

## ***Congregational Church of Bristol Newsletter March 2018***

Church telephone: 563-6843; Email: [ccob@tidewater.net](mailto:ccob@tidewater.net)

**To find out what's happening at our church between Sunday services and the monthly newsletter, please visit our website: [www.ccobucc.org](http://www.ccobucc.org)**

### **MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER**

#### **March Birthdays**

6<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Hunter  
13<sup>th</sup> - Phil Averill  
15<sup>th</sup> - Becky Collamore  
21<sup>st</sup> – Debbie Mikulak  
29<sup>th</sup> -Edgar Thompson, Sullivan Fink



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*(If you don't see your name on the birthday list, please contact the office 563-6843 and let us know.)*

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#### **A Pilgrim's Ponderings      March, 2018**

**Rev. Billy Graham 1918-2018**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

When the evangelist Billy Graham turned 80 twenty years ago, I began to prepare somewhere in the back of my mind a church newsletter article that I would eventually write upon his death. That time has now come. Rev. Graham went to be with the Lord in February. He was 99 years old. He preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ for over fifty years to over one hundred million people. He proclaimed the good news of God's saving grace to more people than anyone since the beginning of Christianity two thousand years ago. He was also the friend and confidante of U.S. Presidents and many world leaders. Graham was often called "America's Pastor." His message was simple and straightforward, taken from the Bible. **"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."** (Acts 16:31) He let his audiences all over the world know that how to become a Christian was easy, but following Christ was anything but. He repeatedly stressed Jesus' command to take up our crosses and follow Him. Faith is demanding and difficult. It might even cost a believer his or her life. Graham's sermons were simple without ever being simplistic.

Billy Graham also courageously crossed over denominational and racial divides. He and the members of his staff prayerfully collaborated with Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, and Pentecostals while planning his renowned "Billy Graham Crusades."

In the 50's, Rev. Graham insisted that whites and blacks sit wherever they chose during his rallies instead of being segregated by race. More than a few people were upset when he invited another Baptist, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to offer a prayer at one of his crusades in New York City in 1957.

In the 80's, "Billy," as he always liked everyone to call him, warned of nuclear Armageddon. He spoke words of comfort to a grieving nation after the Oklahoma City bombings and the horrific attacks on September 11, 2001.

I first heard of Billy Graham in the summer of 1968. I was sixteen years old and my father decided it was time for me to have a summer job. So he lined up one with a man named Butch, my older brother's friend. Butch owned what used to be a hunting and fishing camp in Temple, Maine, just a few miles from Farmington. He put me to good, honest work cutting trees, stacking logs, renovating cabins for summer guests, clearing brush, and a

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whole host of other jobs. I was paid the enormous sum of \$10 a week. Room and board were free. My living quarters were fifty yards down the hill from the main cottage in what used to be a chicken coop. The roof leaked. I loved it, except when Butch told me every now and then that I was beginning to look like a chicken!

I listened to Dr. Graham every Sunday night that summer in my veritable palace on an old transistor radio. His program was called "*The Hour of Decision*." Perhaps you heard it also years ago. I was intrigued by what this Southern minister had to say about faith, how one has to be "born again" to enter the kingdom of heaven and the new life in Jesus Christ. I even sent for and read some of his literature.

But the summer of '68 was not my "Hour of Decision." That happened several years later during my senior year at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham (now Univ. of Southern Maine). While I accepted Christ as my Savior and Lord in 1975, the seeds of salvation were planted that summer by a dignified and powerful preacher from the hills of North Carolina.

Years later, following graduation from Andover Newton and ordination to the Christian ministry, I attended one of Dr. Graham's Crusades and Schools of Evangelism in Washington, D.C. It took place a week or so after the disastrous Chernobyl nuclear accident in the then Soviet Union. One of the dynamics the TV audience never saw at one of Graham's Crusades was the extended period of praying and counselling new believers in Christ that took place right after the invitation had been given and the choir had sung "Just As I Am." Nobody left the building on any of the four nights until after Billy had prayed, offered a benediction, and dismissed the crowd. Everyone left in a spirit of respectful joy.

