

# Lamplighter

Carlisle Congregational Church



## The Heavenly, Holy Heart Transforms the Hard, Hurtful Heart

Love is nothing if its influence is not heavy enough to change a harsh, hurtful tone to a heavenly, hopeful one.

Love is nothing if it can solve the mysteries of the universe, but cannot discover a way to salvage the unlovely in others.

Love is not love if it gives away all it has and looks for anything in return.

Love is not love if it's not patient with all people and all circumstances.

Love is not love if it envies the love others receive.

Love is not love if it does not go out of its way to be kind.

Love is not love if it entertains one prideful thought.

Love is not love if it cannot be dignified and sensitive to the needs of others.

Love is not love if it looks for its comfort in people or in possessions.

Love is not love if it becomes easily angry.

Love is not love if it remembers the sins of others.

Love is not love if it is content with unfairness.

Love is not love if it cannot bear with discomfort.

Love is not love if it loses faith.

Love is not love if it loses hope.

Love is not love if it can't endure hardship with heavenly help.

Love is not love if it fails.

Love is not love if it does not last longer than inspiring words.

Love is not love if it cannot outlast its knowledge.

Praise the Lord: we know in part and therefore our words are only partially true.

Praise the Lord: The Perfect Person will come and all partiality will be gone.

As a child, I couldn't speak God's word intelligently.

As a child, I could not process God's word intelligently.

As a child, I couldn't understand God's word fully.

Now, as an adult, I can read God's word enough to put away that childish speech, thought and behavior.

Still now we can only see a dim picture of what we and our world can come to be.

When the Perfect Person comes, we will see His image in us.

We will know ourselves as Christ knows us.

God's faith, hope, and love will abide forever.

And the greatest of these is His Love.

Praise the Lord!!

### Inside this issue:

The Legacy of American History  
and the Seeds of Freedom in Christ 2

The Big Person in the Small Group 2

How Big Could Benevolence Be? 3

Meet the Deacons 3

Meet the Elders 4

Book Review 5

Dates to Remember 6

## The Legacy of American History and the Seeds of Freedom in Christ by T. Tracy

Every day Christians in education feel limited in what we can say to our students regarding our faith. But sometimes studying historical figures can help us. Martin Luther King was influenced by his namesake Martin Luther, who wrote: to go against one's conscience is neither safe nor right. The danger of evil is all around us and its impact is especially obvious in the school where I teach. Students who have been abused or neglected by parents in jail or in jeopardy to the influence of legal and illegal substances are students who don't know what's right. The danger is that that ignorance will be passed on to their children and future generations.

The relationship Martin Luther King had with Christ gave him the principles of non-violent resistance. Christ did not fight back against those who would injure him or eventually kill Him. The night before the bus boycott, that would begin the civil rights movement, Martin felt helpless so he prayed. In the morning, there were almost no passengers on the buses at all!! The injustice of the segregation of the buses was on its way out. Martin's conscience had bothered him for decades just because he had cooperated with that injustice by "going with the flow" on the buses. The point was not to put the bus company out of business, but "to put justice in business". When we pray, we never know how big the answer will be. Martin couldn't have known the justice and freedom that would result.

When Martin peacefully protested Jim Crow laws, he was arrested. He spent time in jail in Birmingham. While there he felt he wasn't alone because God was with him. The letter he wrote from that jail is a challenge to Christians everywhere. Martin wrote all of this in his autobiography (compiled after his death from his writings).

**The Annals of America** contain other historical testimonies (first source material) of men whose faith was grounded in Christ and the Bible. Governor Bradford praised God at the first Thanksgiving. Columbus would not allow his men to cheat native populations by swapping beads for gold. He cited faith in Christ, as his reason.

In years past, one of my students asked: "Can I pray, too?" What a question!

"Well, if you believe the Bible like Martin did, you can pray."

"I believe the Bible." he said.

I was able to share the plan of salvation with him and how he could begin a relationship with God. I don't know the outcome. (He was one of our "hardest cases".) But the seeds were planted and who knows how big the harvest could be!

