



The Meetinghouse Crier

October 2010

Pastor: Rev. Peter Haddad

Franklin Congregational Church Founded 1718

Who carries your load?

Recently, a friend's granddaughter was in a car accident. It was ruled that it was not her fault, but in the accident, her car killed a young man on a motorcycle. She then had to guard his lifeless, battered body in the road until first responders came, so that he'd not be run over. The girl is only 18. Even when she begins driving again, which may be some time, she will doubtless carry that vision with her for the rest of her life. It is heavy, especially for one so young.

As I think of her plight - depending on her personality perhaps as bad as the young motorcyclist's, for there *are* things worse than death - I wonder who will help her bear the load of what she has experienced. I cannot help but wonder if she has a relationship with God, sufficiently strong so as to be able bring this unbearable thing to Him and let Him carry it for her. I pray that she does, or that she soon will have.

When Jesus was here among us, he told those in His hearing, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and loaded down with burdens, and I will give you rest. Place my yoke on you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is pleasant, and my burden is light."¹ Reading the passage in context, Jesus was speaking to people who claimed to be believers in God. Yet they neither trusted in God nor even recognized Him as He walked among them! They trusted rather in their own religious beliefs to carry them through and in their own ways of dealing with all the things in life for which God had sent them assistance, actually the greatest and only true assistance that exists!

And so I ask you loved ones. Whose burden do you carry: your own, or Jesus Christ's? If you are carrying your own burden, if you are trying to *buck up*, or *push on*, or *keep a stiff upper lip*... if are you grunting and

¹ Matthew 11:28-30

suffering under the weight of your own load, then here is my advice; and had I opportunity to share this with our young lady friend above, I would say the same. Run to Jesus; and drop your load at His feet. Trust Him with putting His marvelous salve on your wound. Flee to Jesus; and seize the opportunity to escape the press of the constant reminder of your grief. Cling to Jesus, friend; and when the enemy tries to pull you back into the drowning pool of your own sorrows – whatever the source – do not let go for a second of your sure anchor, your permanent mooring, your shelter in the time of storm, Jesus.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.²”
Pastor

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

- Proverbs 3:5,6

The Franklin Congregational Church Annual Fall Barbeque October 23rd from 4:30 – 6:30 PM



**½ chicken, potato salad, coleslaw,
cranberry sauce, rolls, home made pie,
coffee tea, milk and punch**

Adult's \$10.00, Senior's \$9.00

Children under 12 \$5.00 Pre School free

GLASS OF MILK . . .

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry.

He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door.

Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water! . She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large

² Proverbs3:5-7

glass of milk. He drank it so slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"
"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years' later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes.

Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once.

He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words

Paid in full with one glass of milk"

(Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands."

There's a saying which goes something like this: Bread cast on the water comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place - And, after all, isn't that what life is all about?



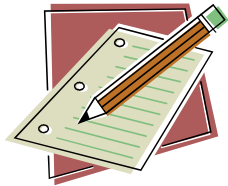
Our next Fellowship Luncheon will be on, Wednesday, October 20th. We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:45am. Come join us in a time of breaking bread together and fellowship

1st Sunday Evening Worship Service
October 3, 2010 6:30 PM-8:00 PM
Come as you are and celebrate the LORD with us !!

Noon Prayer
Everyday at the Church



Wednesday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
(snacks included)



"Many hands make light work". Don't forget to sign up for **Coffee Hour** and **Church Clean-up**



Buildings and Grounds Proposed Projects 2010 Updated 8/11/10

Below are just a few projects the Buildings and Grounds Committee will be reviewing and working on this year. **** The items with red font are projects that are completed.

- Painting of the concrete floors and steps entering the downstairs hall from both the Side and the Rear of the Church- *Pending*
- Power washed entire parsonage to include back deck and walk ways.- *95% Completed- Need to complete walkways at the parsonage*
- Power-washed entire church.- *95 % Completed- Lower portion needs to be completed.*
- **Repaired leaking portion of the steeple and paint it.- Completed**
- **Repairing roof inside the Bell Tower- Completed**
- Replacing the Church office door.- *In Process*
- Repairing the sink in the ladies room.- *Under Review*

- **Repair several locks in the church and handicap push bar. – Completed**
- Replace Tables and Chairs downstairs- *Table Replaced Chairs pending*
- Repaint or replace shutters on parsonage- *Under Review*
- Review replacement of all screen doors on the parsonage- *Under Review*
- Establishment of Old Town Hall Refurbishing Committee- *Committee established*
- Review areas for possible storage, and enhance storage locations. – *Under Review*
- Scrape and repaint several windows frames around the church outside. Also repair basement window in front of the church- *In Process*
- Front door threshold needs to be Re-painted- *Under Review*
- **Scrape and re-paint the Flagpole- Completed**
- **Power wash the Memorial Stones- Completed**
- **Replace concrete pad around Veterans memorial- Completed**
- Clean down spouts on parsonage – *Pending*
- Clean chimney at the parsonage- *Pending*
- Fix sulfur issue in the water at the parsonage- *In Process*
- Review installing blinds and another counter in the church Office- *Under Review*

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Martin, Al Allard, Kyle Seitz

WHY I'M DEPRESSED...

Over five thousand years ago, Moses said to the children of Israel, "Pick up your shovels, mount your asses and camels, and I will lead you to the Promised Land."

