

# “Turning Points”

TURNING POINT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Do you ever have an acute heartache? A pang so identifiable that you can almost reach out and touch it? It's tangible! It has been my experience, and it may sound strange, but although it's *painful*, it's a gift! Discomfort transmits a message. If we're able to decode it, it will read... *Something needs to change*. Change! Change isn't easy, even when it's for good reasons. Shifting and transitioning requires our attention, focus, and discipline. In other words, it's work!

Also, some complications tend to be part and parcel amid **our** *home improvement project*; feelings of inadequacy, I'm not sure I know what I'm doing, or my personal favorite, *I've never done this before*. It's easy to start telling ourselves stories: I can't do this, I'm not good enough, or even worse, I'm no good!

Handicapped and weak, we freeze. We get tripped up and are prone to walk off the "job." It's the equivalent of starting the project and then realizing we don't have the right tools for the job! We can try to ignore the pain and look the other way. But that never works. And here comes the frustration... **and** we're out of there!

If you're anything like me (men), it has to get bad before I head to the doctor. Transformation requires surgery, and for the record, no one operates on themselves. But I have Good News! There happens to be an inspired physician. He can find and remove any malignancies. You know where to find Him. Open up your healthcare provider's book. But here's the thing. It all starts with making an appointment. And the gift I spoke of earlier... our pain calls us to get help, to live differently and healthier.

Maybe it's been some time since you called on the lover of your soul. He is present and only a breath away. Summer is the time when we tend to take a break and get away if we can afford to. Wherever you find yourself in the months ahead know this; there isn't a place you can go that He is not there. And if you have been given the gift of pain, that is, knowing something needs to change, well. Then you're in a good place. My experience continues to be that whatever I am unable to do for myself, He got it! He either changes my circumstances or transforms me within the events themselves! On average, it is the latter. He inspires me to live differently. I couldn't be more grateful.

With much love and respect,

*Pastor Vin*

## Pen It Forward Ministry: Frank and Alissa Donato

Pen it Forward and the Teens united once again on Palm Sunday to write Easter cards for the residents of McPeak's Assisted Living. After service, the cards and extra palms were delivered to the nursing home. Thanks to Mary Kate and Mark for letting me crash that Sunday!

I would like to change the format of PIF from monthly to quarterly. I mentioned this at our last CTMB meeting. I have been feeling led to make a change as attendance has been lighter than usual. I think it would make sense to meet quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) for an in person writing session.

The second change I would like to implement is hosting a church-wide event 2x a year - once in Nov/Dec before Christmas and once in the Summer.

- Ideas/examples include: a Christmas card writing event, with cookies, cocoa, desserts, and most importantly, fellowship. As always, families, kids, everyone is welcome!
- I would like at least one event to be tied to Missions in some way. I am sure Frank, Justin and I can brainstorm ideas for outreach opportunities and involve the congregation in its effort. Maybe something for veterans as the Fourth of July approaches.

I would like to continue teaming up with the Teens to write cards for those in the Patchogue community and beyond. Open to ideas!



## Turning Point

*Where Faith & Community Come Together*

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE • PATCHOGUE • NY**

### **Sunday Service at 10am**

**Sermons live stream on Facebook.**

**Find us on You Tube.**

**Senior Pastor: Vincent Linguiti**

**Assoc. Pastor: Nicholas Franco**

**2 Nazarene Way, Patchogue, NY**

**Mail: 65 Franklin Street, Patchogue, NY 11772**

**Phone/Fax 631-289-3483**

**FOOD PANTRY - MON, WED, FRI –**

**10am - 2pm**

**65 Franklin St. (Rear Entrance)**

**For our weekly schedule of meetings check our website at [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net)**

**If you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please call the number listed above.**

### ***Prayers & Condolences to families of:***

Paul Gugliuzzo on the passing of his Mother, Linda.

The Bastone family on the passing of Lou on Easter Sunday.

Sue Cerruto, on the passing of her Mother, Mary Romano.

Elaine Kreamer, on the passing of her Sister, Diane Dzielak.

Listen to our weekly sermons and more online. Just scan the QR code.



