



**Pastor’s Message**

Early in my sermon on May 27, I made use of a couple of quotes, one being, “’Tis a fearful thing to love what death can touch,” which is the opening line of a poem – “’Tis A Fearful Thing” – by 12<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Jewish physician,

poet and philosopher, Yehuda Halevi. Here is the entirety of Helivi’s poem:

*’Tis a fearful thing  
to love what death can touch.  
A fearful thing  
to love, to hope, to dream, to be –  
to be,  
And oh, to lose.  
A thing for fools, this,  
And a holy thing,  
a holy thing  
to love.  
For your life has lived in me,  
your laugh once lifted me,  
your word was gift to me.  
To remember this brings painful joy.  
’Tis a human thing, love,  
a holy thing, to love  
what death has touched.*

A beautiful poem worth pondering, I think. ‘Tis indeed a fearful thing to love what death can touch; for, what death can touch, death eventually will touch, and leave us both with loss and the “painful joy” of remembering. It is pain and it is loss, which in many cases, never leave us. (Which is in part why it is such good news that our God never leaves us, either! Remember Psalm 139 read at Pete’s funeral?!)

Three funerals in 14 days, though?! I mean, come on! No doubt about it, we’ve been hit hard; and, we may indeed be staggering, or reeling, but we have not been dropped for the count. We are grieving, sure, but we do not despair. For, “the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18)

Over the last month, I found myself saying the following a lot about Heritage: “we are definitely going

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through a season.” A season of death and loss, no doubt. But might it also be for us a season of focus (*re-focus*) and clarity, as well as devotion and commitment (*re-commitment*)? Doesn’t death, for the living, naturally lead to such things, if we allow it?

I personally am hoping and praying to see us live into a season of focus and commitment (or, perhaps, *re-focus* and *re-commitment*) on two particular fronts:

1. Remaining committed (or, re-committing ourselves) to caring for Val, John & Candy, as well as May, Abby, and Jessie & Melissa.

We do not want to smother or overwhelm anyone, offering care that is not needed or desired, or caring in a way that is less than helpful. More than anything, I guess what I am thinking of is our simply remaining aware of their loss... one-, two-, eight- months out, and beyond. And, as a result of such continued awareness, our continuing to check in with them every so often.

The widow of Grace’s recently deceased brother approached me after Grace’s service. She told me that not too long after her husband passed she began to feel so lonely and so isolated that she eventually began knocking on the doors of strangers in her

neighborhood, just looking for someone who would talk to her. She told me she had just shared the same story with John, also telling him that she *had been* worried that he might have to endure something similar. “However,” she said, “after seeing the love and support of his church family, I told him that I’m not worried one bit.” Let’s make sure to prove her right.

2. Remaining focused (or, re-focusing ourselves) upon our missional mandate from God to be “reaching” our neighbors.

For me personally, I must admit this one requires more *re-focusing* than *remaining* focused. But the truth remains, the Church exists for this very reason, with this very purpose: to share with the world the simple all-transforming good news that God loves the world, and has loved it decisively – once and for all, forever and ever – in the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ. In other words, God calls the Church, including Heritage Presbyterian Church, into existence, specifically to say to the world (the residents of Carolwood, the residents of Carol Stream and beyond) “God loves you!” Today, this requires building and investing in relationships. Let us remain focused on, or re-focus ourselves upon, this high and holy calling.

Death can sometimes serve to call the living back to what truly matters. As painful as losing Pete, Grace and Ray has been, and will remain for me, personally, in their own small way, their deaths have already begun to teach me something – to number my days (Ps. 90:12), you might say... thus reminding me once again what ultimately matters.

**Rev. Victor Harris**

### **Prayer Concerns – Health**

*“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord’s people.” (Eph. 6:18)*

Please remember the following members of the church in your prayers as they struggle with long term health conditions:

|             |                     |            |             |
|-------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|
| Ruth Shargo | Amy Ackley (Bailey) | Lisa Wroth | Jim Outland |
|-------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|

Sue Gager-Garlich

If you would like to be added, please contact Charles

### **Vacation Bible School Cancelled**

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is cancelled. We will be having something later this summer, aimed at the youth group. Thanks for your prayers!

