



# The Rolling Stone

Rollstone Congregational Church

February 2021

## This Is a Day of New Beginnings

The contemporary hymn composed by Carlton Young and then set with words by Brian Wren are a reminder of the grace and love that is available to us as the children of God. The words contained in the hymn offer hope, reassurance and provide a challenge to us as believers.

The Christian faith community is not exempt of dealing with life and the struggles that may ensue from those things that are beyond our very control. I have heard throughout the years that sentiment that God was somehow absent when troubles and difficulties come our way. The difficult thing for us as individuals and as people of faith is to let go. We experience a hurt and we hang onto it, as a result the healing touch that God can offer never is never able to happen. We believe in the power of prayer, but have you turned over your hurts to God? When we don't share with God the healing powers never start. God is always present to us and is waiting upon us to let His spirit work within us. How many times have you closed your eyes and heart to God, thus experience a sense of loneliness and abandonment? God is always present in your lives and we your church family are there also, but sometimes we can't be the supportive presence because we are not made aware of just what is hurting you.

The year 2020 was a struggle for so many of us leaving us feeling lonely and isolated. We are here and will continue to be there for you. I encourage you to find a prayer partner, especially if you have not done so already, who will offer support and encouragement whenever times are difficult. With the church having turned the corner into 2021 we are striving to be more present and accessible to be there for you in body and in spirit. The pastor will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays for those wishing to see the pastor at church. For those less inclined to come to the church the pastor will be available for visitation on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am here to serve

God by serving you and the community. Please let me know and I will do everything in my power to be there. In the near future we will begin to offer a Bible study that is available via Zoom, watch for the news as to when this will start.

Hope to be seeing you soon! Until then however may the words from the hymn referenced bring you hope and excitement for the years that are ahead of us.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Rev. David Hanks 978-821-1608

[www.rollstone.org](http://www.rollstone.org)

## “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

This is a day of new beginnings,  
Time to remember and move on,  
Time to believe what love is bringing,  
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
Can make for us a world of difference,  
As faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
Step from the past and leave behind  
Our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us,  
To show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
Our God is making all things new.

## Deacon News

Hi everyone! I am so glad that 2020 is over. We certainly had a year we will never forget.

We had to close the church in March due to the pandemic. The Deacons have been meeting every month since then on zoom. We have been trying to be in touch with the congregation to see how everyone is doing. Mary Anne Smith is still sending out cards to parishioners, if you know anyone who needs one please let her know.

The church is still taping the worship service and sending out a bulletin to those who can't see the service. The choir is also starting to sing. I am positive we will be back in church sometime this year.

I am glad we have the church, belief in God, faith, and each other. These things will sustain us until we are back together.

May the incredible love of Jesus knock your woolly socks off.

Wash your hands, be safe, be well. I miss you all.

Linda Haas



## Happy New Year!

The Missionary Ladies are still working on projects at home.

We were not able to give boxes to all of our usual charities because of the virus restrictions. We were able to give to Our Fathers House.

Boxes were delivered to Our Fathers House by Marilyn this week. We hope to be ready to fill more boxes next year.

This has been a very different year for us but hope  
Things will be better next year.

Still sewing and knitting,  
Becky, Edwina, Marilyn, Ellen, and Beth.



## A Balm in Gilead

A balm from Gilead, containing herbs and spices, has been used in the composition of perfumes, and was used as a healing ointment known for its great healing powers. The balm was used to soothe ailments of the mucous membranes, was taken internally to ease coughs and respiratory infections, and was also said to relieve laryngitis and sore throats. It is derived from the resinous juices of the balsam poplar tree that is native to the continents of Africa and Asia. The balm's name derives from the ancient region of Gilead in Palestine, an area east of the Jordan River.

The Balm of Gilead has a deeper symbolic meaning in Scripture. God shows Israel that they'd turned to a temporary healing solution, but they had far deeper spiritual cuts that needed ultimate healing. They needed the true physician, Jesus. Balm of Gilead is mentioned several times in the Bible; in Genesis 37:25, Jeremiah 8:21-22, and Jeremiah 46:11.

**Genesis 37:25** describes a caravan carrying balm on their way to Egypt:

*As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.*

In **Jeremiah 8:21-22**, when Jeremiah hears about how Babylon will lay siege to Israel, he weeps and asks if there is a balm in Gilead:

*Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?*

Once again, in **Jeremiah 46:11**, God tells the Israelites to get a balm in Gilead, because they've wounded themselves beyond repair:

*Go up to Gilead and get balm, O Virgin Daughter of Egypt. But you try many medicines in vain; there is no healing for you.*

Lastly, The Balm of Gilead is used in the popular hymn: "**There Is a Balm in Gilead.**" The hymn is a traditional Afro-American spiritual relating to the scripture in Jeremiah and is noted below:

Refrain:

*There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.*

Verse:

*Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
and think my work's in vain.  
But then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again.*

Verse:

*If you can't preach like Peter,  
if you can't pray like Paul,  
just tell the love of Jesus,  
and say he died for all.*

1. Excerpts taken from <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-the-balm-of-gilead.html> and <https://www.biblestudy.org/question/balm-of-gilead.html>

Andy Lipasti

## WAYSIDE PULPIT

### Bringing It Out

In the cloth bag that hangs on the back of my wheelchair, I carry around a ceramic mug and a teaspoon. They have been there, when not in use, since I became confined to the chair in the summer of 2019. I haven't taken my mug out for a year now, but I think I will again soon.

