

JUNE 2019

The  
**CONGREGATIONALIST**  
Magazine of the Congregational Way since 1849

VOL. 171 • NO. 2

The Precious  
Gift of  
*REMEMBERING*

Preserving the Past by  
**Building  
the  
FUTURE**

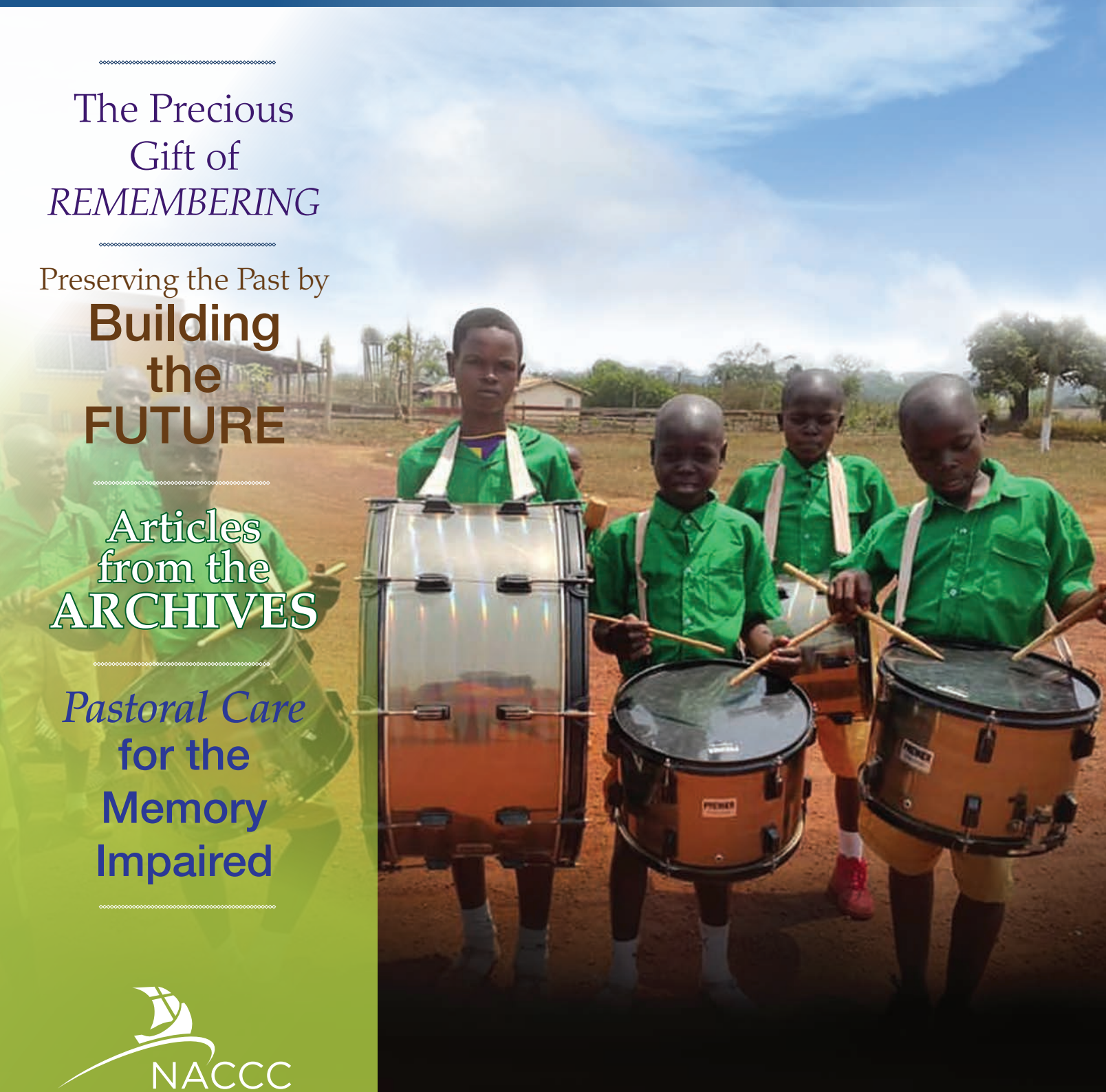
Articles  
from the  
**ARCHIVES**

*Pastoral Care  
for the  
Memory  
Impaired*



Published by the National Association  
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## EDITORIAL STATEMENT

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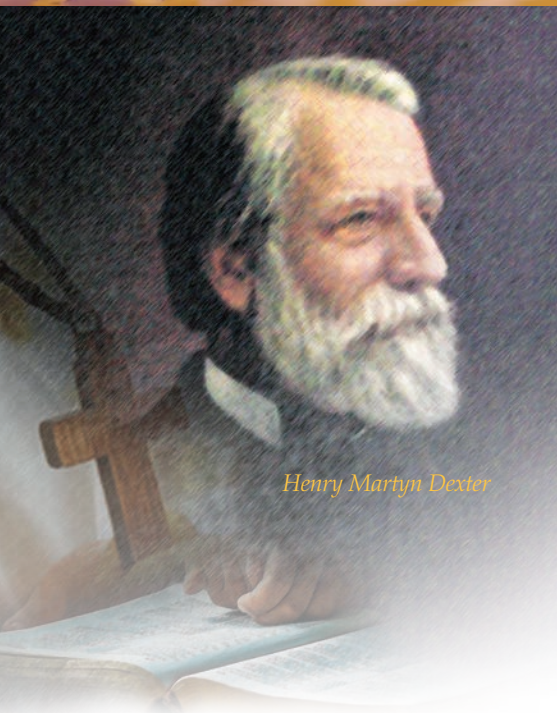
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Neither *The Congregationalist* nor the NACCC has a creed or holds positions on social or theological issues; but we recognize the authority of each local church to do so for itself, if and as it wishes, and we encourage thoughtful and respectful discussion of our agreements and differences.



# OUR Voyage TOGETHER

By Michael Chittum,  
Executive Director  
National Association of  
Congregational  
Christian Churches



Henry Martyn Dexter

In 1880, *The Congregational Publishing Society* published a small volume written by Henry Martyn Dexter. The title is: *A Hand-Book of Congregationalism*. Dexter stated his reasons for writing this book in his preface. He indicated that, first of all, he saw a need for a brief introduction to Congregationalism that would be easily accessible and comprehensible. Secondly, he wrote, he had learned so much since he published his multi-volume work, *The Congregationalism of the Last Three Hundred Years as Seen in Its Literature*, that he wanted to put some of his new discoveries into print.

In this handbook, Dexter provides an overview of a number of Congregational topics, including discussions of history, polity, doctrine, and worship, among others. One of the interesting chapters is titled "The Advantages of Congregationalism." Let me share with you his major points in this section.

## The Congregational Advantage

1. Congregationalism has advantage over other polities in being more scriptural than they. In Dexter's perspective, this is patently obvious because the New Testament endorses "the simple propositions of a democratic polity" (128).

2. Congregationalism has advantage over other polities in being more practicable than they. Dexter asserts, "It is the only polity that can form and 'run' a church regularly without external authority and help" (129).

3. Congregationalism has advantage over other polities in that it more promotes popular intelligence. Dexter commented, "It teaches its members that equal responsibility and privilege rest upon them, and it treats each as if he were a man [sic] full grown, to whom Christ has assigned a specific work, and from whom He expects a specific and intelligent obedience" (130).

4. Congregationalism has advantage over all other polities in the United States, in that it more exactly than any other comports with, and favors, our republican form of government. His explanation is, "The seed principle of a Congregational church is the republican principles of the State" (131).

5. Congregationalism has advantage over other polities, in that it better guards its adherents against the ill effects of spiritual error. In Dexter's view,

"The experience of the world has proved that there is, under God, no safeguard against false doctrine so efficient as the Christian common sense of the mass of believers, enlightened, purified, and led by the indwelling Holy Spirit" (132).