**Jenn Harris**

### **Buildings and Grounds Lawn Equipment Sale**

Our landscaping service is now in place and doing a good job. Heritage will be selling our tractors, mowers, and related equipment. A date for the sale has not been set. Please contact me if you are able to help with it.

**Dan Wennerholm**

### **Clerk of Session**



The next session meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2018.

We mourn the deaths of Elders Peter Mastro and Grace Strohmeier, and member Ghazi (“Ray”) Anwiya in May. Sadly, current membership count is now 85. Please read the In Memoriam articles for each of them.

Presbytery met on Tuesday May 15 at the Winnetka Presbyterian Church. Since this was also the day of Grace’s funeral, Heritage did not send a representative. A .pdf report is available either from myself or Charles Fortney. The next Presbytery meeting is in September.

The Berkeley-Hillside Presbyterian Church held its last service on Sunday, May 6.

**Dan Wennerholm**

### **Youth Group Trip Cancelled**



The Youth Group one-week mission trip to McDowell County in West Virginia is cancelled. At the planning meeting, one member of the Youth Group expressed interest but the others all had conflicts or travel plans for the summer. We will be trying to schedule a church-wide mission trip next summer.

**Caroline Knoff**

## In Memoriam: Grace Strohmeier



Grace Strohmeier returned to her Heavenly Father this month after an extended battle with her health.

Grace was elder at Heritage and a devoted and faithful leader in the church. Her husband John continues his work in the church, and her daughter Abby grew up in this congregation. The service

was held on May 15. Abby spoke at the service with these touching comments about her mother:

“Thank you to everyone for coming. I know it’s difficult to know what to say in these instances, but honestly by being here you have said so much to me and to my dad,

“My mom, Grace, was the embodiment of her name. Grace means “Gift from God” and she was truly a gift to so many people, especially to my Dad and me. My mom taught me about courage by never giving up, no matter how dark the storm seemed. My mom taught me that it is okay to speak your mind and to “take no crap from anybody”, as she would say. She taught me what true love looked like. My mom’s sense of humor and wit are something I will carry with me always.

“She taught me about the little things, too. She taught me that yes, fanny packs are stylish, even if your 14-year old daughter is mortified at the sight!

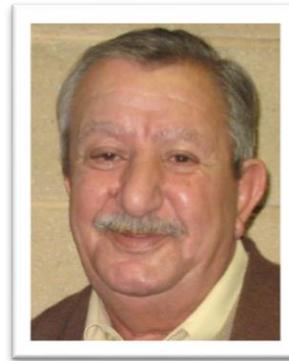
“My mom took care of herself but she took care of so many strangers, too, whether at work or while she was recovering at a nursing home. My mom always put us first, and, even when she was recovering in the hospital, would still listen to me rant about work or whatever mundane problems I was having and offer her sage advice.

“My mom loved and is loved by so many people. She was a beautiful woman with a smile that could light up a room. I’m so proud to have had her as a role model and mother.

“I miss you so much, mom. I hope you rest in peace.”

## In Memoriam: Ray Anwiya

Ghazi Anwiya, known to us as Ray, was reunited with the Lord this month as well. Services were held at Heritage on Friday May 25. He is survived by his wife Val and his daughter May.



Ray was from Iraq. He, Val, and May shared their story with the congregation approximately a year ago.

Ray and Val had a very good life in Iraq. Ray owned and managed a factory of hundreds of employees, manufacturing plastics. Val was a principal in the

school system. But the story changed as violence began to unfold in Iraq in the early 2000s. May and Val wanted to make it clear that the violence did not come from their friends and neighbors; Iraqi people are peaceable and very community minded. It came from outsiders and from some teenagers and young adults who had been indoctrinated in a culture of hate as they grew up. No one was safe. But in particular, Ray’s son Alan was a target.