---

## The Big Person in the Small Group by T. Tracy

The biggest reason to be involved in a small group is because of the **BIG PERSON** in the small group. The One, Who is so big the universe cannot contain Him, and yet so sensitive as to be aware of a sparrow in need. Can we walk by and say we don't need the 1000 pages of His message on a daily basis? Can we walk by and say we don't need to be impacted by it weekly?

I have been involved in our small group for close to 20 years. There are group members, who have said things that continue to impact my life daily. One member, who lost her husband, has said repeatedly, "I'll be OK if I keep my eyes on the Lord." I can't forget that.

Sometimes we lose members for a variety of reasons.

This can be pretty discouraging. But as our group always reminds: "I'll be alright if I keep my eyes upon the Lord." How much we need each other! How can we pass up the chance to see our God in **bigger** ways because of a small group? The small group can influence us to keep looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith (Hebrews 12: 2). The group itself and its component members are **secondary** to God and His desire for us to grow as Christians. The most important impact a small group can have is to magnify the Lord and the impact of His Word in our everyday lives.

## How Big Could Benevolence Be?

I don't know how full the Benevolence Fund is these days. It's easy to forget about it what with Sunday School, Junior Church, Choir, tithing and just the huge task of getting the family out the door on Sunday morning. But...tomorrow we might be the ones needing the fund.

The encouragement of scripture to give to our needy brothers is not concealed. It's loud and generous, open-hearted, without grudging, free-spirited! The blessings promised are described as the flood gates of Heaven! What's not to celebrate? Let's put a little money in that

Benevolent Fund and see how benevolent our Heavenly Father can be?

Individual benevolence could be small. If every giving unit in our church gave just ten dollars a month, a thousand dollars could easily be raised every month! Right now we have families out of work. Let's not let small fears or a little inconvenience let them down. Let's not let small fears or little inconvenience minimize the impact of the indescribable gift God gave to us in Christ. Let's give to celebrate the generosity of our Heavenly Father and His Son.

## Meet the Deacons

In the next few issues, we hope to provide a profile of our Deacons and the ministries for which they are responsible. In this issue, we start the series with articles about Ray Faucher, Carol Hobday and the Antognonis.



**Ray Faucher**

As the Chair of the Board of Deacons it is my responsibility to direct the group and to keep each Deacon focused in the context of their ministry. With the new organization structure in place we want to be sure that we are living and leading in a manner that best represents

the intent of the Manual but, more importantly, how our God would want us to lead and live. There are also times when I will take on certain tasks that either don't fit into a specific ministry area or because the others have enough tasks that are on their plates and we want to share the load. I will also take on projects that fit better into my personal skill set, such as the tree removal project at the parsonages or acting as the liaison between a particular group or individual that are outside our Church body. An example of one of those types of projects would be working with our abutters at Baptist Pond to make sure they are aware of our boundaries and curbing potential issues that could become a larger problem in the future. It is also my responsibility to set the meeting agendas and lead each meeting.

One of the hopes of the Board is to make sure the body of believers at the Carlisle Congregational Church are aware that each Deacon has his or her own area of responsibility and that members who have an idea or concern within that ministry, should go the Deacon who

heads that Ministry. It should also be known that, though each Deacon has a specific Ministry to deal with, we all work together to accomplish our primary purpose; to Know, Live and Serve our Church body to the best of our ability for the glory of God.



**Carol Hobday**

As a Deacon, I'm responsible for Administration, which includes such behind-the-scenes areas such as making sure the annual meeting runs smoothly, working with the Ministry Placement Committee to connect members with the ministries of the church, working on office-type issues,

and supporting our paid personnel. My experience as a technical writer also allows me to serve when documentation and other writing is needed. (For example, the Deacons are beginning work on a Policies and Procedures Handbook for the church.)

Gary and I have attended Carlisle Congregational Church for 18 years, and during that time I've been involved in many areas of church life. These include working on the manual review committee, serving as a Nursery core leader, teaching Sunday School, being a counselor at Sleepover, and helping lead YNO and Senior High Youth Groups. Other interests include serving as the Camp Cherith webmaster and financial secretary and pastel painting.