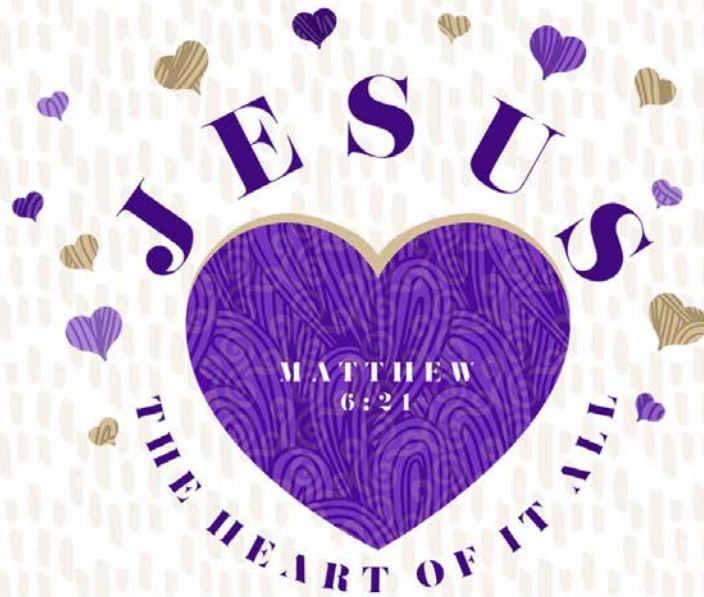
6. Congregationalism has advantage over all other polities, in that it more tends to promote the religious life. Dexter states, "It puts nothing between the heart and its divine Lord, and this humbles, purifies and stimulates" (134).

7. Congregationalism has advantage of all other polities in its outlook toward the future. While other polities will bend to popular will, Dexter believes, ". . . I may say with all my heart, it (Congregationalism) can only need to perfect itself in the line of its own philosophy, and be all which its own normal possibilities suggest, to fit it for the fullness of that brighter day" (135).

That was the view of one of the scholars of Congregationalism in 1880. As we look ahead to the 400th remembrance of the landing on Plymouth by our spiritual ancestors, it is good for us to consider why we remain in the Congregational tradition. Our understandings may differ from Dexter's, but we should be able to give our own statements on the advantages of Congregationalism.

Grace and Peace,  
Michael

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# From the Archives

From THE CONGREGATIONALIST, February 1958, Volume 1, Issue 1

By Reverend Harry R. Butman, Los Angeles, CA – Chair, Executive

**F**or the first time since September 1935, the name THE CONGREGATIONALIST appears at the masthead of a journal of religion.

In Milwaukee, January 22, 1958, the Executive Committee of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, in accordance with the directive given by the Hartford meeting, elected a Commission on Mission and Church Extension.

These two events are facets of a single truth of first importance for all Congregationalists. The National Association has now taken the bold but inevitable step of evangelizing. By means of these agencies, by word and by deed, the Christian Gospel will be proclaimed and spread in the Congregational way. This is a strong step forward.

For almost a quarter of a century seminary professors have taught, powerful ecclesiasts have promoted and docile ministers have echoed the doctrine that the Gospel is a summons to submission, and that the Kingdom of God is an ecclesiastical super-state. The word ecumenicity (that Baal, that Golden calf of Protestant officialdom) has been the cantrip, the spell, that has ensorcelled preachers and laymen alike, although the word never fell from Christ's lips, nor is its advocacy to be found in his teachings. Urged by the same compulsive craving for conformity which has led to the totalitarian state in the world of politics, men of religion have cried for chains, and this is a cry which goes unheard or unanswered.

## Liberty is Viable

But liberty is a hard growth, and the drought of Gospel truth in these years has but stunted, not killed it. With the reappearance of a name once most honored in all religious journalism, and the establishment of a commission to build free churches, and to spread the free church faith, we are seeing spiritual renaissance. Not without reason did Dr. Daniel Poling, elder statesman among the Christian editors in the United States, call the Hartford gathering of the National Association, "the most prophetic meeting in American Protestantism in the last fifty years." The statement was ignored by the religious reporters of the major newspapers, for they, too, have fallen under the spell of the Circe of ecumenicity. But it was made, and it was true. The tide of tomorrow is with the individual, not the many. In the days to come ("How long, O Lord, how long?") men will move forward out of the gray pall of conformity which now befalls

them. The whole life process works toward freedom and individuality, and today's sad stagnation by which the group is glorified, is but a back eddy in the mighty stream of life force. Man dare not lose his individuality in the herd, only in God can that loss take place to the soul's profit.

Let us rejoice, therefore, that we are fearlessly thrusting the craft of our movement out into the rough strong current of that stream, disdaining the safety of the marshy backwaters.

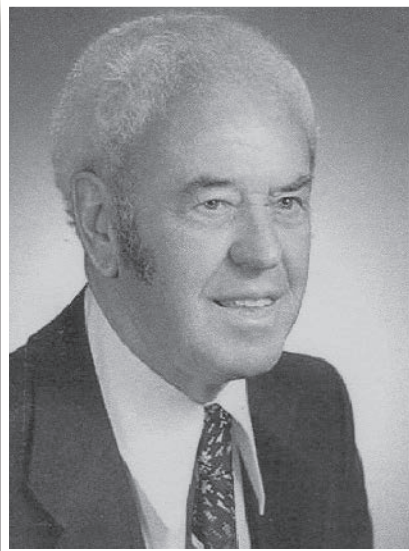
THE CONGREGATIONALIST, and the Mission and Church Extension will make religious history as they reclaim an ancient and presently tarnished treasure by proclaiming the good news of the freedom of the Christian man with all the daring and wholeness which true Congregationalism so abundantly possesses.



February 1958

By Chris Surber

Committee, NACCC



The Reverend Harry R. Butman was a Congregational minister for 72 years and a prolific writer on the topics of theology and the spiritual life. He helped found the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) and was editor of The Congregationalist in the late 1960s.

It is natural, as we approach the 400th anniversary of the founding of Plymouth, to consider the origins, the history, and the impact of Congregationalism in America. Nostalgia can be self indulgent. It can also motivate us, going forward, with the kind of fervor and purpose that animated our forebears. Looking at the past can show us the way into the future. Leading up to the 2020 NACCC Annual Meeting & Conference in Portland, Maine, The Congregationalist will feature articles from the archives written by Congregationalists who helped bring us to where we are today.  
Marianne King, Editor

### The Trumpet Sound

For we have a message to proclaim, and that message is freedom. Consider the good words the Holy page has for us:



“Proclaim liberty throughout the land and unto the inhabitants thereof.”

“With a great price obtained I this freedom.”

“The glorious liberty of the children of God.”

“Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.”

Brethren, these and many like words should be to us as the shouts of strong men going forth to righteous battle, and as the songs of Deborah hailing the returning victors.

An army charges best when a trumpet is sounded.

There are those of us who recall the name of the paper in the great days when it was the voice of free Congregationalism. The full, and all-but-forgotten title was, “THE CONGREGATIONALIST AND HERALD OF GOSPEL LIBERTY.” God grant, in the days to come, that all who cherish freedom and toil for its triumph may be cheered, in reading this reborn paper by words of truth and challenge, and chronicles of achievement and comradeship. May it be a silver trumpet which will with no uncertain sound forever blow the brave music of freedom.

Continued>

# Along THE WAY



*Drying out the fellowship hall.*

## Hosanna Industries Assists Damaged Church



*Hosanna workers and volunteers gather in front of the AME church*

**D**uring the week of March 11, 2019, Hosanna Industries was led by the Lord to the town of Burgaw, North Carolina, where Hurricane Florence had caused severe damage. We were able to help a local AME church that had lost the use of its building since the Cape Fear flooded the town. There was a recorded eight inches of water that had damaged the interior of the building. We renovated the fellowship hall to provide a place of worship for the church members. After the completion of the

project, Hosanna gathered with the volunteers that had traveled from far and near, alongside the members of the church, and participated in Holy Communion together. It was yet another miracle that took place because of the Lord and his people that were willing to be his servants. Thank you to all that supported our efforts and continue to do so. We are grateful.

