

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER EMERITUS

*Rev. Dennis R. Knight*

Dear Friends,

A curious new discovery in the history of invention came to light last month. According to an article posted on the New York Times website, a team from the French Academy of Sciences has unearthed and decoded a woman's voice preserved on a sheet of paper dating from 1860. Her voice tones were produced on a device called a "phonoautogram." This discovery establishes a new date for the earliest known voice recording, which until now was attributed to Thomas Edison for his famous rendition of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," made in 1877.

A phonoautogram produced a visual image of sounds by using "a hog's bristle stylus which etched sound waves onto sheets of smoke-blackened paper." This was an oblique and cumbersome means of achieving an end, and it took a prodigious technical effort to reconstruct the original tones. As the article stated, "Mr. Giovannoni [the head of the research team] sent scans of the recording to the Berkeley Lab where they were painstakingly converted into sound by scientists using technology designed to salvage historic recordings."

It takes a probing and insightful mind to delve into the static past and retrieve from dusty archives keys to bygone life. Yet such discoveries as this one are testament to what can be called forth from those who are able to look beyond the immediately obvious, and tease from the apparently meaningless, something of substance. Long dead, this woman has in a sense been summoned back to life to speak to a world many generations removed in time from her. As noted in the article, the end result was that, "that technology allows the voice of a young French woman, recorded in Paris in the months before Abraham Lincoln's inauguration as President of the United States, to be heard again."

Restoration is a common and profound biblical theme that finds many common points with this tale of a lost recording. The prophet Isaiah states, "You shall raise up the foundations of many generations." His words suggest that the lost mysteries, knowledge and insight of the past can ever be reclaimed and put to use as building blocks for the present. Wisdom about, and awareness of, humanity's relationship to the created

order is a legacy that is transmitted from generation to generation. The pathway of our collective lives traverses from one horizon to the other, the one that lies behind and the one the lies before us.

The gesture of that French woman's speech brought to life again, some century and one half after she uttered her original words, stands as a dramatic reminder of the continuity of life, and of how each generation links itself to the next in an unbroken chain. What was summoned in her voice was far more than a series of sine waves or other scientifically measurable elements. Her heartbeat, her pulse, her character, all surged forward again in the recovery of her voice tones, and serve to remind us that in each life dwells all of life, timeless and immemorial, and that what appears to be momentary and fleeting is also eternal and unending.

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

*Belated Birthday Wishes to ...*

5/7 Charlotte Cohoon

5/16 John Hintlian

*Happy Birthday to ...*

5/24 Wesley Hauser

5/25 Nancy Sarkisian

5/26 Ginny Mayo

5/28 Luke LaBonte

5/28 Cecelia LaBonte

5/28 Jillian LaBonte

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/1 Jewell Holden

6/6 Chuck Demazure

6/9 Sophie Kosky

6/26 Shayna Heron



## FAMILY MINISTRY ACTIVITY

Join us on **Saturday, June 7** for a trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, Rhode Island. The grounds are beautiful and with 113 species of animals to admire, it is a wonderful place to spend the day. We will meet in the zoo parking lot at approximately 10 AM. (It is an hour ride from Pakachoag Church.) Let us plan to have lunch in the park following our visit. We are invited to Rev. Knight's home for ice cream and cookies. To receive a group rate, we need to have 10 people with a 10-day advance notice. You will need to let Rev. Dee or Carolyn know no later than Wednesday morning, May 28. Admission with a group rate is \$10 for adults and \$5 per child (without group rates it is \$12/adults and \$6/child.

Join us for this time of fun and fellowship.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY



Join us on **Sunday, June 15 for Children's Sunday.** This is the day we celebrate with our children the ending of Sunday School and their accomplishments during the year. The children will lead us in worship, share with us songs that they learned and receive their certificates for participation in the program.

A special Coffee Hour will be held in honor of our children and in appreciation for Sydney, our Nursery Care Provider.

## HOSTING INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY FAMILIES

It's that time again - time to start planning for our **host week July 29 through August 3.** We will be host to several homeless families (up to 15 people) for that week. Our responsibility is to provide them with companionship, shelter and food for the week. There is a calendar on the bulletin board with the various needs. Please take the time and add your name to where you can best help out. This is a very important part of our community outreach and an extremely gratifying experience for anyone who participates. Please feel free to contact Chottsie Coté at (774) 239-3574 with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 5, 6, and 7, 2008

5:30-8:00 PM



The following are some items we will need for Vacation Bible School. A box will be in the hallway to drop off your items. An on going list will be in your bulletins on Sundays and in the summer *Messenger*.