The reason I carry the mug around is for fellowship times. After worship or in small group meetings, I would drink my coffee from my mug rather than from a borrowed or a disposable cup. But now all my small group and after-worship gatherings are virtual, and there is no coffee served. My cup just waits back there in my bag, waiting for a time when we meet face-to-face, and the coffee is flowing again.

But I'm thinking I won't wait. Before fellowship Zooms and small group meetings, I'm going to brew a pot of coffee, and bring out my mug to enjoy it. I have for too long done without this pleasure which I never needed to do without. The mug has been there all along.

How many worthwhile memories, ideas and plans have we been carrying around within us, desirable but buried, postponed and nearly forgotten? Maybe there is a reason we set them aside for a time, but it may be worth the effort now to bring them out again and take from them again the pleasures they once gave us.

**Chuck Funk**

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Hey Everyone!

First and foremost, I am sorry I did not write anything in the last Rolling Stone issue. Between the rush of the holidays, and many assessments due for school, I was just overwhelmed and did not have any time to write anything! With that, I would also like to wish you all a Happy New Year! Though it's late, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

We are continuing to tape our services for the near future, so I hope you have found them comforting, and fulfilling from your homes! I miss you all, and cannot wait to see you when it is safe to do so. The online services would not be possible without the efforts of everyone behind the scenes! So a huge shoutout to all that makes them happen!

There is not much new from the musical side of things. Pastor Dave and I, as well as some of the choir members are going to be putting together some special music for the next few weeks especially as we approach Ash Wednesday and Lent. As always, feel free to send any hymn or song requests to Pastor Dave, or Paul! We always like hearing from you guys!

Organ fact time!

Did you know the organ spans a little over two stories in height? From the base of the organ chamber, the pipes are stacked in divisions (one for every keyboard) in what are known as pipe chambers. The tallest chamber is parallel to the window of the Madonna at the front of the church facing Main Street. When things reopen and it is safe, I will be happy to give anyone an organ tour if they'd like!

As we approach February, I think we all can agree it is seen in many ways as the month of "love". So make sure to love one another! It's especially hard because of COVID restrictions, but I have found donating to either church or charity to be especially fulfilling especially since many of these institutions have been hurting financially. Small acts of love and kindness can make someone's days a little brighter!

So, that's all from me for this month! Never hesitate to reach out. Have a great month and stay safe! Till next time, may God be with you!

Gavin



## Church School Mini-lesson: In hopes of equity for all! "All the Children of the World"

**Theme:** God does not show partiality.



**Scripture:** *Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." Acts 10:34-35 (NIV)*

Did you know that you ever wondered why?

Well the answer is quite simple. White chickens lay white eggs and reddish brown chickens lay brown eggs. Is there any difference in white eggs and brown eggs? Well, yes, white eggs are white and brown eggs are brown.

some eggs are white and some eggs are brown? Have

Well the answer is quite simple. White chickens lay white

"What about the inside?" you may ask. If you break a brown egg and a white egg in to a clear glass bowl, can you see any difference? No, on the inside they look just the same.

I also read that the color of the shell has nothing to do with an egg's quality, nutritional value, or flavor. On the inside, all eggs are the same.

You know, that is true of people too. Some people may be light-skinned and have blond hair and blue eyes. Others may be dark-skinned and have brown hair and brown eyes. On the outside, they may look different, but on the inside they are the same.

Simon Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. He was a Jew and he believed that God sent Jesus only to the Jews. God gave Peter a vision that showed him that **He created all people and that He loved them all the same**. After God showed him that, **Peter said, "I now realize that God does not show partiality**. He accepts people from every nation who fear him and do what is right." God also showed Peter that he must "tell the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all and that everyone who believes in him will be forgiven of their sins."

Sometimes we sing "[Jesus Loves the Little Children](#)." < **Control+Click the song title to listen!**

**We sing the song, but do we believe it? Do we show it in the way that we treat others? I hope so!**



*Lord, help us to love others as you do -- without partiality.*

*Help us to tell the good news that Jesus is Lord of all and that all who believe in him have forgiveness in his name. Amen.*

Beth and Hal

# Happy Birthday

February 5      Ellen Porell  
February 7      Lorna Chabot  
February 14     Becky Colwell  
February 16     Linda Gallant  
February 19     Marie Stansel  
February 21     Beth Porell

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW PARENTS!

Chris Brassard and Emma (Porell) Brassard  
welcomed

Eli Andrew Brassard born on January 20.

Beth Porell new grandmother

Becky Colwell new great-grandmother

