

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER EMERITUS

*Rev. Dennis R. Knight*

Dear Friends,

The exciting event of great consequence this fall has been the upcoming Presidential election. Debates form part of the ritual of any major election, and true to form, after much strategizing and posturing, the two major parties agreed upon a schedule for televised exchanges between the principles, the last of which is now concluded.

This year I found myself grouching some about the late 9:00 p.m. hour these were scheduled. I wondered about that briefly, and realized of course it has to be a late hour relative to those of us in the East, so to accommodate others in the country living in a different time zone. Given the size of the United States, which spans four time zones in the lower forty-eight states, another one for Alaska, and yet one more for Hawaii, no one hour would suit everyone's timetable. While 9:00 p.m. might be late for someone watching in the east, the equivalent 6:00 p.m. in the West might be impinging upon people's dinner hour, and actually intrude upon working hours in Hawaii.

The matter of scheduling a time for a debate speaks to the matter of compromise. A country as large and diverse as the United States perform creates imbalances of all sorts that have to be provided for. That we live in different time zones is one example. That we also experience different priorities is another. Legislators from the Northeast contest with legislators from the Midwest over differences about coal fired electrical plants. The same source that provides economical energy for Chicago, St. Louis and Detroit, creates acid rain that falls in New England. Two summers ago, the states of Georgia and Florida were at odds over rights to a river that runs through both states. It provides drinking water for the former and had relevance for the ecological balance in the later. A severe drought had diminished the river's ability to satisfy both priorities, so the issue ended up in Federal court.

In any instance in a social order where there are contesting priorities, the benefit and betterment of the whole is generally best served by mediation and negotiation.

Compromise by its very nature requires some measure of yielding, but there is a trade off in that. Each party who puts something on the table also gains by what other parties set forth. Any drowsiness I experience listening to a debate run on past ten o'clock is offset by the fact that other persons far distant are afforded the opportunity to hear the exchange live when they might not be able to otherwise. My inconvenience serves the democratic process. It is of benefit to me to have as many people as possible participate in the electoral process, because the democratic system is fortified by full engagement by all members.

The unity that is drawn from the diversity of the United States actually helps create abundance for all. Our geographic range means that codfish from Massachusetts, oil from Texas, wheat from Illinois, peaches from Georgia, lumber from Maine, and pineapples from Hawaii are all part of the harvest that supports everyone.

Diversity by its very nature increases the level of accommodation necessary to keep any system functioning. The benefit of diversity, even with its accompanying cross currents, compromises, and imperfect lumberings, lies in a greater harvest for all, and a table more able to feed and serve the many rather than the few.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

### *Belated Wishes to ...*

April Mellen	7
Ailish Mills	14
Dennis Knight	15

### *Happy Birthday to ...*

Carrie Milinazzo	27
Nicole Forsberg (Demazure)	31
Marilyn Kulesa	31



## DO YOU LIKE COUPONS?

Relay For Life of Auburn is still selling Entertainment (formerly Dine Out) books for \$25 as a fundraiser to fight cancer. They are full of money saving coupons and great restaurant deals. Please call Chet Stencil at 508-832-4954.

## BLESSING CUPCAKES

by Lynn Blanchard

*"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."*

Ephesians 1: 2-3

There is something about looking death straight in the eyes that makes you wake up and pay attention. A few weeks ago, while driving to church with Cathy and my mom, we were nearly hit by woman in an SUV when she ran a stop sign. Honestly, I don't think she ever saw the stop sign, and I know she didn't see us. Thankfully we are able to avoid the accident, but it was an experience I won't soon forget. When we arrived at church, people notice there was something wrong right away. We each received hugs and comfort from our church family, and I was even able to make a joke about the cupcakes Cathy had in her lap being "blessing cupcakes". Although they were slightly squished, they survived to tell of a morning filled with small miracles.

Sometimes, I feel like those cupcakes. I feel the weight of the world pressing down on me, I feel battered and beaten, and not sure if I will make it to my destination. But I believe God puts people in our lives when we need them. Last month I told you a little about three friends who helped me through. I'd like to tell you more about one of those people this month and what she did for me.

There are many people in my life that have made such a difference for me -- Cathy, of course, and my family as well as some good friends, who have gone above and beyond to be there for me. Then I have some people in my life, who a couple years ago, I didn't even know. People

who have become more than friends to me, and whom I thank God for every day. People who have made such an impact on my life, I will be forever grateful to them.