Now Billy Graham's work for the Lord here on earth is done. It can truly be said of this modern day apostle to the nations that he fought the good faith, he finished the race, and he kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7) He is finally in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the glorious place beyond time and place where God will wipe away tears, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. (Revelation 21:4)

I envision Rev. Billy Graham, upon seeing our Savior for the first time, lying prostrate on the ground in humble adoration, and Jesus then lifting His servant by the hand and saying, "Welcome home, Billy. Well done, good and faithful servant."

Heaven is the home of every person who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ.

For his glory,

Your Pastor and fellow pilgrim, *Jim*

### **"24 Hours that changed the world"**

You are warmly invited to attend this year's Lenten DVD Series, **"24 Hours That Changed the World."** The five-week session began on Sunday, February 25 and ends on Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

We will listen to and discuss scenes from the Holy Land, featuring Rev. Adam Hamilton, a United Methodist pastor who serves our Lord in Kansas. During Lent 2017, we were blessed by another one of Adam's DVD's, **"Final Words from the Cross."**

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The DVD will be shown after worship in the Library starting around 11:15 AM. Please head to the Fellowship Hall first, grab some delicious treats, and then join the group for what promises to be an enlightening and perhaps even life-changing experience. Listed below are the topics for each Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

February 25  
March 4  
March 11  
March 18  
March 25

**Introduction, The Last Supper**  
**Garden of Gethsemane, Condemned by the Righteous**  
**Jesus, Barabbas, & Pilate; Torture and Humiliation**  
**Crucifixion**  
**Christ the Victor; What if Judas had lived?**



### **Food Pantry – March 4th**

The volunteers at the New Harbor Food Pantry are very grateful for the food CCOB collects every first Sunday of the month. They are currently serving approximately 60 individuals. Thank you for your donations.

### **First Sunday Lunch**

Join us on Sunday, March 4th after worship at 12 Noon at Reunion Station. If you will be joining the group, please let Ron Hunter know so he can make reservations – [rahunta@gmail.com](mailto:rahunta@gmail.com) or 677-2361.



### **Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper – March 10th**

Join us at 5:30 pm for our first of the year Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper! Make sure to come early to get a seat! Thanks for your support. Still \$8 per plate – what a bargain!

### **Deacons Corner**

- Our Easter banner will arrive soon so keep watching for it.
- The Ash Wednesday service was well attended.
- The DVD series began on Sunday, Feb. 25th and it was also well attend and very enlightening.
- We were so happy to have Nora and Paul with us on Sunday.
- Please sign up for KISS Refreshments and to pick up Maddie on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary.
- The next deacons meeting is March 8th at 3:00 PM.
- The Deacons for March are Mabel Scherer and Diane Hall

- Dayle Strachan



### **Family Fun Fair & Silent Auction Meeting**

There will be a general meeting for the Family Fun Fair and Silent Auction on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> following the church service. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see both new and old volunteers and anyone wishing to learn more about our fair. We will discuss some new ideas and plans for this year. The Fair will be held on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please phone Sandy Averill at 677-2165.



### **Church By-Laws**

The By-Laws of CCOB require that a review of them is done every 5-years. 2018 is the year that this needs to be completed. If you would like to help out with this project, please contact Ron Hunter at [rahunta@gmail.com](mailto:rahunta@gmail.com) or 677-2361. Thank you.

### **Happening in March**

March 4	March Birthdays, Food Pantry, DVD Series, First Sunday Lunch
March 8	Deacons Meeting, 3:00 PM
March 10	Baked Beans & Casseroles Supper, 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall
March 18	Trustees Meeting, 8:30 am, Family Fun Fair & Silent Auction Meeting after worship
March 21	Missions Meeting, 3:00 pm