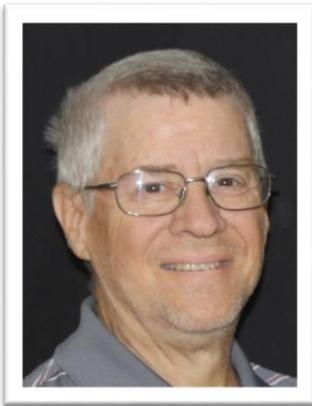
Alan was suspected of being an “undercover American” because of two distinguishing characteristics. One was that Alan spoke almost flawless English. The other was that he was a Christian. Being a Christian is not illegal in Iraq. But in an environment where there is strife, often over religion, neither is it safe. Alan was shot, and died on January 7, 2006. Soon thereafter a bullet arrived, with the message “you guys are next”.

Less than a month later, on February 6, Ray and Val, along with their daughter May and some other family members, fled their home with nothing but what they could carry. They lost everything. The family first went to Jordan, and then ultimately applied as refugees for asylum in the United States through a program administered by the United Nations. They went to California where Ray, Val, and May went to San Jose and the other family members went to San Diego. Ultimately they came to Carol Stream and joined Heritage.

Ray later developed myeloma and went through extensive cancer treatment. Although he was cured of the cancer, he began having bleeding and tests revealed lesions in his brain, lungs, and other places. He was in and out of hospitals and rehab centers in the last month of his life, but his family was proud of the cards and letters and visits he received from members of the church.

Ray is remembered for his faith in Jesus and his love for his family and church family.

## In Memoriam: Peter Mastro



Peter Mastro, founding member of Heritage, went home to be with the Lord on May 2, 2018. Services were held at Heritage.

Peter's contributions to the church over 40 years are too many to be listed. Some examples are: lead bass in the choir, Heritage Handyman, MICAH President and Treasurer, Biblical storyteller,

Building and Grounds leader, lawn mower, many term elder, member of a Pastor Nominating Committee, mission trip leader to Mexicali, and organizer, leader, and participant in almost every aspect of the life of this congregation. Nick Shargo, himself a founding member, spoke about Peter's service to the church.

Peter had many personal interests as well. He loved many forms of music. started dancing as a teenager. He was a scratch bowler, having an 800-series late in his life. He finished the Chicago Marathon in 2001. He was a finalist in singing "Take Me Out to The Ballgame" contest and appeared on the field at Wrigley, home of his beloved Chicago Cubs. He was a machinist by trade.

Peter's family was central to his life. He married Candy in 1974. His daughters, Jessica and Melissa, were his pride and joy. He attended school concerts and other school functions faithfully as they danced and played sports. His joy and wonder at his grandchildren (Ema, Madie, and Andrew) equaled that of his own children. Jessie and Melissa spoke jointly about his life and family at the memorial.

Space does not permit inclusion of all of the remarks from Peter's daughters, or from Nick, but copies are available on request – contact Charles Fortney or Candy or Nick as needed.

The disciple Simon Peter's name meant "Rock". Peter was truly the Rock of Heritage.

From Psalm 112: "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever."

## Thank you letter from the Mastro family

Our Dear Heritage Family,

Often people will use the phrase "words cannot express," but I truly am having difficulty finding the right words to express the overwhelming gratitude we feel from all of the expressions of love, compassion and caring we received since Peter became ill and subsequently passed away. They encouraged us during those long days at the hospital and comforted us in the days that followed.

Phone calls, text messages, visits, cards, meals, food for the memorial service and those who set up for the service and served our guests are so deeply appreciated. We felt the power of the prayers offered up and I have heard that there are some among us that feel their prayers were not answered. When we pray the Lord's prayer, we say "thy will be done" and as difficult as it is to accept at times, there was nothing else that could be done.

I can't imagine going through something like the loss of such a loved one without the love of God and the support of a family of believers that we are so fortunate to have. There will be difficult days ahead but knowing we are not alone in our sorrow and grief provides a true sense of comfort.



With great appreciation and love,

Candy, Jessie, Justin, Melissa, Madie, Ema and Andrew

## Sermon Summaries and Charges

The following scripture, sermon summaries, and charges are based on services in the month of May:

May 27: This week, Victor took his message from 1 Samuel and the story of Hannah and her years of anguish over her inability to bear a child. Victor's sermon title was "On the Verge", which meant that, like Hannah, we are suffering, but that is precisely where God meets us; in fact, our grief and despair is just the prelude to God's next mighty act. Victor's charge was, whatever God blesses you with next, make a commitment, right now, to return it to God. This also was a reference to Hannah, who was given a child, Samuel, by the Lord, and then gave him up to serve the Lord with Eli.

