledgeable of our Bible teachings and fellowship with followers of the Word. If we do these things we can become fishers of people like Jesus wants us to be. Imagine the excitement in filling pew after pew!

What’s next: The church school will continue to learn through the Bible Lessons offered each week. Perhaps begin to renovate a nursery/preschool room to welcome our youngest in our church family. Then we begin planning for another week of Day Camp in June!

Think future, Think Camp, Think Fishing!!

Beth and Hal



Missionary News Jan/Feb 2020

Our Missionary Ladies had a table at the Relay for Life Fair. It was fun to take part and the money we earn goes to material for our projects.



We have just finished filling boxes with fleece and knit blankets, hats and scarves. They were delivered to Children's Aid and Family service, Battered Women's Resources and Our Fathers House.

We will now be starting on next year's projects.

Becky, Edwina, Ellen and Marilyn



Deacon news

Hi everyone! Well, we are that much closer to spring. I must confess I can hardly wait.

On. Feb 16th we are going to have our annual Yankee Swap. All who want to participate should bring a wrapped gift not to exceed five dollars. This is such a good time I hope everyone will join in. This is to celebrate Valentine's Day even though it is a little late.

Don has made up a flower chart which is on the bulletin board. Please sign up for a date you would like to bring flowers.

On the bulletin board there are lists to sign up for lay liturgist, usher and greeter. Any questions ask any Deacon.

We are going to have Bible study during Lent on Sunday mornings from 9 to 9:45. Pastor Dave will have more to say about this.

Bob and Pat Goguen were in a bad automobile accident. They are now at Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital, 189 May St. Worcester, MA 01602. (508) 791-6351 They are doing much better.

In a few weeks we will be getting ready for Easter. Time sure does fly by.

That's all for now until next time.

I hope everyone has a good rest of the winter and safe travelling.

Linda Haas

SURVIVOR

The Sole Survivor of a shipwreck was cast upon an uninhabited island. He managed to build a crude hut in which he placed the little he saved from the sinking ship. He prayed to God for deliverance and anxiously scanned the horizon to hail any ship that might chance to pass.

One day, upon returning from a hunt for food, he was horrified to find that his hut was in flames. All that he had was gone. To his limited vision, it was the worst that could happen, and he cursed God. Yet the very next day a ship arrived. "We saw your smoke signal," the Captain said.

Goguen

Submitted by Pat