One of these women, I met at work. We'd been friendly, with a good morning hello, or helping one another out with work, but we hadn't gotten to the place where we thought of each other as more than acquaintances. One day, when I was especially venerable, she asked me how I was doing. I answered with my usual "I'm fine thanks, and you?" she put her hand on my arm and looked me in the eyes and said, "Do you really expect me to believe that B.S.?" She proceeded to tell me we would be going to lunch that day, and she would get a real answer out of me. And she did, much to my surprise.

She quickly broke through my walls with a story of her own. She told me how she lost her dad to cancer, and at the time she couldn't see the reason for going through what she did. She'd felt alone, and at times overcome with sadness. She didn't know how she would make it through her ordeal. But somehow, through the love she had for her father, and her faith, she was able to be there for him and show him the love and compassion he deserved.

When she saw my pain, she was one of a few who could really understand what I was going through. She felt what she went through could help me, and she took the step forward in faith, to offer her sincere empathy. She checked in with me when I saw her, or when she called or e-mailed me. I learned quickly I could trust her with the truth of my feelings, and she made it so I could be there when my family needed me. She gave me strength and helped me learn it was okay to lean on a friend when I was in need.

It sounds like such a simple thing, doesn't it? But this is what I believe being a true Christian is about. She reached out to someone in need and gave me the strength to face my pain and shined a light on my faith and an ever present God.

All through the grace of God.

## RECYCLING AT OUR CHURCH

If you haven't noticed, there is a plastic container in the hallway by the doors.

- All plastics number 1 through 7 and all colors, including milk, water, juice, margarine, yogurt containers
- All magazines, catalogs, phone books, mail, junk mail, bulletins
- All "chipboard" which includes cereal, snack boxes, milk and juice cartons, ice cream containers.

Please note: plastics, glass bottles, jars and tin cans must be rinsed and clean.

Be good stewards by protecting our earth.

## CONGRATULATIONS MARILYN

Our congratulations to Marilyn Kulesa on her color-penciled artwork featured on this postcard (middle picture).

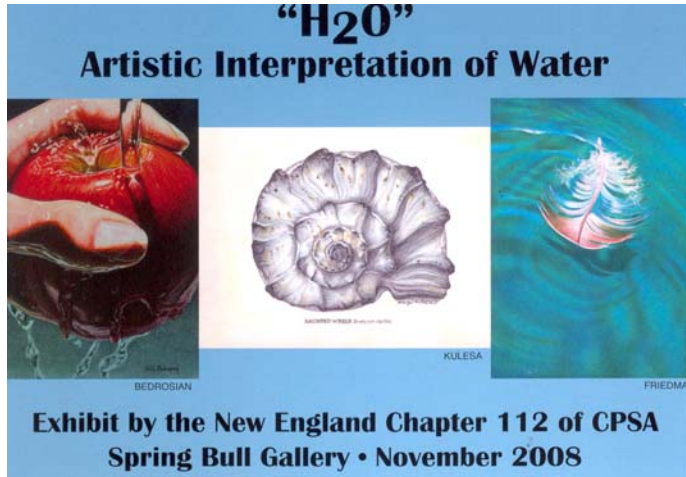
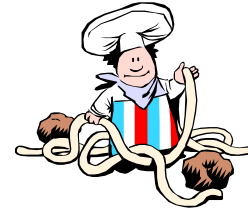


Exhibit runs from November 1-30, 2008 at the Spring Bull Studio and Gallery, 555 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island. A silent auction of a 5" x 7" colored pencil artwork will take place in conjunction with the exhibit.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

### Pasta Dinner with a Silent Auction

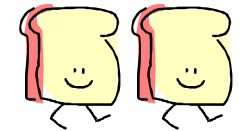


We will be having a **Pasta Dinner** on **Saturday, November 8** at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$8/adults; \$3/child (children under age 3 are free. Dinner includes - pasta, meatballs & sausages, assorted breads, salad, green beans, dessert and beverage.

Tickets are available every Sunday morning after church service or you can call the church office (508-755-8718). All proceeds will be given to charitable work beyond Pakachoag Church.

### Sandwich Making in Progress

On **Sunday, November 9** and **December 14**, we will once again be making sandwiches for the homeless people in Worcester. Rev. Elizabeth Magill and Mary Jane Eaton are called to minister to people who are in need of support and Christ's message. A drink and a sandwich helps make the connection between the pastors and the people.



The process is pretty simple. We get together at 8 AM before church on Sunday, November 9 and Sunday, December 14. We will be assembling thirty peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and thirty ham and cheese sandwiches.

So mark your calendar and join us on either Sunday in the kitchen.

### We Give Thanks

November, being the month of the year when we most focus on thankfulness, we will again be filling Thanksgiving boxes. Our church will be preparing ten Thanksgiving baskets to be donated to the Auburn District Nursing Association. Please take the time and put your name next to the item(s) you would like to donate.