# Blessed are the Chosen

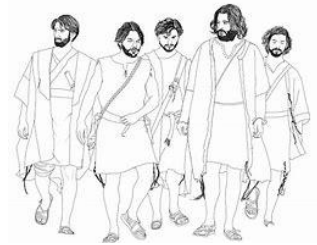


In Matthew 5-7 Jesus delivers His famous Sermon on the Mount. It starts off with what is known as the beatitudes. From May 8 through June 26 we are viewing the Chosen Series Two in the Fellowship Hall of our church building. Each episode focuses on one of the beatitudes. However, in the unique style of The Chosen, the episode does not explicitly depict the beatitude in the scenes. The message is sublime but prevalent.

The first episode is titled Thunder and focuses on the lives of James and John, the Sons of Thunder, as Jesus named them. The Beatitude that is the focus is: Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit. We can see ourselves in their attitudes and “shoot from the hip” desire to see justice prevail at any cost. They are reactive and don’t really think things through before attempting to act and “fix” the situation at hand. However, Jesus, knowing all things, is patient but determined to teach them how a “Jesus follower” should act in humility.

The series teaches important life lessons that we explore in a discussion after each episode. Consider joining us every Wednesday at the church where we are viewing and discussing Season Two of The Chosen.

If you have never experienced The Chosen, you can visit the viewing and discussion of Season One at the home of Vickie Ortiz where Pastor Vin is facilitating that group. It is a very powerful introduction to The Chosen and to Christianity in general. There is so much to gain by watching a video of scenes that you may have read in the Bible but didn’t get the full impact just from reading.



All seasons of The Chosen portray Jesus and the disciples as well as other familiar characters in a very unique light. The scenes make the Bible stories come alive and impact our lives.

“Come and See.”  
Pastor Nick

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## Teens Report:

Our church has been so blessed with the addition of the Teen Worship team. They are really coming along and have been a blessing to worship with. I look forward to seeing what else the Lord has in store for them. During Teen service on Sunday mornings, we went through some lessons on Lent and leading up to Easter from Ministry to Youth; a free online teen curriculum. We are now using Feed.Bible; another free online teen curriculum. We like this one better because it has individual lessons as well as series of lessons on a topic. The curriculum also includes activities and videos from The Bible Project. Summer will be here soon and that means that we will have some fun summer activities for the teens to look forward too! Thank you for your prayers. Keep them coming!

-Mary Kate and Mark La Spisa

## Hats Off to our High School Graduates:

**Amanda Gazzo & Michael Lloyd**

## Tribute To My Mother

I'd like to take this opportunity to honor my mom who died shortly before Mother's Day. All throughout my life, she modeled the Importance of serving meals at the family table. Not only did she feed us physically, she fed our spirits as well. It's my hope that when you enjoy fellowship at our church on Sundays, or any other time, you are fed body *and* spirit.

### When I was young-

She was the first one to offer fellowship and a meal. She fed me, changed me, bathed me and dressed me. She encouraged me to try on my own. If I couldn't, she stepped in to help me. She talked to me about big things and little things and everything in-between.

### When I stumbled-

She caught me to keep me from falling. She rubbed my back to soothe and calm my fears. She prayed for me. She stayed by my bedside until I fell asleep.

### When it was dark-

She was there. She spoke peace into my troubles. She reassured me that the morning would come, right on schedule. She was right.

### When she was nearing the end of her life-

I did for her what she'd done for me. Happy first Mother's Day in heaven.

*By Sue Cerruto*

*Tribute to my mother, 9.8.1936-5.7.2024.*

Deut. 5:16, Prov. 31:27-28, 1 Thess. 4:13-18

## Recognizing the Turning Points

We have all had those life changing moments. They come in all shapes and forms. Through deaths; through births; through marriage; through divorce (or the potential thereof). They can come in moments of pure joy, and they come in moments of complete surrender. Without a foundation in our Lord and Savior, even the joyous moments can prove to turn out to be difficult. What good can come from being a spouse, or raising a child, if it is all built on weak foundations? I spent the first 35-plus years trying to build upon such false foundations. Much like castles made of sand, they can look good for a moment, but then the tide rolls in. What are you then left with?