May 13: This Sunday, we observed the Ascension of Our Lord, but as Jan reminded us, the Ascension actually took place 40 days after Christ's resurrection, which would have been Thursday, 5/10. Jan's

sermon was titled, “Past Ascension, Present and Future Presence”, which sums up her message to us. One of the things she mentioned was not taken from either Scripture reading, and I thought it was worth sharing. Jan quoted Psalm 110:1, “*The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’*” She said this passage is referred to 23 times in the New Testament. Jan’s charge to us this week was to live knowing that the risen Lord lives with us, as evidenced by his name, Immanuel, which means, “God with us”.

May 6: This week, the title of Victor’s sermon was, “The Lost Language of Worship”. He felt that a better title might have been, “The Lost Dialect of Worship”, because prayer is the language of worship, but lament is the dialect and lament is what he was referring to as lost. This week, especially, we should not stop praying: we should take our laments to God. We should take what is on our hearts to God, not to false

saviors. To illustrate this, Victor used *The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8)*. Luke 18:1 says, “*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*” Victor’s charge to us was, “Forget nice! Be honest with God! Persist like the widow.”



**Nominating Committee**

We are in the final preparations before convening the Nominating Committee for 2018. This committee will be seeking God’s direction as we prepare a slate of elders and deacons for presentation to the congregation at the special congregational meeting called for that purpose.

We need YOUR help in a number of areas:

At this point, we are looking for an elder who has been on Session at Heritage previously but is not currently serving, to add to the committee.

PRAY for God’s guidance for the committee as we strive to listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of committee members and those approached.

PRAY if you are one of those who the committee approaches in future months.

Express an interest in either serving as an elder or deacon if you feel called to that ministry, or on serving on the nominating committee next year.

Elders and Deacons are not chosen in a vacuum. The committee strives to hear the voice of God through the committee, through the prayerful responses of those approached, and through the discerning voice of the congregation as a whole at the meeting.

Dates for the nominating committee meeting will be decided and communicated within the committee itself.

**Darly Doyle**

**Summer Lunch Program Begins Its Third Year**



The 2018 Carol Stream Summer Lunch program runs from June 4 through August 10, serving children ages 18 and younger at Heritage Lakes Grade School. Heritage Church, which coordinates the weekday program, will be serving on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Program partners include St. Andrew Methodist Church, Fellowship Church of Carol Stream, the Carol Stream Woman’s Club, Carol Stream Library, Carol Stream Park District and the Village of Carol Stream.

This year, School District 93 will be conducting a reading and craft component during the lunch hour. Also, new bus stops are being provided in addition to those for Carolwood and Quail Run students. It is hoped these changes will enable us to surpass last year’s total of 2,071 meals served.

**-Nick Shargo**



## Worship Schedule June 2018

|                                | <b>June 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br/>after Pentecost</b> | <b>June 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br/>after Pentecost</b> | <b>June 17, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>after Pentecost</b> | <b>June 24, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>after Pentecost</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sacrament of Communion         | Tray                                                     | None                                                      | None                                                      | None                                                      |
| Paraments                      | Green                                                    | Green                                                     | Green                                                     | Green                                                     |
| Preacher                       | Victor Harris                                            | Victor Harris                                             | Victor Harris                                             | Victor Harris                                             |
| Lector                         | Larry Evans                                              | Bob McNees                                                | Sue Gager-Garlich                                         | Lisa Wroth                                                |
| Communion Servers              | Nancy Bagdonas,<br>Darly Doyle, Joan<br>and Jerry Knapp  | None                                                      | None                                                      | None                                                      |
| Ushers                         | Darly Doyle<br>Nancy Bagdonas                            | Jerry Knapp<br>Dan Wennerholm                             | Desiree Reynolds<br>David Wroth                           | Larry Evans<br>Bob McNees                                 |
| Greeters                       | Grace Bradley<br>Julie Hagel                             | Nancy Bagdonas<br>Vern Hagel                              | Dawn and Jim Guinti                                       | Andrew Brady; John<br>and Lindsay McRae                   |
| Nursery Offering               | Leila Trepanier<br>Candy Mastro<br>Dan Wennerholm        | Caroline Knoff<br>Cheryl Elliott<br>David Wroth           | Sue Wexler<br>Nancy Bagdonas<br>Jerry Knapp               | Cheri Schaefer<br>Cheryl Elliott<br>Nick Shargo           |
| Sanctuary Setup<br>Ambassadors | John Garlich<br>(all month):                             | John Garlich<br>Larry Evans                               | John Garlich<br>Bob McNees    Nick Shargo                 | John Garlich<br>David Wroth                               |