Oatmeal Cylinders (with lids); Adult socks (bright colors requested); Twigs (small in diameter) – 7 to 9 inches in length; Ribbon (1/4" – colors); Dowels (1/2" wide); Knee highs; Cardboard Tubes (paper towels tubes or wrapping paper tubes); Dry beans (any kind of beans); Twine

## PUZZLE QUEST

On **Sunday, June 1** take a piece of the VBS puzzle. A donation of \$5 for each puzzle piece is requested. Then on **Sunday, June 15 (Children's Sunday)**, bring your puzzle piece back along with \$5. During the service, families will assemble the puzzle.

Can you guess what the complete puzzle picture is? Here are some hints: I eat river clay which allows me some poisonous fruit; the clay removes the poison. I can live up to 90 years. I live in pairs or family groups and I raise my young with my mate.

## THE GREAT PENNY CHALLENGE

The staff at Pakachoag Church would like to challenge the members and friends to a penny challenge. For each dollar in pennies given, the staff will match up to \$50. Monies raised will help to support this year's Vacation Bible School program. Coin cans are available on the table in the hallway. Have fun and join the great penny challenge. Challenge will end on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

## PERSEVERANCE

by Lynn Blanchard - Chair, Spiritual Life Board

Have you ever had a time in your life when, no matter how fast or hard you paddle, you just can't seem to get up stream? You know what I mean. You finally get started on that exercise routine, you've been promising yourself you would start for months, just to get sick, or injure yourself enough so you have to stop. Or you put all your energy into a project, and when you're almost done someone changes the rules, and you have to start all over again.

Sometimes I feel that was about my faith. I pray every day, I try to give thanks and praise for all I have. But some days, it is so hard to remember to start my prayers off with "Thank you God." Some days, when I am confronted with the question of "If there is God, why would he...?" I struggle to find the answer. Now and then, when I am really low, I even ask God myself, "Why me?" or "Why must I endure this?" I guess its all part of being human. Even Jesus asked this of God.

I was sitting at the dinner table last night with Cathy, and we were looking through one of the little prayer books we were given, called One Minute Prayers to End Your Day. Often, one of us will randomly open The Bible or a prayer book such as this and read whatever passage we come to. Cathy likes to call it "Dial a prayer". The page I flipped to was on preparation and along with a short passage from 1 Peter, the author added her own reflection. "I get so caught up in asking questions about what will happen next that I forgot to ask for Your help in the moment. All day long my mind was overflowing with scenarios of the future. I tried to make decisions based on hypothetical situations. It was exhausting.

Tonight I am asking for Your strength, self-control and hope to face my present. Only when I seek Your grace and vision for my life will I ever be prepared for what tomorrow brings." So yes, I pray every single day, one way or another, but how often do I stop to listen for the answer? Now that is a much more difficult task, and honestly I can answer, with "Not enough". I think in those times when I am struggling the most with my faith, is when I am listening the least. I know I need to stop and be quiet, and trust in the answer I hear; even when it's not the answer I want.

*"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set you hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

1 Peter 1:13

## NOTES TO OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

We have also been given names of other service men and women who can use some encouragement from home. Please consider dropping a note to one of these service men and women to let them know we are supporting them.



PFC Jonathon Dale

D CO TF Eagle

FOB Curry

APO AE 09354

LCpl William Washington

1/7 Co WPNS CAAT RED

Unit 41535

FPO AP 96426-1535

MSgt Nelson Ortega

8 AMXS/80<sup>th</sup> AMU

PSC 2 Box 2432

APO AP 96264-0025

Katherine Ortega

455 EMXG/EAMXS/F15

APO AE 09354

## INTERESTED IN CAKE DECORATING?

Jessica Stills offered to teach a four-week cake decorating class here at Pakachoag Church. If anyone is interested, please let Rev. Dee know.

## SPRING YARD SALE

We held our annual spring Yard Sale on Saturday, April 26 and collected \$400.75 which will go towards our Court Yard project. Thanks to all who donated their attic treasures and to our volunteers Chottsie Coté, Michelle Heron, Travis Hintlian, Marilyn Kulesa, and Carolyn Kreft. A very special thank you to Manny Hernandez, our custodian for bringing up the items from our basement and then bringing the unsold items back down. A tremendous job well done! We have tentatively set Saturday, September 13 for our fall Yard Sale so mark your calendars.