

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Church Matters Part 8

Ours is an era in which church participation is on the decline. Each year fresh statistics emerge to detail the apathy an increasing number feel toward the Church and matters of organized religion. It would seem our generation much prefers the disorganized variety, wherein each person worships a God of their own making. Yet I would call you to reconsider the reasons for which a great many have excused themselves from the community of faith.

1) The Leadership
 Countless have been burned by poor, incompetent or even immoral leadership. You do not need for me to spell out the failings of the clergy or the stigma some have brought upon the reputation of the broader Church. There are most certainly ministers who have no place standing behind the pulpit, with some belonging behind bars. However, the vast, vast majority are doing all they can to effectively, albeit imperfectly, serve the people to whom they are called.

Might your standards for pastoral leadership be awry? The following selection humorously portrays the unrealistic expectations some have for the clergy:

"The perfect pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight and is also the church janitor. The perfect pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books and donates \$30 a week to the church.

He is 29 years old and has 40 years-experience. Above all, he is handsome. The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed. The perfect pastor always has time for church councils and all of its committees. He never misses the meeting of any church organization and is always busy evangelizing the unchurched. The perfect pastor is always in the next church over.

2) The People
 Mahatma Gandhi is credited with the following statement: "If it weren't for Christians, I'd be a Christian."

Scripture is clear that Christ is spiritually present among those who gather in His Name (Matt. 18:20). Do you want to know what else is present as believers gather? Human foibles, failings, flaws and the capacity for disappointment. Ultimately, the Church is full of people, and no person gets it right all the time. This writer makes no pretense of having it all together. Stick around me long enough and I will eventually let you down! However, the Church is not for perfect people, but for the perfecting of those who want to both know and serve the Lord.

I will quickly note that this excuse befuddles me as a minister. The same man or woman who condemns the local church for being too judgmental also rejects it for being too full of hypocrites! Is this you? If so, I would ask you to consider if your expectations are, once again, amiss.

3) A Final Summation
 My former pastor, God rest his soul, offered this insight: "The Church is like Noah's Ark; all those animals and only one window, but it was the best thing afloat." The Church of Christ is messy and full of imperfect people, but it remains the best thing afloat! Let us not pretend that

there is a viable biblical alternative. Ultimately, Christ Jesus has committed Himself to building one thing and one thing only: His Church (Matt. 16:18b). If this be the case, who are we to reject what He has purposed to create?

Hebrews 10:24-25
 24 . . . let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me using the information below. Moreover, we would love to see you in person in the days to come. Feel free to attend any of our upcoming services. Check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org for more information.

Pastor James Foley
 New Life Assembly of God
 60 Main St. South Barre
jamesfoley@newlifebarre.org
 978-355-6407

Fourth Sunday of Easter

"Christ calls His sheep by their name."

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com

Scripture Reading: John 10 v 1-10

1. Introduction
 When we enter our homes, close our doors and windows, we hope and believe that we will be safe and protected. There is peace of mind that all is well, and we come and go, knowing that those who enter are in fact the ones who belong in that house. There is comfort and protection. It is not always the case though, that being behind closed or locked doors is enough to give us safety. Some of us may have experienced burglaries or heard of others who have gone through such a terrible experience. The news is full of such awful experiences and the impact on people's lives.

2. The gate and the enemies
 In this passage we read how Jesus introduces the sheep in their sheep pen, which was a secure and protective environment for them, with a watchman standing guard at the gate. Anyone who would not use the door to the pen, would be called a thief and a robber, coming to steal, kill and destroy the sheep. To be an authentic shepherd to the sheep, that person would enter through the gate and the sheep would recognize their voice, trust them, and follow where they were leading them. Crucial to this story is the voice of the Eastern shepherd, who had an individual call for each sheep, and the sheep would recognize the voice of the shepherd, calling them. The sheep would not follow a stranger, because they did not recognize the voice of that stranger.

2. The gate and the enemies
 Then Jesus goes on to tell His listeners that He is the gate for the sheep, and anyone who came before Him, are thieves and robbers, who do not have the interest of protecting the sheep but were there for their own interest and wellbeing. He was talking about the religious leaders of the establishment of the time, who did not care for the poor and the needy. He introduces this parable right after the episode in Chapter 9 with the blind man, whom He healed, and who then was ousted by the Pharisees at the temple. They did not care what happened to this man, and when He was healed, instead of rejoicing with him, treated him like an outcast. They were,

in His eyes, the thieves and the robbers stealing the lives of people, because they did not care for them. And so, He is the gate for His sheep, and anyone who comes through Him will be protected and saved and find pasture. They will have a fulfilled and blessed life, because of Him.