### June Birthdays

|         |                |         |                    |
|---------|----------------|---------|--------------------|
| June 1  | Jim Goldbach   | June 15 | Dan Wennerholm     |
| June 1  | Melanie Slouka | June 19 | Darlene Mastro     |
| June 10 | Jan McKeown    | June 21 | Lorraine Schoerger |
| June 12 | Tyler Moore    | June 27 | Andrew Brady       |
| June 15 | Nancy Bagdonas | June 30 | Joan Knapp         |
| June 15 | Eleke Bonsi    |         |                    |

### June Anniversaries

|         |                 |         |
|---------|-----------------|---------|
| June 6  | Delali and Paul | Bonsi   |
| June 18 | Andi and Joe    | Moore   |
| June 22 | Jim and Carol   | Outland |
| June 26 | Roger and Jan   | McKeown |

## The Church Calendar

**June 2018**

### Monthly Special Communion Service Stops

The mid-week communion service is going to take a break this summer. The worship committee will be looking at the structure and format of this service as we plan for fall.

### Light of the World Moves to Saturday

The Light of the World, a Phillipine-based congregation that meets in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons, is moving its service to Saturday night.

### Prayer Service Moves to Tuesdays

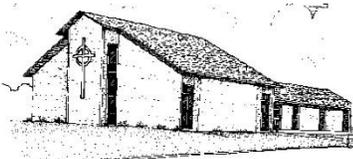
The weekly prayer meeting/service is now on Tuesday at 1:00, not Thursday.

|                                                   |    |                                                                        |    |                      |    |                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------|----|-----------------------------|
|                                                   |    | 1<br>All Church<br>Prayer 1:00<br>Women's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m.  | 2  | 3                    | 1  | 2                           |
| 3<br>Worship<br>10 am<br>Youth Group<br>5:00 p.m. | 4  | 5<br>Women's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m.<br>All Church<br>Prayer 1:00  | 6  | 7                    | 8  | 9<br>Light of the<br>World  |
| 10<br>Worship<br>10 am                            | 11 | 12<br>Women's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m.<br>All Church<br>Prayer 1:00 | 13 | 14                   | 15 | 16<br>Light of the<br>World |
| 17<br>Worship<br>10 am<br>Youth Group<br>5 p.m.   | 18 | 19<br>Women's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m.<br>All Church<br>Prayer 1:00 | 20 | 21                   | 22 | 23<br>Light of the<br>World |
| 24<br>Worship<br>10 am<br>GOLF 1:20<br>pm         | 25 | 26<br>Women's<br>Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m.<br>All Church<br>Prayer 1:00 | 27 | 28<br>Session<br>7pm | 29 | 30<br>Light of the<br>World |



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**Rev. Victor Harris**

### Who's Who at Heritage

#### Church Secretaries

Sue Evans  
Darly Doyle  
Sabrina Poulin  
Ginny Goldbach  
Candy Mastro  
Dan Wennerholm  
Charles Fortney

Worship Pianist  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Clerk of Session for 2018  
Newsletter Editor for 2018

#### Deacons

Last Name A-C  
Last Name D-G  
Last Name H-L  
Last Name M  
Last Name N-R  
Last Name S-Z

Joan Knapp  
Sue Wexler  
Sue Cory  
Desiree Reynolds  
Julie Hagel  
Sue Gager-Garlich

#### Elders

Word and Gathering  
  
Buildings and Grounds  
Response and Sending  
  
Administration  
Nominating and Fellowship

Patricia Lind  
Cheryl Elliott  
Dan Wennerholm  
David Wroth  
Nancy Bagdonas  
Jerry Knapp  
Darly Doyle