NEWS FROM THE HEART

Issue 116 **EDITOR, REV. MARY HANSEN** **NOVEMBER 2018**

THE DREAM BUILDER – GENEROSITY

Young Teddy was disinterested in school. Musty, wrinkled clothes, hair never combed, he was one of those kids in school with an expressionless face and unfocused stare. When Miss Thompson spoke to Teddy he answered in monosyllables. Unmotivated, and distant he was hard to like. When she marked Teddy's papers putting X's or F's at the top, she always did it with a flair. She should have known better, she had his records and she knew more about him than she wanted to admit. The records read…..
1st Grade Teddy shows promise but poor home situation. 2nd Grade Teddy could do better. Mother very ill. Very little help at home. 3rd Grade Teddy is a good boy but too serious. His mother died this year.
4th Grade Teddy is very slow but well behaved. Father shows no interest. Christmas came and the boys and girls in Miss Thompson's class brought her Christmas presents. They crowded around to watch her open them. There was one from Teddy. She was surprised. His gift was wrapped in brown paper and was held together with scotch tape. When she opened Teddy's present out fell a gaudy rhinestone bracelet with half the stones missing and a bottle of cheap perfume. The other boys and girls began to giggle but Miss Thompson had enough sense to silence them by immediately putting on the bracelet and perfume on her wrist. Holding her wrist up for the children to smell she said, "Doesn't it smell lovely?" And the children taking their cue from the teacher agreed with "Oo's" and "Ah's". When school was over and the other children left Teddy lingered behind. He slowly came over to her desk and said softly, "Miss Thompson….Miss Thompson, you smell just like my mother….and her bracelet looks real pretty on you. I'm glad you liked my presents." When Teddy left, Miss Thompson got down on her knees and asked God to forgive her.

The next day when the children came to school Miss Thompson had become a different person. She was now a person committed to loving all her children and doing things for them that would live on after her. She helped all children, especially the slow ones and especially Teddy. By the end of the school year, Teddy showed dramatic improvement. He caught up with most of the students and was even ahead of some. She didn't hear from Teddy for a long time. Then one day she receive a note that read:
I wanted you to be the first to know. I will be graduating second in my class. Love Teddy. Four years later, another note came*: They just told me I will be graduating first in my class. I wanted you to be the first to know. The university has not been easy, but I liked it. Love Teddy.* Four years later: *As of today, I am Theodore Stallared, M.D. How about that? I wanted you to be the first to know. I am getting married next month. I want you to come and sit where my mother would sit if she were alive. You are the only family I have now; Dad died last year. Love Teddy.*

Miss Thompson went to that wedding and sat where Teddy's mother would have sat. She had done something for Teddy that he could never forget. What can YOU give as a gift? Instead of giving something you buy, risk giving something that will live on after you. Be really generous. Give yourself to a Teddy Stallard, "one of the least", whom you can help to become one of the greatest.

If the journey seems extra long today, enjoy a gust of wind at your back from these words out of The Living Bible. "Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessings if we don't get discouraged and give up".

THE BEST TIME TO LIVE YOUR DREAM

One of my long-time friends, Tom Crailk, makes his living working as a high school counselor. He's committed to strengthening family relationships, especially helping moms, dads and kids learn to love each other and communicate. For years Tom has been in touch with families in turmoil. There is not much he hasn't seen or heard. He recently mailed me some student writings I might wish to share with others. One student wrote *" With school having started again, we are probably all aware of what ways we are going to be different this school year. We are going to be different kids this year. We are going to work harder at our studies. This year we'll get A's and B's. We are going to be respectful to our parents. We are going to like to be with each other. As a family argue less and discuss more. Respect each other's opinions and talk in a civilized, grown up positive way. This year Dad will stop drinking and Mom won't yell so much. This year my brothers and sisters will all get along better. We'll help each other. This year I'll be able to go to bed and not have to worry about Mom's and Dad's fighting . I'm going to do better so Mom and Dad won't have any reason to scream and drink and fight."* Does any of this sound familiar? By the time you read this the above "Dreams" are going to be history, as yesterday becomes today…becomes tomorrow.