### The First Congregational Church of Yarmouth Yarmouth Port, MA



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*Katie DeJournette, 29, is a mission worker at Hosanna Industries in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has served at the mission for seven years and is dedicated to the Lord's work.*





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# THE PRECIOUS GIFT *of Remembering*

*By Rev. Casey vanderBent*



a loss, perhaps even seeing them or helping in some way for a week or two. What happens to them, though, when a month has passed, and they are still submerged in grief but everyone else has moved on? It can get pretty lonely.

The other way we fall short of being present to people in need is by failing to recognize their need in the first place. I find this to be especially true of those who have had a life transition, for good or bad, that suddenly plucks them from regular participation in a community to little or no interaction with the people who had been so much a part of their lives. Retirement, in particular, can do this. So, too, can changing jobs or moving to a new place. It can be especially painful for those with chronic illness, who have to deal not only with their failing health, but with the loneliness that comes from no longer being able to be involved in the activities and communities that once gave meaning to their lives.

I have had the great privilege of being the NACCC's "minister" to its retired clergy for over 10 years (except for the two years I served as Interim Executive, when Rev. Cindy Bacon Hammer took over for me). I took on the task from George Brown, who "invented" the position but found he could not continue the work. I can tell you with certainty that a great many of our retirees feel very keenly the loneliness and lack of connection that comes with the transition from active participation in our churches and Association to little or no involvement. It isn't just that the time needs to be filled. It's

that people with whom they worked for years are suddenly gone from their lives. Relationships that were deeply meaningful, forged through shared work and experiences, fade away quickly. This ought not to be so.

Another group that might escape our notice are those who participated in the life of our Association, as clergy or lay people, whose lives eventually take them outside of our body. Perhaps they are lay people who move to a new place where they can no longer attend a NACCC church. Perhaps they are clergy who take on a call in a non-NACCC church. Whatever their reason for departing, they deserve to be remembered. They deserve to know that the relationships they'd developed, sometimes over many years of service, mean as much to those of us who remain actively involved as they do to them. This is not about acting out of a sense of guilt at our inactivity, but out of a sense of thanksgiving for the people whom God has placed in our lives.

In the spirit of full disclosure (and not at all to generate attention for myself) I must confess that I am one of those who have felt keenly the intense isolation and loneliness that can come from a departure from active NACCC participation – in my case due to declining health. I know personally the feeling of having been forgotten that I have heard expressed by retired clergy, folks who have moved on to other places or jobs, and those whose health or other personal issues make it impossible to participate in the ways they might wish.

There's a simple remedy for all of this. First of all, if you are feeling any

**T**o say that people appreciate it when they are remembered by others is hardly a radical new concept. We know it to be true and, when we are at our best, we engage in that remembering in beautiful ways. We are "trained" to respond to the needs of others; in our families, our churches, or simply by the prodding of our own hearts. People in hospitals or care centers, folks who have lost a loved one or experienced a tragedy, the aging or infirm – they are all remembered, at least for a time, in the midst of their need.

Where we sometimes fail in remembering is when we stop reaching out to folks too soon. We might make a special effort to contact a friend after

*The Reverend Casey vanderBent has served NACCC churches in Minnesota and Ohio as well as taking part in leadership positions with CFTS, Executive Committee, Annual Meeting Planning, and most recently, as the Interim Executive Secretary for the Association. He lives in St. Croix Beach, Minnesota, with his wife Teresa and, though he is no longer able to work, he continues to serve as our "minister" to the Association's retirees.*



pangs of regret from what I've written, I encourage you to offer yourself the same forgiveness you would offer to another person. Then, take some action. Is there somebody with whom you were once close in the NACCC who has, for whatever reason, had to limit or discontinue their participation? Is

there a retiree who made a difference in your journey with whom you have lost contact? Is there even, perhaps, someone who was important in the life of the Association whom you never met but would like to know? If God places somebody on your heart, I urge you to reach out to them. Our database

has contact information for many of those who were once more active in our Association. I'm sure that we can help you reach out to that person.

Please take the time today to offer that precious gift of remembering. Thank you, and God bless you.



# News AND NEEDS of OUR Missions

## DRUM ROLL PLEASE!

On February 11, 2019, **Mission School of Hope in Cameroon, Africa**, participated in the 53rd National Youth Day, part of a week-long celebration of youth. This day is dedicated to getting the nation's youth involved in constructive activities and to help them learn to take leadership and participate in the culture and society. The youth plan the activities, including parades, learning workshops, public music performances, planting trees, community service and sports

competitions. For the past six years, Mission School of Hope children

were among the best from all the primary schools competing in the area parade!



*School of Hope drummer boys*

# Prayer *is needed*

The Rev. Charles Nyane of **Word Alive Missions Association, Ghana**, traveled to Baltimore, Maryland for cataract surgery. He has responded so well to medication that surgery was not necessary. Thank you for your prayers.

Political unrest continues in Haiti. Please pray that God's Word and work prevail amidst the chaos.

For more information on any of these missions, or to make a donation to any of the above projects, please contact **Mission Administrator Julie Robie at 1.800.262.1620 or jrobie@nacc.org.**



*Rev. Jim Owens, Love Worth Sharing, reports that the long-awaited supplies arrived in Haiti!*

## Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation

At a recent Training Retreat for **South Sudanese Leaders in Mayo**, 21 leaders from six different tribes were trained to bring the message of reconciliation to multiple regions. These leaders will help influence the future of this beautiful country in the name of Jesus Christ. As one leader testified:

*Little did I know that it was God's plan for my breakthrough on January 26th, 2019. During one of the reflection times I came out with my bottle of water, my Bible, and my books to a place under the mango tree. Then the Lord spoke to me, "you need more of me and need to be rooted in me." When it came to the group prayer time, I then presented my burning issue to Jesus Christ and as the group prayed for me God healed me immediately. Now I have been relieved, restored, and renewed and I am so grateful! I can hear God again!*

*John -  
South Sudanese Leader*



*Panamerican Institute, Tijuana, Mexico, presented their 19 future graduates and asked for prayers as they prepare for their graduation ceremony in June*

#### **ECHO International, Inc.**

ECHO just celebrated Southwest Florida's premier festival. Thousands of people tasted exotic foods, experienced life in a different country, explored the 55-acre Global Farm, toured a tropical rainforest, saw the 300+ variety seed bank and learned about alternative energies. There were also activities for kids of all ages to touch, taste and experience their way around the world while learning about world hunger and ways that they can make an impact.

#### **Fishers of Men Delivers Services**

Julie Claassen informed us that the latest crusade team is back home at **Fishers of Men, Mexico**. After nine days away from home, including six days of giving free medical care and sharing the Word of God, they provided 1092 services. A reported 145 individuals prayed to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

### **Annual Meeting & Conference 2019 - Cleveland, Ohio**

The invited missionaries for the NACCC 2019 Annual Meeting in June will be Rev. Harding Stricker, **Association Civil Cristiana Congregational, Argentina**, and Rev. Julio Santana, **Bread of Life, Florida**. There will be many other missionaries attending who are eager to meet their friends and thank their supporters.

More information is posted on the NACCC website: [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org).

For more information on any of these missions, or to donate to any of these projects, please contact Julie Robie, Missions Administrator, at [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.org).

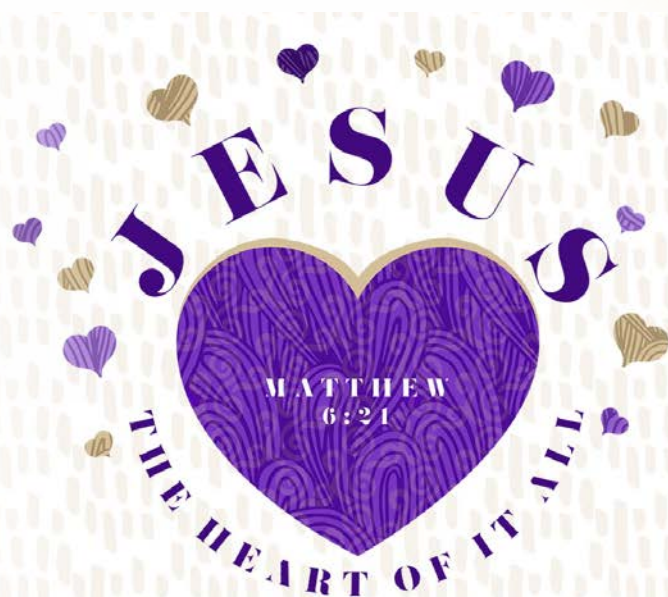
For a complete listing of NACCC Mission Projects, please go to our website: [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) and click on the Missions tab.