3. Good Shepherd
 This passage also falls within the broader scope of this chapter, where Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep, and they know Him. He knows the name of every sheep, and He calls them by their name, and they listen and follow Him. He is the Good Shepherd to those who were poor, and sick and left to beg on the streets by the religious leaders of His time. They were left to suffer, and their lives were squeezed out of them by the ones who were supposed to care for them. Harsh words by Jesus... And then, when He came to heal them and feed them, His ministry and leadership were seen as a threat, and He was hated and crucified. Important is that He, the Good Shepherd saw the pain and suffering and did something about it.

For Jesus to identify Himself as the gate of the sheep pen, and the Good Shepherd also meant that He is the One sent by God to bring salvation to the lost souls of this world. He offers a full life to those who acknowledge Him as their savior. This contrasts with what the people are experiencing under the leadership of the establishment, those who lack the care and compassion and spiritual comfort to the ones who need it. Jesus, on the other hand, brings physical and spiritual comfort to them. His presence changed the lives of those around them.

4. Conclusion
 Jesus' disclosure to the Pharisees and others about being the gate and the Good Shepherd, is His proclamation about God's love for humanity. God does not select who is worthy and not worthy of being brought into the sheep pen, so to speak. God wants every human soul to be saved, and to experience the glory of God through the Son, Jesus Christ. God also wants their lives to be healed from illness and poverty and suffering, and all humanity to experience fulfillment in their lives... to live life to the fullest. Jesus as the gate is both the access to God for the salvation of humanity, and as the Good Shepherd, is there for every human being to feel cared for and protected.

God's mercy, I believe, is so wide and deep, and so mysterious. God is patient with all of us, and God's ways for salvation is both specific, giving us Christ to lead us there, and so wide that only God knows the path of every sheep. God calls us by our name, and we listen and hear God's voice when our spirits are awakened, and we turn away from our lives as we know it and turn to God as God wants us to know and experience it. God's saving grace is for the whole of humanity, so we all can go into the sheep pen, protected from the enemy and the robber, and to experience the fullest of blessings from God.

As children of God, we are called to be there for those whose lives are not always protected by forces outside their control. God wants our lives to be living testimonies of the love and care and compassion God has for us, and to go and do the same to others. May God bless this message to each one of our lives.

Amen
Pastor Margaret Keyser
 Barre Congregational Church
 30 Park St., Barre

Chamber bowling event rolls a strike

By **Marcelo Gusmao**
 Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce met last month at Diamond Junction Bowling, North Main St., for a casual dinner and some friendly competition.

A dinner of stuffed shells and meatballs was provided by

Apollo 1 Pizza. TJ's Pop offered gourmet popcorn samples and Easthampton Cider Project had a hard cider tasting.

The Chamber exists to promote economic growth and tourism across the 15 towns it serves. The Chamber advocates for policies to develop the community, and to advance the interests of its members.

According to the Chamber's website, the "Quaboag Hills

Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. We help our business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations."

The Chamber offers training and seminars to help small businesses improve and expand, and boost business visibility throughout the region.

For more information about the Chamber, visit qhama.com.

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

O'Donnell, Dennis P.
 Died April 29, 2023
 Graveside service May 8 at 1 p.m.

Sansoucy, Leonard P.
 Died April 16, 2023

Dennis P. O'Donnell, 72

HUBBARDSTON – Dennis P. O'Donnell, 72, of Hubbardston, died unexpectedly Saturday, April 29, 2023, in his home.

Born in Boston on Sept. 6, 1950, he was the son of the late Patrick J. and Mary E. (McGrath) O'Donnell. He graduated from Bedford High School with the Class of 1968. Dennis attended Bentley College from 1968 to 1970 and received Associate Degrees from Mount Wachusett Community College in 1991 in Business and Computer Information Systems. While at the Mount, he was the Vice President of the DPMA Club –receiving member of the year in 1989-1990. Class Valedictorian, received the President's Key Award, Outstanding Student Award in Computer Information System, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Dennis was a Computer IT Manager employed by Plexus Co. in Ayer for several years prior to his retirement in 2006. He was previously employed by Scandia Trading Company. In his retire-

ment, he was the clerk for the Town of Hubbardston Highway Department, as well as the Emergency Manager for the Town of Hubbardston.

Dennis was a congregant and treasurer of the First Congregational Church of Gardner. He was very active within the Town of Hubbardston, serving on its Board of Selectman, Finance Committee, Library Trustee, Cable Advisory Committee and the Recreation Field Committee.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judith L. (Smith) O'Donnell of Hubbardston; two sons, Sean C. O'Donnell and his significant other Jenny MacFarlane of Sturbridge and Mark T. O'Donnell of New York City, New York; a daughter, Amy R. O'Donnell of Seattle, Washington; three grandchildren, Evan, Dylan and LilyRose O'Donnell; a brother, Brian O'Donnell and his wife



Renee of Bedford; two nieces, Emily and Amanda O'Donnell; two godchildren, Crystal and Nicholas Bopha; several extended family members and friends.