I'm 31 years old next month. When I divide that by two, I'm 15 and a half. Believe it or not, that was just yesterday. Double it and I'm 62. I think that's tomorrow. Sometime yesterday morning my son was born. Today he's almost a year old. Tomorrow he'll be 16. Where does it all go? What's happened to the "dreams"? And you know something else? I know less today than I did yesterday and probably more now than I will know tomorrow. ZOOM! There time goes!! There I go!! Time is already past to look for someone to blame, to look for some reason why things aren't the way you want them to be. Create your own change. Take care of yourself. Act in your own best interest. Find your intention, your purpose , your dream and realize that if it is going to happen, you're the one who's got to make it happen. And then go to it!! Gotta' stop writing. My son's looking for the car keys…. **by Charles Swindell**

GUMPTION

When I was a little girl I heard the word "gumption" used often by my mother and my aunt. We don't hear that word used any more. I was raised on gumption (sometimes called pa-zasss).
A person with gumption doesn't sit around stewing about things. It's a shame the old word has dropped through the cracks, since quitting is now more popular than finishing. Gumption is the psychic gasoline that keeps the whole thing going. How does gumption work?? ***Gumption begins with a firm commitment.*** It's human to think, rethink and fiddle around with an idea until it's a wash. You want gumption?, Start strong, get the idea, follow through quickly! ***Gumption means discipline- one day at a time.*** Rather than focusing on the whole enchilada, take it in bite-size chunks. The whole can overwhelm everyone. Writing a book? Do one page at a time. Running a marathon? Those 26 miles are run one step at a time. Trying to learn a new language? Try one word at a time. ***Gumption includes being alert to subtle temptations.*** Gumption plans ahead, watching out for associations that weaken us, procrastination that steals from us, and rationalization that lies to us. ***Gumption requires encouragement, accountability.*** People including close friends keep us pumped full of enthusiasm. They communicate, "You can do it, you can make it" in a dozen different ways. People need people. ***Gumption comes easier when we remember that finishing has its own rewards.*** Those who only start projects never know the satisfaction that comes with wiping away those beads of sweat and saying that beautiful four letter word. **"DONE".** Accomplishment is music to the soul.

Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. **1 Peter 4:10**

AMAZING GRACE INTERFAITH MINISTRY

There are a number of flyers attached to this newsletter with information on our upcoming Thanksgiving Service with Gera Clark on flute, on Tuesday, November 13th. The annual Angels Among Us, Tuesday, December 11th and our Christmas Eve Service.
Please come to our **Fundraiser for the Amazing Kids Connection** at **St. Simon's Episcopal** Church on **Sunday, December 2nd.** The donation is a toy or some new hats, gloves, scarfs. All toys are to be **new** and unwrapped. There will be a **delicious brunch, and arts and crafts for adults and kids**. Last year **NY 1 covered the event** and we hope to do so again**. It begins** directly after Sunday Service at **12:30PM** and is the week **after** the Spiritual Breakfast this year. The Dollar Store has some great hats and and Five Below always has good games. **THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP**

Amazing Grace Interfaith for many years has participated in **Building Bridges Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** with our children in Sunday School. This year we will be helping coordinate the service which will be held **at Olivet Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 18 at 7PM**. If you are interested in attending please let me know.
Community Days Steering Committee under the direction of **Dr. Ram Nair** has started up again planning for the month of good deeds **April 2019.** Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month. Call me for information.