Mission and Outreach  
Ministry Council  
NACCC  
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Oak Creek, WI 53154

## **Mission** NEEDS

**Christ to the Villages, Nigeria**, needs a four-wheel vehicle for the mission.

**Word Alive Mission, Ghana**, requires construction materials for the Ghana Guest House and hospital. The guest house will be used to house visiting missionaries, work teams and, eventually, pregnant women who are close to their delivery date and must travel from their villages for care. It will be just across the street from the hospital.





# Pastoral Care to the **MEMORY IMPAIRED**

*By Michael W. Glidden*

In twenty-six years of pastoral ministry, I've encountered people within church life that have significant memory issues such as Alzheimer's or dementia. I've witnessed the interactions of family and the family of faith with those affected. Growing up, I've seen how my family dealt with a loved one living with profound memory loss. All these experiences have impacted how I provide pastoral care. I would like to offer some of these experiences to you. I hope at some point that we'll be able to dialogue on this topic.

My Great Grandfather "John" died right before I was born in the late 1960's. I heard tales of his service in WWI and being a folk hero of sorts. I have a picture of him in his military uniform dating back to the early 1900s. He looked like a very determined and proud man, yet his eyes spoke of a life different than mine.

My mother tells the story of how John had to come live with her, two brothers and their parents. Some of the stories are comical, yet sad. There was the time Grandpa John was home alone and put so many logs on the fire that all the knots in the walls were blown out by the time the kids got home. Can you imagine, in the middle of the summer, all the walls had gaping holes! We joked that he created some Downeast Maine air conditioning!

On another occasion, Grandpa John took a wheelbarrow down the middle of the highway thinking that it was a car. Yes, he was in the middle of traffic on famous Route 1! He even wore one green sock and one red sock as he "rode" his "car" to some destination. The family often chuckled with the memory of these events, but there was a sad ending. John left their home after living with them

for 20 years. According to my mother, the "last straw" was when Grandpa dumped a whole bucket of paint over her brother's head for no apparent reason! He may have mistaken the paint for shampoo!

Grandpa John couldn't be alone anymore. Grandpa defined my mom's and her sibling's childhood memories. It didn't matter that he had dementia, he was still "Grampy." He was loved for just being himself. However, he was getting more difficult and agitated as the years went on, which took a toll on the family. John went to live with relatives in another state and died shortly after arriving.

I remember Grandmother telling me how important those sustained relationships with Grandpa were. Relationships that were broken by his moving. As a young child, I heard about

*The Rev. Michael Glidden, D.Min., is Supply Minister at North Deering Meeting House in Portland, Maine. He has been pastoring since 1993. Rev. Glidden earned his Master of Divinity Degree in 1995 from Bangor Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2002. He was ordained in 2000. Mike lives in South Portland, with his wife Rhonda.*



Grandpa John over and over again not knowing that, one day, I would be a pastor and encounter folks in the church that also have struggles with memory. I'm sure glad that I heard these early stories of Grandpa. All I have is a faded picture and a relationship that I have only through stories. Grandpa John still speaks to me today in some of my pastoral encounters. I don't believe that anything happens by chance. God uses past experiences and life circumstances to teach us something. And that is what happened to me...

Many years ago, when I was pastoring in Upstate New York, I met an elderly woman living with severe memory issues. "Doris" always came in with her family. Never alone. She had a shuffle as she walked. She had a constant deadpan expression on her face. She was usually mumbling. Her family was always clarifying what she was saying or meant to say. Most of the time, they spoke for her.

Doris had lost her voice, and not just literally. Church folks kept her at a distance as if her condition were contagious. It was like she was a walking plague. I wondered how she would ever connect with anyone in the church if folks always kept her away? I had an unusual relationship with Doris. God uses unusual people to bless us, and that's what happened with me. At that time, over 20 years ago, I was struggling with my weight. Doris looked me straight in the eye and said, I was "a very fat man!" while she pointed at my round stomach. I looked at her with horror. My wife said my eyes looked like they had seen a ghost! Yeah, she was right and

honest...and I did lose the weight! She actually motivated me.

Doris was aloof with family, never really connecting to any of them – almost ghost-like. She was always blunt. She called things as she saw them in the moment. Her emotions were real and raw, laughing when I was acting silly or giving me a scowl if I forgot to shake her hand. Doris' nonsensical words had a way of reaching my heart. In some ways she was the wise fool, able to confront me at always the right moments. In a sense, she was a walking parable teaching us all life lessons

I made it a sacred point to always call Doris by her name. The scriptures spoke to me when I read about Adam naming the animals and giving them an identity. Doris had an identity, and I didn't want her to fall through the cracks in the church floor. This story would go on...

Many months ago, I was called to the hospital to provide pastoral care to a man who was dying. Surrounding the bed were the children, wife, and friends. His wife had been struggling with advanced dementia for many years. She was a member of my church. She sang in the choir and was always giving a helping hand when needed. Family said that "Debra" had dementia for years, yet her husband was able to keep it quite hidden. He was good at interceding very quickly to answer questions directed to his wife. This intercession allowed her cognitive abilities to appear somewhat normal. We were all fooled for many years. It seemed like an unending torment for Debra who continually asked me what happened to her husband. She had to relive, over and over again, his sickness and death. Each

moment was as real as if she were just learning about the story anew. The family was getting frustrated because they had to re-grieve as they retold the story. They wanted to move beyond the story of their father's death, but Doris kept them anchored in the grieving process without even knowing it. In a funny way, she was the mysterious pastoral care giver to them. It was a never-ending loop. She truly lived in the moment without any real connection to past or future events, living exactly one moment at a time. Where did I hear this before? Maybe the Bible? It was like literally being in an eternal now.

During that hospital call, I saw Debra struggle to understand why she was at the hospital, how she got there, and what would happen in the immediate future. I realized that dementia diminishes a person's context of linear time. But it cannot diminish the time that God sets in our hearts.

God can use humor in unexpected places. A couple of minutes after her husband passed, Doris began to look at him. I thought hers was a tender loving glance and touch as she caressed his mouth. And then she said very sternly, "Boy what happened to your teeth, they are really crooked!" My wife and I haven't had a good laugh like that for many years. That humor broke the tension in the room, allowing a fresh air of vulnerability and honesty to blow in. The paradox is that, somehow, dementia keeps us bluntly honest. I was reminded of the human condition and I could hear the words "but for the grace of God go I."



# Preserving the Past

by BUILDING THE FUT

By Margaret Bendroth

## Exciting New Plans at the Congregational Library and Archives



*Books, sermons, and personal papers are among the library's collection. The Congregational Library was founded in 1853.*

**L**ibraries have a reputation for being very, very quiet places, where time stands still and no one talks above a whisper. After living through all the changes taking place in the Congregational Library over the past 15 years, I'm more mystified than ever by that stereotype. True, our high-ceilinged Victorian reading room is fairly serene, and yes, it does overlook a cemetery, Boston's famous Granary Burying Ground. But the world of books and archives has changed a lot since the Library was founded in 1853. In 2019 we have all kinds of new ways to serve researchers, scholars, and churches—anyone wanting to know more about the Congregational story.

We've been the memory-keeper for the Congregational churches for more than a century and a half. Thanks to our founders, and the many wonderful people who took up the challenge after them, we have a rich and often astonishing array of rare books, sermons, personal papers, and, of course, scores of records from Congregational churches. Researchers can come to the Library and read a Sunday school lesson from the 1890s or letters from missionaries posted anywhere from Colorado to Japan, South Africa to China. They can see pages from Cotton Mather's diary or read what *The Congregationalist* had to say about the Spanish-American War and the Panama Canal, or newfangled inventions like the radio and the telephone.