### Antognonis

Peter and I have been attending Carlisle for about 7 years and I guess we have been members for 3 years or more. I have been involved in teaching Sunday School, children's church and helping with the sleepovers and

VBS. Currently as the deaconess serving in the helps ministry, I try to make sure that members in need of any type of assistance get it. Things like meals, transportation and visitation are some of the things I help with. I

also make regular deliveries of our donations to the food pantry in Lowell.

Peter has served on the Deacon Board for over three years and is currently in charge of operations. His duties are for the properties owned by the church as well as the church building itself. Making sure that repairs are made when needed and the general upkeep of the properties keeps him busy.



### Elder Bob Noy by Elsa Noy

As you know, Bob is a people person. His commitment to the Lord in his day to day life and work has involved people.

Bob grew up in Arlington, MA where he attended Trinity Baptist Church and as a teenager testified to his Christian faith and was baptized. His higher education began at Northeastern University evening classes while he worked at the John Hancock Life Ins. Co. When the Korean War began, Bob decided to join the Air Force and was assigned to the finance division at Travis Air Base in California for about three years. While in the Air Force he attended Vallejo College and graduated with an Associates degree.

When returning to Massachusetts he was led to become a teacher, graduating from Boston University. Studies at BU later included a Master's Degree in Administration and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in counseling. (CAGS) Bob's first teaching position was in Lexington, MA and according to God's plan was assigned to the same school as was Elsa Martinson. So fifty years later, here we are with a life much blessed by the Lord. Bob's first position as an elementary school principal was in Nabnasset. (Westford) The same fall our daughter Bette was born. Our second daughter Nancy lived only a week and our third daughter Laurie was born two years later. Bob's educational career in the following years included working in the town of Sudbury, returning to Lexington as principal and then to our hometown of Chelmsford.

There were many challenges, but Bob committed each day to the Lord and was sustained by His strength and wisdom. There were times when he thought his ministry should be elsewhere, but it was made very clear during those years that his ministry was to be centered on chil-

dren...their parents and their teachers. Many doors were opened to being a witness to the Lord during his 35 years as teacher and principal.

Then the call came clearly through Matthew 16: 24,25 { Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." } that Bob should attend Gordon Conwell Seminary in the Christian Studies program. He initially attended part time and later full time after retiring from public education. He then became chaplain at Bethany Homes in Haverhill. Again, God opened the door....this time to become pastor of the Evangelical Congregational Church in Tyngsboro for ten years. Through this ministry he grew in fellowship with many pastors in the area. Bob then returned to Trinity Baptist Church in Arlington as interim pastor for several months. He now continues to serve a volunteer chaplain at Tewksbury State Hospital.

His forty five years at the Carlisle Congregational Church have included serving as high school SS teacher, young adult SS teacher, financial secretary, church clerk, deacon and elder.

So at this stage of his life..people... their needs, interests and life story continue to be a major part of Bob's story in serving the Lord.

P.S. Bob enjoys being with grandchildren, working outdoors and spending time in Maine.