Thank You to **Mary Siller Scullin** and the **Siller Foundation** for their donation which helped with school supplies during September and October.
Many Blessings and Thank You to **Our Lady Star of the Sea** for the three truck load's of children's coats **Bob, Earl and Warren** picked up and to **Patty Gandelman**, Assistant Principal, for her support over the last several years. We will also receive another generous donation of toys on December 6th which will be **distributed on Saturday December 8th at Calvary Presbyterian.**
Thank you always to St. Clare's who gives us children's clothing on a regular basis for years!
Thank You all volunteers who helped set up the clothing for the kids Give-a-way, **Fran & Dick, Susan, Nacho, Maria & her grandson, Janneth, Georgia, Jocelin, Nikki, David & Raymond, Hector, Justina, Carol**, **Jessica & Joseph, Lynn, Tina, Blaney, Jean C, . Karen B.** We all missed **Gina** this month who was at her daughter, **Krista's 40th Birthday – Congratulations!!!**

Thank you to **Ruth and her crew of Tony, Donna, Peggy** and **many othesr** who feed the homeless the last Wednesday of every month for about **20 years** at **Project Hospitality.**

Prayers of healing for my son-in-law, Adam Green recovering from surgery. For Morgan, Magen, Anwen and Ethan recovering from croup, allergies. My daughter, Mary with sciatica. Willy, Ian & Brianna and Michel for good orderly direction. Michele Muri recovering from surgery. For Monsignor Joseph Murphy who we miss very much on Staten Island. Bobby Bulger for good health. Roxanne an all the dedicated work she does with Catch & Release program. For my husband, Bob, who needs knee surgery. For Matt Dugan recovering from surgery. Prayers for Raina as she lets go of her store and looks forward to a new adventure of creativity and joy. Prayers for deceased Rabbi Dr. David Posner.

The following is a note we received from **Alan Weinman** and his wife Debbie:
Debbie and I want to thank you for your gift to Temple Emanuel in honor of our wedding. I really appreciate all the years during which Amazing Grace enriched my life. I am eternally grateful to both of you and to the Amazing Grace Family. Please give my warmest personal regards to members of the Consistory and others I knew at Amazing Grace. Fondly Alan & Debbie

IT WORKS _ IF YOU WORK IT

GRATITUDE TURNS YOUR LIFE AROUND

There is an expression that says if you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. We all know people who find beauty at every turn of the road. They are really and truly grateful for each and every encounter – the smile of a stranger's face, the face of a child, the kindness of the grocery store clerk. When you are around these people, it sets your vibration higher you feel happy. Grateful are more appreciative and are willing to go out of their way to give back in gratitude. They realize how others have helped them, and they take nothing for granted. Grateful people understand that gratitude is strength. They make it a point to train their gratitude muscle every day, just as if it were their body on a treadmill. The result: grateful people have a sense of wonder and look at the world through the eyes of wonder and joy. By focusing on what they have and being grateful for it, they bypass feelings of neediness, judgement, anger. Business owner Anthony M. is a prime example of a thankful person. He says "I use spoken gratitude in my daily life to produce much success and contentment. First of all, In my business, after I decide on a course of action, I say, "Thank you, for the results not yet obtained". He laughs when he explains that he speaks out loud but usually with no one around , . it may be "Thank you" for a productive meeting. "Thank you" for letting my company find the right vendor, or "Thank you" for a job well done. Giving thanks is a daily practice for Anthony. He says, "Using spoken gratitude daily has really made a difference in my life. It has made me calmer, less fearful and happier. After I say "Thank You" its like I can move on to the business at hand, and be present, as the saying goes without a divided mind on things."

Christmas arrived at the Staten Island Mall this year before Halloween!!! Slow Down!!
Make November a month of Thanksgiving. With gratitude for what was given, reach out and give back. Simple things…..Thank you for a fire truck or ambulance or police car. For the men and women on board. A school bus and children everywhere. Crossing guard. Your ability to see, hear, taste, feel. Give Thanks for everything your eyes see and you will also, like Anthony be calmer, less fearful and happier.

HELPING HANDS

When a friend says, "I need you" what do you say?
Do you say, "What happened?" or do you say, "How can I help?"
Does it really matter what happened – or does it matter only that your friend needs you and has asked for your help?
God never asks – "What happened?"
He says: "I love you – I Am your friend!"

I hope to see you at one of our programs. May you have a Happy Thanksgiving full of gratitude and a blessed Christmas and Hanukkah with all those you love. Please pray for me.

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Love Mary