We are a home for curious minds. The Library's founders wanted people

to know the story of the Congregational Way, and to understand how it has shaped American religious life, civic society, and democratic ideals. The founders also cared deeply about the Congregational churches. They wanted them to know what made their tradition important and distinctive, and to remember the men and women, from John Robinson on down, who kept it vital and relevant. The Library's founders gave us a mission not just to protect and preserve the past, but to keep it alive in the present.

They'd be surprised—and pleased I hope—to see all the ways that modern technology has helped us extend our welcome to more and more people, many miles beyond our home in Boston.

- **Our online catalogue**, now with over 90,000 items, allows anyone within reach of a computer to search through our collection.
- **The Library's webpage ([www.congregationallibrary.org](http://www.congregationallibrary.org))** gives instant access to information about Congregational history, tips and resources for researchers, and practical helps for churches celebrating anniversaries, writing a history, or caring for their records. The webpage includes an obituary database—we call it "Find a Congregationalist"—with the names of over 30,000 ministers and missionaries, from the seventeenth century to the present, and direct links to digitized yearbooks and annuals.



# UTURE:

*Margaret Bendroth has been the Executive Director of the Congregational Library and Archives since 2004. A historian of American religion, her most recent books include *The Last Puritans: Mainline Protestants and the Power of the Past*, and *The Spiritual Practice of Remembering*.*



- We create **public programs** that bring noted scholars and popular authors to the Library, widely available through livestreaming and in some cases C-SPAN. We've also partnered with other major cultural institutions, from universities and colleges to the US Park Service and the Old South Meetinghouse. Our free app "Puritan Boston Tests Democracy" provides direction for walking tours and quick information about the people, places, and churches of New England's "first founders."

- Through our signature program, **New England's Hidden Histories**, 130 sets (and growing) of rare colonial-era church records are freely available on our website, digitized and in many cases transcribed. The project has been featured on the front page of the *New York Times* and supported by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

So what's next? The Congregational Library & Archives has come a long way, and we're grateful for all of the many friends and supporters who have made all these changes possible. Now we are taking on a new challenge. The

Library has a unique and long-awaited opportunity to expand and renovate its space, making it more inviting for visitors and researchers, more efficient for Library staff, and safe and secure for our collection.

- **We are extending a new welcome** with an expanded and updated entrance to our historic Reading Room, complete with an information kiosk and secure lockers for researchers. We're also providing office space for independent scholars using our collection.



*Reading room at the library*

- **We are creating better work spaces** for our staff. Instead of the cramped, divided quarters they now occupy, our librarians and archivists will have a large open workroom, as well as dedicated space for digital projects and an in-house scanner. The design also includes offices for the library director and executive director, and for development and outreach.

Library staff will have a much-needed break room and kitchen, which will also be used to facilitate catering and hospitality at public events. The new design will also include a handicapped accessible bathroom.

- **We are caring for our collection.** Our project will expand our sprinkler system and includes a new state-of-the-art security system equipped with cameras and keyed access, all necessary for a modern, well-equipped library.

- **We are getting ready for 2020.** We will have new signage for our Beacon Street entrance, and we are upgrading our space for exhibits, classes, and seminars. We have important work ahead! All of this will put us in great place for the upcoming 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival in Plymouth, which we'll be marking with major public events, programs, and educational resources for local churches.

So much for quiet and sleepy. This summer, the Library will be undergoing a transformation, by far the most ambitious and important project we've ever taken on—and that's saying something. We will be the open, efficient, secure, and, above all, welcoming place our founders envisioned more than a century and a half ago. We will be a Library the Congregational churches can be proud of, a place for preserving memories and creating new ones, as relevant and vital as the tradition we represent.

# Mrs. Peabody

## and THE 12 BIBLES

*By Justin J. Nierer*

**W**hen you were young you might have had an imaginary friend. A person or character of some sort that encapsulated all the good stuff you thought would make a great friend, someone to spend time with, a figment of your inner thoughts you wanted to share life with.

Mrs. Peabody is imaginary, but she is not a friend. I have created her as an illustration for a number of sermons and public speaking engagements. She is all the negative experiences I have had in ministry while dealing with difficult people. If Mrs. Peabody actually existed, I would consider her probably one of the most trying, yet cunning, church members you would ever have the immense displeasure to come across.

I present to you first in a series of articles about this notorious woman. Every story I share is true except, of course, the names and an artistic embellishment here and there. While you read you might start to shake your head and tell yourself that there is no way this happened or that there is no way a person could actually do this. I assure you, what you are about to read happened, almost verbatim.

We have all known Mrs. Peabody. She is that person you smile at during a Sunday morning worship service, but when the song gets a little loud, the sermon gets a little long or the choir is a bit off, you know exactly what she and her friends will be talking about during lunch.

I present to you, dear reader for your enjoyment and, hopefully, encouragement, as well as a reminder that you are not alone, the story of Mrs. Peabody and the 12 Bibles.

I was young, quite young. It was before our son was born, and I was an inexperienced pastor ready to change the world, ready to reach people for Jesus, ready to be “the guy.” What I wasn’t ready for was Mrs. Peabody.

It was during my first couple of months at a church and I was having the time of my life. The church seemed happy, my wife was encouraged, the parsonage was nice, the community welcoming, etc. One Sunday I felt like I was really “in the zone” when it came to the preaching time. Have you ever been there? I am sure you have if you have ever preached. It’s that moment when you are sharing, and everything just seems to fit, and you know this is what God has called you to and you are exactly where God wants you to be, doing exactly what God wants you to be doing.

I was feeling so good that, during the message, I made the following statement, “please feel free to follow along and take notes in your Bible. If you don’t have a Bible just take the one in the pew in front of you home, please. We have many, so no worries,” First thing Monday morning, I get a phone call.

“Pastor Justin, this is Mrs. Peabody. I was at the service yesterday morning, of course, and you told the people that if they needed a Bible to simply take one from the pew in front of them. I wholeheartedly disagree with this. I have paid for twelve of those Bibles in memory of my mother, who went to be with the angels almost 30 years ago, and my father, who built the pulpit, which you have the honor to preach from, with his bare hands nearly 80 years ago. I don’t want anyone just to take one of those Bibles. They have our name in it. I will be in later this morning to pick them up.”

*Click.*



*The Reverend Justin J. Nierer is the lead pastor of Sandstone Congregational Church in Jackson, Michigan. He absolutely loves being a Congregationalist, adores the NACCC, and enjoys spending time with his wife Seneca and their six-year-old son Wesley. He can be reached any time via email at [theoutreachguy@hotmail.com](mailto:theoutreachguy@hotmail.com).*



A few hours later, Mrs. Peabody shows up to the church. I inform her that I have no idea which Bibles are “hers.” What else could I say; I was numb with disbelief. I never thought, never in a thousand years, that someone wouldn’t have wanted people to have Bibles. They just don’t teach you in seminary about Mrs. Peabody.

For the next two hours I would come into the sanctuary from time to time and watch her. I watched her go row by row, pew by pew, and open up each Bible, each and every one. If it had her name in it, she would put it on a nearby pile and continue her search. I watched as she would stare at some of the Bibles for a bit, possibly reminiscing about the name she saw there. In a couple instances, after she read the name, she put the Bible back in a huff. There was a story behind that, I’m sure. I quickly found out, as you will find out in future issues, dear reader, that Mrs. Peabody burned more bridges than she ever built, and it was usually because she, in her own unique way, felt that her name belonged in those Bibles more than others.

After she was finished, she found her 12 Bibles, an exact dozen that she carried to her car in three trips. I asked her if she needed help but of course she declined. Some of you readers would have taken this as an opportunity for a teaching moment/life lesson between you and this “saint of the church.” I was not of that mind set. I was still trying to figure out if this was actually happening. Did this woman just come to the church and take away twelve Bibles?

Quite awhile later our dear Mrs. Peabody became quite ill and I visited her in her home. Of course, as was with every visit, unfortunately, she reminded me about how other pastors seemed to visit more often and one even sang hymns with

her. I of course always politely smiled and tried to change the subject. On her shelf I saw them there, lined up neatly, all in a row. There were those twelve Bibles, those twelve identical pew Bibles. Oh, how I wondered what she thought she would do with them, knowing that she would never give them to anyone.