## ***The Language of God* written by Francis S. Collins** **A Book Review by P. Tracy**

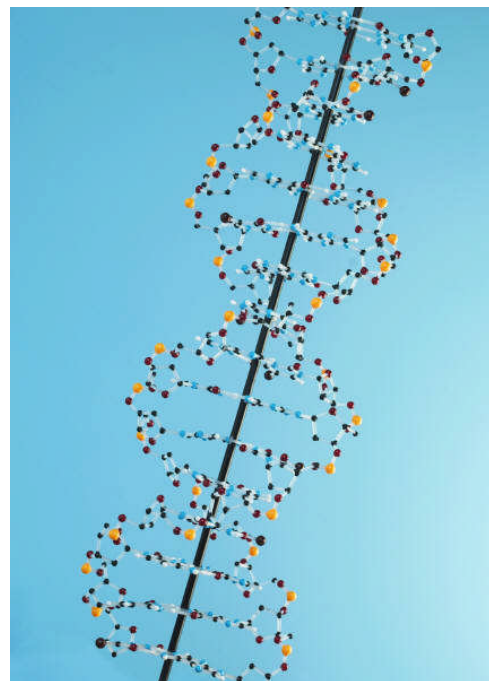
Last summer, we tuned into an interview with Francis S. Collins, author of *The Language of God* on National Public Radio. Dr. Collins is a leading scientist and had led the Human Genome Project. This effort had the goal of identifying the 20,000 – 25,000 genes in the human DNA and determining the sequences of 3 billion chemical base pairs that make up the DNA, an effort that just two decades ago was thought too difficult to accomplish. The information obtained in this study is providing significant insight into human biology, including the causes of a number of diseases that heretofore have not been understood. One interesting thing about this NPR interview was that Dr. Collins is clearly a believer who had obviously thought deeply about how his faith and his study of biology complemented each other. This prompted me to obtain a copy of his book and read it for myself.

Collins begins the book by recounting his personal journey from indifference to God, to agnosticism, to atheism and finally to faith in God. While in medical school, Collins's interactions with patients with deep faith led him to examine the question of whether there actually is a God. A Methodist minister suggested that he investigate the issue by reading *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. It turns out that his and Lewis's paths to God were quite similar. What struck Collins about Lewis's writing was the argument that the existence of a universal "Moral Law" that is common to human beings everywhere leads one to logically conclude that there is a God who has involved Himself with humanity.

The second major section of the book reviews some of the significant changes in the scientific understanding of the physical world that have occurred in the last century. Collins explains the observations that have led almost all serious scientists to endorse the 'big bang' theory as the best explanation for the origin of the universe. As Collins points out, this explanation does not answer questions about what it was that precipitated the big bang. He concludes that "Only a supernatural force that is outside of space and time could have done that." He further discusses the varied evidence from the fossil record and the significant similarities in the DNA sequencing of different species that lead most serious biologists, many of whom are believers, to conclude that the theory of evolution is the best explanation for the complexity and diversity of life on earth. Collins believes that, far from discouraging belief, this is a reason for awe at the incredible creativity of God.

The final major section discusses some of the major responses to what is often thought to be the conflict between faith and the theory of evolution. Here, Collins discusses what he considers to be the weaknesses in the arguments of the adherents of atheism, Creationism and Intelligent Design. He instead argues for the position of 'Theistic Evolution', which he renames to 'BioLogos', that he believes to be the most common view amongst "serious biologists who are also serious believers". This is a view which is compatible with faith in God and with the findings of science in attempting to understand the natural world. The major premise of this synthesis of science and faith is that a loving, active God created life using the process of evolution. (You can find more detail in the book.)

I found the arguments presented in this book to be well thought out and a welcome change from the more extreme viewpoints that are usually put forward in the so-called war between science and faith. As Collins put it, "Science is not threatened by God; it is enhanced. God is most certainly not threatened by science; He made it all possible." Whatever your thoughts on these matters, I recommend this book to anyone who wants to think about these issues. Some may find some sections a bit technical, but the important ideas should still be understandable to everyone.



## Dates to Remember

March 18	Family Night
March 23-24	Sleepover
March 27	Women's Bible Study
April 1	First Sunday Family Meal
April 5	Maundy Thursday Service
April 8	Easter
April 13	Ladies' Nite Out
April 15	Family Night
April 24	Women's Bible Study
April 28	NECCF Annual Meeting
May 6	First Sunday Family Meal
May 20	Family Night

---

### *Carlisle Congregational Church*

147 School Street  
P. O. Box 191  
Carlisle, MA 01741

**Knowing, Loving and Living the Word in  
God's World For His Glory.**

We're on the Web!

<http://www.KnowLoveLive.org>

We at Carlisle Congregational Church are a community of faith, working to accomplish our God-given purposes in being called together at this time, in this local church, for His glory. In this changing world, the One we worship does not change. We invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and service to our great God.

