



When I was in 7th grade, for part of our history class we had some sort of project of constructing something from medieval history. In all honesty, I don't really remember the whole point of the project. It probably had something to do with understanding society and culture back then and how it's different or similar to that of our present day. Either way, for whatever reason I wound up constructing a cathedral - complete with rose window and buttresses (which were the worst part to construct). All of it was built or put together using corrugated cardboard. It was a little too tough to cut using scissors, at least the details parts like the buttresses, and so a xacto knife was needed. I had such bad calluses and stiff hands by the end of it, I was so glad it was finally over. And at the same time, I was completely content and happy with my project. It was so nicely detailed inside and out. You could pull the thing apart to see inside, the altar and the different wings of the building, the cross. I was so happy with it that even when I was done with it in school and able to bring it back home I kept it on display. Out in the open for everyone to see and enjoy... though I'm not sure who would that be as I'm sure my brothers or any of their friends could care less.

I'm not sure how long after all that hard work was put into it before it was just completely destroyed. For whatever reason, our one cat decided it must have been such a cool box, a cool structure, I don't know, maybe he found Jesus. Either way, he tried really, really hard to get inside (or so it looked) and by the time we found it, it was squashed. The buttresses having flown across the room, or at least across the table. The rose window made of cellophane was almost completely destroyed. Certainly, the craftsmanship of tape and glue were no match. It was beyond repair.

For whatever reason, that's all I could think of when watching the Notre Dame Cathedral on fire, with the spire collapsing and roof falling in, wondering if it will be so badly damaged beyond repair. What would be lost? What could be saved?

While watching the news, one commentator said it's so heartbreaking because so many have this concept that churches will survive till the end of time. That they will be okay. She compared this to Notre Dame specifically in that this beautiful church built in the 12th century held artifacts and art from that point onward. Showing just how long this place had been around and in a sense, is still living into the future. Also, that this is so heartbreaking for many because so much has been lost, so much connecting us to our past and the stories and art that tell them and maybe even including perhaps a bit of hope.

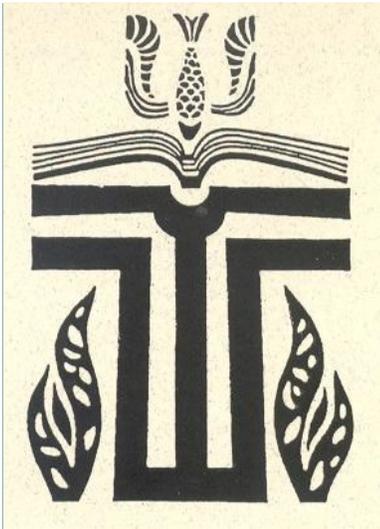
Yet, I couldn't help but want to push back, yes, it is heartbreaking, yes so much is lost in the loss of this building but the church, the church will survive till the end of time. So often we forget, the church isn't the building, it never was, was never meant to be. The church is and always has been the people. And perhaps, as Christians, we've not only become too attached to our buildings but we've also become too attached to them doing the work for us - telling the history, the story - connecting us to the past, sustaining us (at times) in the present, with hopes of a future of new generations to come.

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## **Good News Gazette**

First  
Presbyterian  
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**Seen**  
***A Blessing for Easter Day***

You had not imagined  
that something so  
empty could fill you  
to overflowing,

and now you carry  
the knowledge  
like an awful treasure  
or like a child  
that roots itself  
beneath your heart:

how the emptiness  
will bear forth  
a new world that you  
cannot fathom  
but on whose edge  
you stand.

So why do you linger?  
You have seen,  
and so you are  
already blessed.  
You have been seen,  
and so you are  
the blessing.

There is no other word  
you need.

There is simply  
to go  
and tell.

There is simply  
to begin.

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Only lately, many wonder what the future is, concerned because people aren't coming into the buildings. How will they ever know the story, how will they ever know the importance of what has happened, is happening, all the things God has done in this place? For they don't come to this place, they don't worship here, and they don't come to our buildings.

For too long, we've relied on church being done this way, and yet the world is changing, and maybe it's time to go back to our roots. Our Easter roots. These roots where there weren't any buildings, where rather the disciples became faithful apostles, being sent out into the world, not calling others into buildings, not static but on the move. Sharing the good news of the resurrection of Christ. Telling of the dark days, the holy moments, the miraculous healings, power of the spirit, and new life found in Christ. As we enter into our 50 days of Easteride (40 days until Ascension of our Lord), on our journey to Pentecost, may we not just hear the stories of Acts, these stories of the disciples/apostles being on the move, but may we ourselves be urged to move. May we be urged to go out telling the story, sharing our past as we live into the present and hope for the future. This past of our Savior being raised, the present reality of the need for healing and wholeness in our community, and the hope of new life, resurrection life as we live into the coming kingdom.

### DEACON'S CORNER

Getting ready for the Chicken BBQ? We are having a book sale table set up on the day, also. Anyone wanting to donate books (both hard and soft cover) or help in any way with this fundraiser, please contact one of the Deacons. Date of Chicken BBQ is June 8<sup>th</sup>, please join us and enjoy the day!

### CHICKEN BBQ MEETING

There will be a planning meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> to begin planning the chicken BBQ. James Peterson will be chairing this event. If someone is interested in chairing a Yard Sale table for the church please come to the meeting or let Pastor Erin know.

### Poetry Event for Tom – Postponed until a later date.

We were planning to have a poetry reading in memory of Tom in May. Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen circumstances we will have to postpone for a later date either over the summer or in the early fall. We will keep you informed when a new date is set!

## Capital Campaign Planning Meeting

We are really hoping to go full swing this year with our capital campaign. Buildings and Grounds has solidified the list of items (both needs and wants) and is working on applying for a grant through The New York Landmarks Conservancy – Sacred Sites Program. With that in mind, anyone interested in helping get this campaign off the ground (in any way) is invited to come to a meeting held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to start planning.

We would love help with input on priorities (certainly B&G has top priorities but we want to make sure they match up with the congregation). We will need help with determining a breakdown of how much we plan to raise over how many years. Along with this, we recognize we are a small congregation and will be looking to the community for support. We need help in planning some fundraisers from simple ones (ex. Chester Diner night out or one through Panera Fundraising) to ones that are a little more work (ex. Organizing a silent auction, craft fair).

Even if you cannot make this meeting, please consider how you might be willing to help with this campaign

### LOOKING AHEAD

- May 1 – Chicken BBQ planning meeting 6:45pm
- May 5 – Deacon’s meeting following worship; cooking class 5pm
- May 6 – Bible Study at 10 Main St. 10 am; Music and Worship meeting 1pm
- May 8 – Buildings and Grounds meeting 6:45pm
- May 12 – Session meeting following worship
- May 13 - Bible Study at 10 Main St. 10 am
- May 15 – Capital Campaign Meeting 6:30pm
- May 18 – Tentative Church Work Day
- May 20 - Bible Study at 10 Main St. 10 am
- May 21 – Women’s Council 1pm
- May 25 – Kiwanis 5k – Breakfast help needed time TBD
- May 27 – NO BIBLE STUDY

Please mark your calendars: June 8th will be the Chicken BBQ.

A date is needed to de-brief our last RBD.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by May 24th.

### May Second Offering

Our second offering for May 19<sup>th</sup> will be to help offset the cost of our insurance.

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