Later that afternoon I donated twelve Bibles in her name through the American Bible Society. I considered that a victory. Yes, a silent victory but a victory, nonetheless. I wish there would have been a much better ending to this story, that she saw the error of her ways and gave the Bibles back or bought all new Bibles for the church or gave a huge financial gift to the Gideons. Alas, human nature is a fallen one and, sometimes, people are, well, people. And Mrs. Peabody was quite the person. And, my dear friend, this is only the beginning. My journey with Mrs. Peabody is, in many ways, endless, and this has just been the first of many lessons we can learn from my experiences with her.

ARBOR GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
262 I McCAIN ROAD JACKSON, MICHIGAN

Since Arbor Grove Congregational Church was founded in 1950, there have been four pastors.

The Pastoral Search Committee is actively seeking applications from interested candidates.



*Caring for our  
Community*

For more information regarding this position, candidates may apply online at [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org), or contact Laura Wright at NACCC 800-262-1620 ext. 1614 [lwright@naccc.org](mailto:lwright@naccc.org), or contact us at [AGCCSearch@gmail.com](mailto:AGCCSearch@gmail.com).

[www.arborigrovechurch.org](http://www.arborigrovechurch.org)



# A Ministry **FOR ALL**

*By Lawrence Balleine*

**T**he worship bulletins of many churches reserve a space to list various responsibilities in the life of their congregation, such as pastor, accompanist, liturgist, and choir director. Some bulletins also identify the congregation as ministers of the church, an indication that this church affirms a rather basic and extremely important principle called “the ministry of all believers.”

We often think of some highly visible ministries including singing in the choir, teaching a Sunday School class, leading folks on a mission trip, or even serving as a church officer when we consider the ministry of all believers. Providing transportation to and from doctor appointments, knitting mittens and caps for children in need, distributing food at the local food pantry, or delivering meals to the elderly may also come to mind.

There is, however, another fundamental ministry of the church that ought never be neglected. It is the ministry of encouragement. This essential ministry is mentioned in Paul's exhortation given near the end of his first letter to the Thessalonians, the first written document of the New Testament. Paul instructs these early followers of Jesus: “For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through

our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other.” The need for followers of Jesus to practice a ministry of encouragement may well be as critical today as it was when Paul first made this request.

The word encourage comes from the Greek word “en,” meaning in and the Latin word “cor,” meaning heart. When we encourage another we PUT HEART into them.

How, specifically, does encouragement occur? And how can we practice it?

First, encouragement can be spoken. Comments such as “I believe you've got what it takes to do this,” or “You'll be able to get through this; I've seen strength in you that you probably don't even realize you have.” Such remarks can be tremendously encouraging; for having another believe in us helps us to believe in ourselves. And such encouragement certainly “puts heart” into us.

Another form of encouragement is demonstrated by showing up; that is, when we seek to be present with others and are “there” for them. For someone's presence with us at critical and important times in our lives is not only a demonstration of caring; such an act can also be tremendously encouraging – putting heart into us. That's why visitations after times of death are so important.

Twenty-three years ago, we moved to Monticello, Wisconsin, to begin our ministry with the folks at Zwingli Church. Our son, Travis, did not want to leave Terre Haute, Indiana. He was

half-way through high school, involved in the marching band and other school activities. He had friends and had found his niche. To say that he was a sullen fifteen-year-old from the time we made the decision to move until a couple of months after we arrived in Wisconsin is an understatement.

John entered our lives shortly after our arrival in Monticello and simply took Travis under his wing. John was in his early sixties and a rather quiet, non-assuming fella who had farmed all his life. Whenever he saw Travis, he would ask him how he was doing, or how things were going at school. He showed a deep and genuine interest in our son. When Travis joined the wrestling team, John showed up at his matches. He even accompanied me one bitterly cold winter night for a 200-mile round trip to a wrestling meet that lasted a mere 45 minutes. When John had a crop of hay to be taken from his fields to his barn, he would invite Travis to help load the bales onto the wagon and paid him extremely well. John was an encourager, and I will be forever grateful for what he did for Travis in his quiet, but steady sort of way. About ten years later, at John's funeral meditation, I said John was one of the finest examples of the ministry of encouragement I had ever seen. He was one who certainly “put heart” into our son and all who knew him.

Thus, when we encourage others, their fear or hesitancy to attempt something is often lessened or diminishes and is replaced with confidence and assurance to face the challenge before them.

We need to remember that all the while we are seeking to encourage

*Lawrence H. Balleine is a 1975 CFTS graduate and past contributor to The Congregationalist. Now retired, he served as a pastor with Congregational and United Church of Christ congregations for over forty years.*



others, there is one who is encouraging us: The Lord. An example of such encouragement, recorded rather early in the Hebrew scriptures, is in the first chapter of the Book of Joshua. The story concerns the children of Israel who have fled from Egypt and have completed their sojourn in the wilderness. They stand ready to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land when tragedy strikes. Their great leader Moses dies, and Joshua is appointed to take over that role. It is at this critical time the Lord speaks to Joshua, saying:

.....  
*“Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelite... As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you.”*  
.....

And a moment later the Lord repeats the message: “I hereby command you: be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” And with this promise of God’s abiding presence, Joshua is encouraged and assumes the leadership of his people.

This role of the Lord, or God the encourager, continues in the person of Jesus. Consider the gospel story recorded by Matthew in which the disciples are crossing the sea when a treacherous storm arises. The disciples become frightened as they notice what appears to

be a ghost coming toward them, walking on the sea. It is Jesus. He “shows up” in their time of peril. (Recall that showing up is one form of encouragement.) Jesus says to them: “Take heart, it is I.” What a powerful and remarkable comment! Jesus then continues: “Do not be afraid.”

This is an important lesson for the church of Jesus Christ, which has always been symbolized as a ship or a boat. Its message of encouragement is extended to the persecuted first century church; that is, to those who were the first to receive the written Gospel. And it continues to speak to us. For as we travel the seas of faith and encounter rough times, it is Jesus who comes to us saying: “Take heart,” be encouraged. “It is I.” He is with us, accompanying us through the storms we face in life – encouraging us each step of the way. And joining us, if you will, on our boat.

Note also what Jesus says to his disciples at time of his ascension: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samara and to the ends of the earth.” And while Luke is recording these closing words in his Book of Acts, Matthew is offering Jesus’ Great Commission, wherein Jesus says to his disciples: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.” I wouldn’t be surprised if these first disciples—as with Joshua—were feeling a little overwhelmed by this great responsibility. Jesus concludes: “And remember, I will be with you to the close of the age.” Nearly the exact same words the Lord spoke to Joshua when he said: “For the Lord your

God is with you wherever you go.”

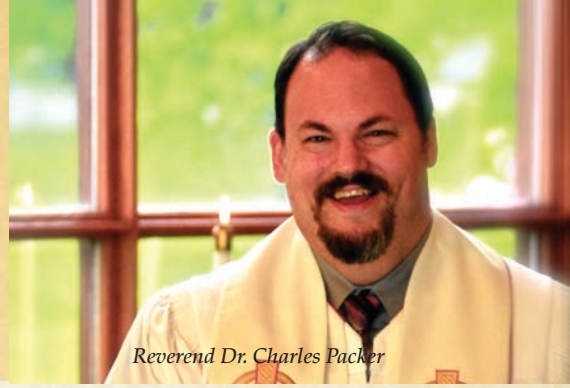
In these closing scenes of Jesus with his disciples he was not only entrusting his ministry to them, he was also encouraging them – putting heart into them – and saying he believed in them.

If the underling story of the Bible is the salvation of the world, a companion message of scripture is God’s encouragement of his people with the assurance that He is with them.

Consider then the ways the Lord has encouraged you directly. Consider also how the Lord has spoken or acted through others to put heart into you. They may include parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, teachers, pastors, Sunday School teachers, others in church or the community. Consider how that encouragement has strengthened you to face challenging circumstance with greater confidence and assurance, or maybe even helped to shape and maybe transform you into the person you are today. Such recollections can be humbling and move us to offer our thanks for that encouragement. But let’s not stop at gratitude. We need to discern where we can offer this important ministry of encouragement to others.