My 'castle' crumbled. But by His grace, it wasn't swept away. My turning point came through *turning to Christ*. It came within the walls of the sanctuary of our church, and within the then 'echoing' confines of its basement. In the portion of the building we so accurately identify as *Fellowship Hall*. Life can be funny; this former 'agnostic' (for lack of a better term) now finds himself heading up the Greeters Ministry. It is a responsibility that weighs on me at times, not because of an unbearable workload, but because we, as Greeters, are the ones who can make or break a first impression. **No pressure!** Any of the minor 'tweaks' made within the ministry itself are with that goal in mind; to better serve the familiar faces we see week-in and week-out, and to welcome newcomers from all walks of faith, or lack thereof.

Times are always changing. The same things that lead you or I to stay here may not always apply to everyone. But at the heart of it all is the Spirit of Christ, and the family atmosphere we are able to produce in His Namesake. I encourage us all, not just our Greeters, to heed that still, small voice whenever a new person or family walks through our doors. Welcome them, as you did my family nearly 7 years ago.

Sincerely,  
Justin Inniss

*-If being a Greeter is something that may interest you, see me any time before or after service.*



## Meet Your New District Superintendent

At this year's District Assembly Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Barker was elected our new District Superintendent. Jeff served as Director of Clergy and Congregational Life, engaging with many pastors and their congregations for 4 years. We are excited to welcome him and his wife, Dr. Stacey Barker, in this new role!

Pray for Pastor Sam and Angela Vassel as they walk into the next season of their lives and for Jeff and Stacey as they move back to New York and begin their tenure leading our district, and for what God has in store for our district in the future.

**And Elected to Our Church Board at our Annual Meeting**, we welcome Paul Guevara to the Board along with existing members: Joe & Sue Herrmann, Ken Kreamer, Frank Donato, Bill Cucinotta, Matt Boutsikos, Rob Gazzo, & Matt Ostrander. Pray for them as they meet and seek God's will for our church direction.



**February Alabaster Collection: \$455.43**

**Easter Offering for World Evangelism: \$1050.00**

Twice a year we take special offerings for Alabaster (February & September) and for World Evangelism at Easter and Thanksgiving. This gives you an opportunity to participate in the Global Mission of the Church of the Nazarene. When you give, the money goes to the General Treasurer's Office, where the funds are distributed to six world regions, missionaries, and ministries around the globe. The World Evangelism Fund not only provides ministries on the ground with the monies they need, but the money is used to ensure that legal, federal, and support needs are met so that ministries are as safe as possible and can be sustained for years to come.

**While you're away** -Taking regular vacations is key to our well-being. It's important to spend time with loved ones, experience physical and mental refreshment, enjoy changes in scenery and routine, and prepare for future productivity.

Just remember: God's work goes on all summer long. When you're on vacation, your friends at church miss you. No one else can fill your unique role in the congregation. Your presence and gifts help the church thrive. So please give your regular offerings before you leave for vacation. And if you have the opportunity, try to attend church while you're away. Have a wonderful summer!

Patchogue Church of the Nazarene is now **Turning Point Church of the Nazarene**. During this time of transition please continue to make your checks payable simply to Church of the Nazarene. You can also donate online via PayPal by scanning the QR code.



## A TALE OF TWO PORTRAITS



One of my favorite paintings by the artist Warner Sallman is called “The Lord is My Shepherd.” This famous painting is a depiction of Psalm 23, where Jesus is the Shepherd, caring for his flock; he holds a lamb in his arms while the rest of the flock gathers about him, protected and happy. The setting is bucolic; it is all green pastures and still waters. It is a perfect summertime painting, with warm sunshine and peaceful subjects. Although you can locate the Valley in the distance of the painting, there is no trace of the shadow of death in the foreground.

This painting reminds me of why we hold Psalm 23 close to our hearts. Along with the Ten Commandments and the Lord’s Prayer, Psalm 23 is a passage that countless numbers of Christians have devoted to memory, and for good reason. It is a staple text at many Christian funerals and memorials because this short passage succinctly describes the care and compassion God has for us all through our lives, and his care continues even through death. Christians see the ultimate fulfillment of Psalm 23 in Jesus Christ, who in John chapter 10, declared “I am the Good Shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” When these two passages meet, we begin to understand how God’s care for us works, and what it costs.

First, understanding the cost helps us to read Psalm 23 in a different light. Take for instance this verse (from the KJV): “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” It is precisely because Jesus Christ suffered, died, was buried, and rose again that we as Christians can face the darkness in our lives with comfort and resolve. Jesus has gone through the crisis of death and has come out the other side victorious. The Gospel is not a “pie in the sky” message for comfort in the hereafter; the Gospel leads us through the crises of our lives because Christ went through it, *and travels with us*.