Nearly 75 years ago,(when Welfare was introduced) Roosevelt said, "Lay down your shovels, sit on your asses, and light up a Camel, this is the Promised Land."

Today, Congress has stolen your shovel, taxed your asses, raised the price of Camels and mortgaged the Promised Land!

I was so depressed last night thinking about Health Care Plans, thee economy, the wars, lost jobs, savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc . . . I called a Suicide Hotline.

I had to press 1 for English. I was connected to a call center in Pakistan. I told them I was suicidal.

They got excited and asked if I could drive a truck.....

Looking Ahead

Council Meeting October 19th at 6:30 PM

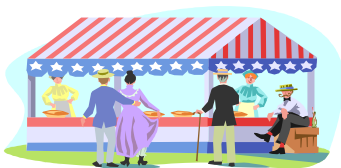
November 7th Founder's Day

Advent Workshop November 28th

at the church on Friday night the 1st- we can use the large sheet pans and make a huge batch. I will also need to get supplies like napkins, small paper plates, hot cups, and sandwich baggies. If you are able to help with baking items, coming to help sell, helping to bake on the 1st or donating paper goods please contact me ASAP. I can be reached at church on Sunday, by email cindyl.roberts@comcast.net , or by phone 204-0860. This event is a great outreach program for the church to the community, a time to socialize together, and most importantly another way for the church to fundraise towards our budget -the more help the easier it goes and the more fun we can all enjoy. Please also encourage your friends and neighbors to attend the weekend event as well as it is always a good time. The sooner I can get a list of bakers and helpers situated the better I will feel as you all know I can organize but I can't COOK!!!!!!

Thanks, Cindy Roberts

Where Did Halloween Come From?



BLUE SLOPE WEEKEND

OCTOBER 2nd AND 3rd 2010

I am in charge on planning and running the Blue Slope Farm event muffin/dessert table for the 2nd and 3rd of Oct. I am looking for volunteers to make assorted muffins, cookies, brownies, and bars for us to sell for both days. We will need a large amount as the staff and venders as well as all the visitors to the event will be served. We also will be selling coffee and I thought hot cocoa and hot apple cider. I am also looking for volunteers to help me man the booth on both days. I was planning to have a huge brownie bake off



Halloween is a holiday that brings excitement to children and adults alike...ever wonder where did Halloween come from? It is a time when costumes are worn and treats are given out to children. Costume parties seem to be common faire on this festive holiday. However, many people may be unaware -even as they celebrate- exactly where did Halloween come from or why the holiday encompasses the traditions that have become so popular.

Halloween seems to be a celebration that grew out of the Celts celebration of summer's end. The Celts were a group of people that inhabited the lands of England, Ireland and northern France before the expansion of the Catholic Church.

The Celt name for the early Halloween celebrations was Samhain. It was the night before their new year began. The harvest had ended and the long cold winter was about to begin. This was a time of death for the Celt people due to the turn of the weather to cold, since the cold meant that sickness would soon abound. All the inhabitants of the area would come together to celebrate the harvest and make offerings of their crops and animals to their gods on this day.

The Druid's, who were the religious leaders of the times, would build a big bonfire that everyone would gather around to celebrate and make their offerings. They would thank the good spirits for their blessings over the past year. They would put out their hearth fires in their homes and, at the end of the night's celebration, would relight their hearths from the sacred bonfire to protect their homes through the coming year.

The Celts also believed that on this night, the separation between the world of the living and the world of the dead was the thinnest and that the ghosts of the dead could roam the Earth in search of a body to possess. They also believed that the spirits could cause damage to the harvest and cause other trouble. Masks and costumes were typically worn at the celebration to scare away the evil spirits. The Celts would light their homes and doorsteps with lanterns to keep away the evil spirits. Then, on the following day, Samhain celebrated the good spirits.

The conquest of the Romans in the middle of the first century brought the Celts under their rule. Over the first four hundred years of occupation, Samhain became blurred with two Roman holidays, Feralia and Pomona. These holidays fit in well with the Celt understanding of Samhain. Feralia celebrated the dead and was observed in late October. Pomona, on the other hand, was a day to celebrate the Goddess of fruits and nuts named Pomona. Traditions from each of these holidays eventually merged to create the Halloween festivities that many people in the US enjoy today

Halloween Traditions

Many other groups look upon Halloween differently than the Celts. For example:

- The Catholic Church celebrates November 1 as a holiday by the name of All Saints Day. In old English, this was All Hallows Day. The night before, Samhain, became All Hallows Eve. A corruption of the words occurred

sometime in the 16th century and the day became known as Halloween. The Catholic Church does not frown upon the celebration of Halloween but tends to concentrate on their holiday the following day instead.

- The Islamic faith, on the other hand, denounces Halloween and forbids the observance because it comes from a Pagan holiday. Judaism also doesn't celebrate the holiday due to its Pagan roots.
- The Christians are split on the subject, some celebrate it and some don't.
- Celtic Pagans consider this time of year and the celebration of Samhain as a holy time.

Over the years, since the practice of celebrating Halloween has become commonplace, the costumes and masks of celebrators have become more elaborate. Ghosts, witches, and devils are commonplace today. More common are other costumes such as pirates, Roman senators, Red Riding hood and other storybook characters. Many consider the dressing up as an important part of the celebration and go all out, putting together detailed costumes and even entering costume contests.

Author: Christy Rakoczy