Practicing a ministry of encouragement does not require a great intellect; one doesn’t need a good singing or speaking voice to offer it. Neither specialized training nor money is necessary. Neither does it matter if you are male or female, young or old. Even your political preferences do not matter. All that is necessary is a desire to practice it. For it is certainly a ministry for all.

# 2019 FALL SILENT RETREAT...

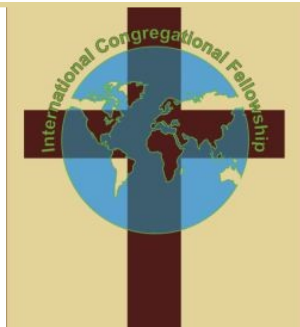


Reverend Dr. Charles Packer

## in Honor and Memory of the Rev. Donald Mullen



The Fall Silent Retreat, organized by the Congregational Retreat Society each year, will be held Monday, September 30, 2019, starting at 5:00 pm with dinner and concluding after breakfast on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at the **Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center**, 9601 Union Road, in Plymouth, Indiana 46513. This year, the retreat is in memory of the Reverend Donald Mullen, frequent retreat guide and attendee at innumerable events sponsored by the Society over the years. For this special program, there will be four guides, each sharing a brief meditation on topics dear to Rev. Mullen. There will be opportunities for many hours spent in the quiet of the tranquil setting that includes areas for walking and a lake outside the guest room buildings. The cost, to be determined, will include five meals and lodging. Please contact the Chaplain-Director, the Reverend Dr. Charles Packer, at [drcapacker@gmail.com](mailto:drcapacker@gmail.com) or by calling (734) 755-4131 to get registration materials or to inquire further.



### ICF Quadrennial Conference

*The Voyage Continues...*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**July 22-28, 2020**

LOCATION:

Curry College

1071 Blue Hill Ave, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The year 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, and marks the establishment of Congregationalism in the New World. Therefore we are excited to announce, the United States will host the ICF conference in 2020 at Curry College in Milton Massachusetts .

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

for this wonderful opportunity to fellowship with Congregationalists from around the world!

We want you to attend.

We hope to have many churches send pastors/delegates to the meeting!

Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts is a four-year, liberal arts-based institution located on a wooded 131-acre campus just seven miles from downtown Boston. Approximately one hour from Plimoth Plantation and the town of Plymouth, Curry is also within train distance from many historical sites in Massachusetts.

Lodging will be available on campus. Cost to be determined.  
For more information: [www.internationalcongregationalfellowship.org](http://www.internationalcongregationalfellowship.org)



# Letters TO THE EDITOR

We greatly appreciate readers who take the time to share their reactions, suggestions, and desires regarding *The Congregationalist*. Two recent letters have been excerpted below.

Dear Ms. King,

It was good to read Edith Bartley's article on the success of the "Providence Endowment" in the last issue. The endowment began in 2004, when the Association met in Providence, Rhode Island, and worshipped at Beneficent Church, a United Church of Christ congregation. I was pastor there at the time, and glad to share in good fellowship, and in the same spirit, enjoy reading each issue of *The Congregationalist*.

But there was one item in the article that I would like to correct. It said that in relation to gay people the UCC "compels its churches to at least say they are 'open and affirming.'" The United Church does not "compel" such statements. In the late 1980's the United Church General Synod encouraged local congregations, by their own action, to indicate to their communities and potential members that they are open and affirming to all people regardless of (among other things) sexual orientation. Beneficent Church gladly voted to do that some years before the National Association met there. But now, three decades since the request, less than one third of United Church congregations have taken such a vote, hardly what would be the case if they were compelled.

In this world of prejudice and discrimination, members of minority groups often fear new settings that could be filled with hurt. Churches can broaden understanding by specifically indicating their welcome. I know of National Association churches that have done that.

Thank you for the work you are doing on your interesting and thoughtful magazine.

*Sincerely, Richard H. Taylor*

Dear Marianne,

The March *Congregationalist* has come and seems brighter, more colorful, and thus, more inviting. Dr. Chittum's column was his best: short-appearing and easily-grasped. His also easily-approached and apt poem was a good contribution, also. I believe too long-appearing an article is not inviting, given the attention span of the average person. Similarly the article not written in jargon-FREE language is a mis-addressed missive.

*Jon Clifton*

## Correction:

In the March issue, "Speaking of the Annual Meeting and Conference," Brett Younger is listed as Senior Minister of Plymouth Church of Boston. He serves Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, New York. Our apologies to Rev. Younger and our readers.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

### ROSCOMMON, MICHIGAN

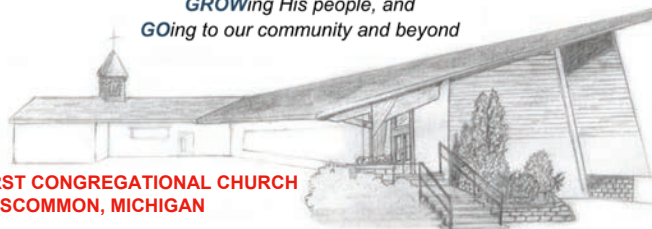
#### Our Christ-Centered Church is seeking:

- An energetic senior pastor who exhibits integrity, morals, and a strong faith
- A leader with compassionate qualities and good communications skills who will be able to help grow our church by reaching out to a younger generation

#### Located in Roscommon, Michigan - a close, rural-resort community offering:

- Beautiful natural resources including lakes, rivers, and forests
- Excellent local medical facilities, schools, and a community college
- Year-round recreational activities

*Our Mission is to build His Church by  
GLORIFYing God,  
GROWing His people, and  
GOing to our community and beyond*



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
ROSCOMMON, MICHIGAN**

**If you believe God is calling you, please contact us!**

**EMAIL: [ellen48653@gmail.com](mailto:ellen48653@gmail.com) or [munchkin\\_dj@yahoo.com](mailto:munchkin_dj@yahoo.com)**



# Convocation COAST to COAST



(Top) West Coast ministers  
(Middle) Midwest ministers  
(Bottom) Northeast ministers

For many years, the NACCC's Minister's Convocation was held at a single location. This past spring, the Minister's Convocation celebrated two, exciting "firsts." Instead of one event there were three, well-attended regional gatherings — Northeast, Midwest, and West Coast. They took place, simultaneously, on April 29 through May 2. This was the second annual convocation for the Northeast group and the first for the West Coast ministers.

With the aid of video meeting technology, the attendees at Cathedral Camp Retreat in East Freetown, Massachusetts; Weber Retreat Center in Adrian, Michigan; and Zephyr Point Retreat Center in Zephyr Cove, Nevada joined in one communion service, broadcast on large-screen monitors.

The new format for the Regional Minister's Convocations sprang from the creative vision of NACCC's Vitality Council. Reports from coast to coast indicate that it was a great success.



**The Central Congregational Church** of Galesburg, Illinois announces their opening for a part time minister.

We worship in a historic, traditional setting with full inclusion and a self-governed style of worship. The minister will be responsible for liturgical development for Sunday morning and the general operational oversight to lead the church forward, and growing our membership.

Our social media includes our website, [galesburgchurch.org](http://galesburgchurch.org), or [facebook.com/centralcongregational](https://facebook.com/centralcongregational) or [instagram@centralcongregational](https://instagram.com/centralcongregational). Interested candidates are encouraged to contact the moderator at [moderatorccc60@gmail.com](mailto:moderatorccc60@gmail.com) to confidentially request additional information.



# Necrology 2019



## **The Reverend Donald C. Mullen (1938 – 2019)**

The Reverend Donald C. Mullen, 80, died on February 7, 2019, in South Bend, Indiana. He was active in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), serving on the Credentials Committee (1990-1992), Spiritual Resources Committee (1978-1982 and 1984-1988), Women's Committee (1994-1997), and Program Committee (2004-2005).

Rev. Mullen was a passionate advocate of the practice of silence, meditation and mindfulness, often leading prayer and healing services at annual meetings of the NACCC, as well as silent and spiritual retreats and workshops.