Second, once we have figured the cost, we understand in part how God’s care for us operates. I just mentioned that Christ travels with us; Psalm 23 ends with the verse “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,” a verse that speaks of goodness and mercy traveling with us. To be more accurate, however, the word that we translate as “follow” more precisely means “pursue.” The Complete Jewish Bible translation (CJB) has it as “Goodness and grace will pursue me every day of my life.” In Luke 15, Jesus told the Pharisees and teachers of the Law a parable of a shepherd who leaves 99 sheep in open country to find a single lost sheep. That is a portrait of God’s care in action: he pursues those who are lost with single-minded determination.

This brings me to another portrait of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is a painting by Thomas Cole from 1848, and it is a representation of the parable from Luke 15. You see the Good Shepherd, but he is not towering over his sheep as in the previous painting; he is in the distance, leading a single sheep with a short rope, back to the fold. I like to take in the two portraits together: A caring shepherd at home with his sheep, but also one who joyfully will go out to bring home that one sheep who lost their way.

Jon Ollett

### **Greeters and Ushers Ministry: Justin Inniss**

The Greeters' Ministry has been running smoothly. Matt O. helped me install a bell for the chairlift a few weeks ago. I will be either holding a small meeting or just going over that with the Greeters individually to show them how it works.

Still trying to work out the kinks with the 'clicker' as far as attendance goes. It's hard to avoid double counting plus the button can be a little sticky. If we are ok with a plus or minus five error on the count each week it will do the trick.

## WOMENS MINISTRY

Another season has come and gone in what seems like a "blink of the eye". Just as the seasons change, our lives are in constant motion bringing both good and not-so-good experiences that help us to live out our faith with hope and peace.

One thing that has not changed is the gathering of the women in our church. Times and days may have changed but not the purpose that brings us together. These are times where we gather to fellowship, pray, encourage each another and praise our Lord, all sprinkled with love and laughter! Our Thursday Ladies Group has added several new members over recent months. Some of these women do not attend our church but are always welcome to spend time with us and bless us with their attendance and input.

During the summer months, we don't usually do a specific study due to vacation schedules, etc. This year, however, we are a few chapters into a new book and will finish that by the end of June. After that, we will take turns sharing devotions and experiences that have strengthened our faith and drawn us closer to God. Our prayer time and praise singing will continue as usual. All ladies are welcome to join us whenever you can.

So often during the summer months when our schedules might change, we tend to spend less time in our private worship and prayer and leave Jesus at home when we go on vacation. No matter what your plans might be during this time, I pray that you will always start your day in the presence of the One who is always there for you.

Relax, enjoy and be blessed!

Serving with joy,

**Mary Ann**



# START the PARTY

Celebrate the Good News

Bring your dancing shoes and get ready to Party because with Jesus, we always have a reason to Celebrate the Good News!! Our VBS Program will run from **Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 pm for kids, and 8:15-9:15 pm for Teens!** The party can't start without you, so come volunteer if you are an adult, or come to participate if you are a kid or teen! Contact Sue Herrmann with any questions at [sue.herrmann@patchnaz.net](mailto:sue.herrmann@patchnaz.net).

Scan the QR with your phone to access the Volunteer Form, Kid's Registration Form, and Teen Registration Form!



Church BBQ Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> after the VBS Celebration Service.



### *Congratulations:*

*Jon & Lisa Rymer on the birth of Savannah Lillian, born on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 weighing 6lbs. 14oz.*

*The Dapelo family has a new Grandson. Daughter, Lauren, gave birth to Jonah Max on May 6<sup>th</sup>, weighing 5lbs 8oz.*

### **Children's Ministry**

Since the last Ministry Meeting, I have researched different curriculum and decided Gospel Project is the best fit for us. I openly ran it by all volunteers, and they agree, it is a great well-structured curriculum. It goes through the Bible from Genesis through Revelation. The new cycle is released in July with a start date of Sept, so, we decided to hold off on the purchase until then and come up with lessons now through end of June.

Summer will still have the same laid back Bible games outdoors with no true curriculum.

As we all know attendance can be unpredictable and not steady during those months.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, we had Family Bowling Night with 26 in attendance.

**Desiree Boutsikos**