Rev. Mullen served Congregational churches in Pennsylvania, including Beaver Falls; the Fourth Congregational Church of Chicago, Illinois; First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, Michigan; Oakwood Heights Community Church, Staten Island, New York; and First Congregational Church of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Flower Mound/Lewisville, Texas. In addition, he served as interim pastor for several other churches.

Rev. Mullen was especially concerned about the issues of mental health and chronic homelessness in Terre Haute, and, with the spiritual support from his congregation at First Congregational Church, worked for solutions. As efforts to seek funding for the needed housing grew, Mental Health America of Terre Haute became a working partner. In mid-2000 a 10-unit apartment building was constructed, followed by a 30-unit apartment building, and, in 2017, another apartment building exclusively for military veterans who are chronically homeless and with disabilities.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Barbara; and her children, William "Bill" K. Carlson, Jr. (Eileen and daughter Samantha) and Laura Burgess (Keith), (Harlan Metzger); brother, Richard (Madeline); and sisters, Nancy and Linda.

Don's life was celebrated on March 4 at the Olivet Congregational Church in Olivet, Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be made to Community Congregational Church, 19671 Cleveland Rd., South Bend, IN 46637 or National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, 843 S. Howell Ave., P.O. Box 288, Oak Creek, WI, 53154-0288.



Nancy and Harry Holz

## **Harry Holz (1934-2019)**

Harry Holz died peacefully on February 23, 2019, at age 84. He was an active member of First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He enjoyed contributing to the National Association of Congregational Churches, serving as First Church's Year-Round Delegate to the association. He

was a member of the NACCC Executive Committee 2007-2011 and member of the NACCC Board of Governors from 2007 until his death.

Holz was a lifetime member of both the Wisconsin and Illinois Bar Associations. He practiced law in Chicago before moving back to Milwaukee. He was a partner at Quarles & Brady in Milwaukee until his retirement. He loved to teach, first as a Lecturer in Securities Regulation at the University of Wisconsin and then as an Adjunct Law Professor at Marquette. He became a fellow of the American Bar Association and the Wisconsin Bar Association, in 2004 and 2013, respectively. Holz was a founding board member of the SHARP Literacy foundation and served in a multitude of roles including corporate secretary.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his loving wife of 54 years, Nancy Lee (Heiser) Holz. He is survived by daughter Pamela (Christopher) Rupright, son Bradley Holz, and daughter Erika (Kyle) Pond, and his seven grandchildren.

Services were held March 3 at First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa. Memorials may be made to First Congregational Church, 1511 Church Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213, or the Lutheran Home, 7500 W. North Avenue, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213



## **Rev. Frederick Elder (1936-2019)**

The Reverend Dr. Frederick M. Elder, formerly of Dighton and Taunton, Massachusetts, passed away February 16, 2019, in Burlington. He was a graduate of The Ohio State University and earned a Bachelor of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary. He served as associate minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Maumee, Ohio, before further study at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. From 1966 to 1968 he attended Harvard Divinity School where he was a research assistant for the Center for Population Studies. He also received his Th.M. and conducted research for his book, *Crisis in Eden: A Religious Study of Man and Environment*. He then served as minister at Faith Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka, Minnesota and, later, earned his Ph.D. in Religious Ethics at Harvard. In 1988 he became minister of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Taunton until his retirement in 1998. After retirement, he remained active at the church as Pastor Emeritus. He was a lifelong student, teacher, and advocate of the preservation of the balance of the natural world and the role of human beings' impact on that balance. He is predeceased by his wife, Barbara B. Elder. He is survived by a son, Dana Elder and his wife Nancy Mehegan and grandchildren Liam and Julia Elder of Winchester; a daughter Allison Elder and her partner Britton Boughner of Lowell. A memorial service was held on May 20 at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Taunton. Donations in his memory may be made to the National Wildlife Federation or Mass Audubon.

# Pastorates & PULPITS

## Recent Calls

Congregational Church of Bound Brook, N.J., has called Pastor Rev. Andrew Smith as Senior Minister.

First Congregational Church, Crown Point, N.Y., has called Rev. Josh Mancini as Senior Minister.

First Congregational Church, Peterson, Iowa, has called Pastor Tyler Thomsen as Senior Minister.

Plymouth Congregational Church, Racine, Wis., has called Rev. Chris Bryan as Senior Minister.

## Installations

Rev. Christina Murphy - Horton Congregational Church  
Horton, Mich. March 2, 2019

Rev. Dr. Chris Surber - Mount Hope Congregational Church  
Livonia, Mich. March 16, 2019

Pastor Rev. Andrew Smith - Congregational Church of Bound Brook  
Bound Brook, N.J. March 16, 2019

Rev. Jeff Larson - Ozaukee Congregational Church  
Grafton, Wis. March 23, 2019

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Bingham - Congregational Church of The Chimes  
Sherman Oaks, Calif. March 31, 2019

Rev. Norman Erendson - First Congregational Church  
Stonington, Conn. April 6, 2019

Rev. Chris Bryan - Plymouth Congregational Church  
Racine, Wis. April 13, 2019

## IN SEARCH Senior Minister

Arbor Grove Congregational Church, Jackson, Mich.

Cheney Congregational Church, Cheney, Wash.

First Congregational Church, Interlachen, Fla.

First Congregational Church, Rochester, Mass.

First Congregational Church of Yarmouth, Yarmouth Port, Mass.

First Congregational Church of Roscommon, Mich.

First Congregational Church, Wayne, Mich.

Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Founders Congregational Church, Harwinton, Conn.

Gahanna Community Congregational Church, Gahanna, Ohio

People's Congregational Church, Bayport, Minn.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, Calif.

Second Congregational Church, Jewett City, Conn.

Second Congregational Church, Warren, Maine

St. Jacobi Congregational Church, Richfield, Wis.

Tinley Park Community Church, Tinley Park, Ill.

Third Congregational Church, Middletown, Conn.

## Part-time Minister

Central Congregational Church, Galesburg, Ill.

## Associate Minister

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Green Bay, Wis.

United Church of Marco Island, Marco Island, Fla.

## Assistant Minister – Minister of Youth

Amelia Christian Church, Clayton, N.C.

## Non-NACCC Church

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Springfield, Vt.

## First Congregational Church Wayne, Michigan



## SEEKING

## FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR

Our pastor is retiring from full-time senior ministry and we are looking for a new guide to lead us on our Christian journey; deepening our love of Christ and serving with open minds, open hearts, and open hands.

See our Church Information Form at:

[www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org)

Visit our Church Website at [www.fccow.com](http://www.fccow.com)

**JUNE 21, 2019**

Treasures: Quiet Day Retreat  
Jesuit Retreat House, Parma, OH

**JUNE 22-25, 2019**

65th Annual Meeting & Conference of the  
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches  
Cleveland Airport Marriott, Cleveland, OH

**JULY 28 – AUGUST 2, 2019**

Boston Seminar in Congregational History and Polity  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Contact: Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS  
at drcapacker@gmail.com

**SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2, 2019**

Fall Silent Retreat in Memory and Honor of  
the Rev. Donald Mullen  
Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center  
Plymouth, Indiana  
Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Chaplain-Director,  
Congregational Retreat Society Contact:

**SAVE THE DATES**

**JULY 22-28, 2020**

International Congregational Fellowship Quadrennial Conference  
Curry College  
Milton, MA

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Copy deadline for each issue is noted in the previous issue's "Calendar" section.

Letters to the Editor are welcome. All letters may be edited for clarity and length. We regret we cannot publish or respond to all letters.

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Single copies may be purchased from the National Association office for \$3.75 plus \$3.20 to cover shipping and handling.

We seek and gratefully accept voluntary donations to help keep this magazine in print. Donations are tax-deductible except for the first \$15 of donation per subscription received by the taxpayer per year.

*The Congregationalist* | ISSN 0010-5856 | Postage paid at Madison, WI 53714-9998. Published quarterly by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, 8473 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53201-0288.

Periodicals postage paid at Madison, WI and additional mailings offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Congregationalist* 8473 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53201-0288.

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# The CONGREGATIONALIST

Magazine of the Congregational Way since 1849



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