Graveside Services will be held Monday, May 8, 2023, at 1 p.m. in Rural Glen Cemetery, Worcester Road, Hubbardston. A reception will follow at the Williams Restaurant, 184 Pearson Boulevard, Gardner.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Toys for Tots, 18251 Quantico Gateway Drive, Triangle, VA 22172, or on their website at (www.toysfortots.org). Please reference in memory of Dennis P. O'Donnell.

Boucher Funeral Home, Inc., 110 Nichols Street, PO Box 455, Gardner, MA 01440, has been entrusted with the arrangements.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.boucherfuneral.com

Leonard P. Sansoucy, 65

OAKHAM – Leonard P. Sansoucy "Len" or "Lenny" of Oakham, 65, passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2023 surrounded by his family after a long battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

He was born in Holyoke to Leonard and Florence Sansoucy on June 7, 1957. He grew up in Chicopee with his five older sisters.

Len enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating Chicopee High School and spent his service years in the 529 Military Police Company stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. Upon returning to the states, he was campus security at Mt. Holyoke College. A passion for law enforcement led him to the Massachusetts State Police where he served many and varied positions beginning in 1986. He was undercover narcotics in Worcester, computer forensics as part of the

9/11 team, instructor at the academy and on the Turnpike until his retirement in 2013.

Upon retirement he enjoyed archery, hunting, travel, reading, wine making, listening to opera and moving earth around with his Kubota tractor. It was his departed sister, Carol Sypek, who encouraged him to read as a child. He did the same for his children and in recent years they held a weekly family zoom book club which provided hours of sharing and laughter.

On the Turnpike, he stopped a motorist for speeding and her excuse was she was so involved in listening to Puccini, "La Bohem." He let her off, but with the caveat Verdi was better. Len was a lifelong Red Sox fan and through the generosity of the Red Sox and



CCALS, was able to throw out the first pitch on Lou Gehrig Day 2022.

He is survived by his loving wife, Juli; children, Laura Scott of Easthampton, Lisa Moriarty of Granby, Lindsay Pollard of Watertown, New York; stepchildren, Sara Holmes of Shutesbury and Abigail Holmes of Clementon, New Jersey; grandchildren: Jackson and Jameson Scott, Madelyn and Eli Pollard, Henry Moriarty and Penelope Holmes-Araujo and four sisters: Eileen Ringenbach, Linda McMahon, Nancy Gadsby and Deborah Sansoucy as well as very dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Compassionate Cares ALS, P.O. Box 1052

West Falmouth, MA 02574 or ccals.org.

Public Notices

OAKHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD
 There will be a Determination of Applicability hearing on **May 16, 2023** at the Oakham Town Hall at **6:00 p.m.** The request has been filed by Thaddeus Szkoda for work to be done at 158 New Braintree Road for the purpose of adding 2 bedrooms and a deck/porch. This work may fall under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.
 Lucy Tessnau, Clerk
 Oakham Conservation Commission
 05/04/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Worcester Probate and Family Court
 225 Main Street
 Worcester, MA 01608
 (508)831-2200
 Docket No. WO22P2859EA
 Estate of:
 Rosamond H. Kukas
 Also known as:
 Rosamond Kukas
 Date of Death:
 03/31/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
 A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Wanda S. Kukas** of Barre, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First and Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/16/2023.**
 This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Leilah A. Keamy**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: April 14, 2023
Stephanie K. Fattman
 Register of Probate
 05/04/2023

Barre Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING
 The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, 3rd Floor, requested by American Tower, and LD Acquisition Company, LLC/Breitenwischer, James K. & Kelly L., holder of option, for eligible facilities request and special permit renewal for the modifica-

tion of an existing Wireless Communications Services Facility by installing one emergency backup power diesel-fueled generator on a proposed concrete pad within and existing compound enclosed by a chain link fence located at 937 Hubbardston Road, Assessors Map F, Lot 79 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 68695, Page 39.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.
 Floyd Kelley, Chairman
 05/04, 05/11/2023

See More Legals Page 11



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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stanley L. Gutowski and Julia R. Gutowski to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Virtualbank, a Division of Lydian Private Bank, dated February 3, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 808, Plan 32 and which Parcel A is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin set in the intersection of stone walls in the northeasterly line of South Road other land of William B. and Maura J. Herrick;

THENCE N. 07 degrees 55' 37" E., 175.49 feet along said Herrick land to an iron pin set;

THENCE S. 02 degrees 47' 35" E., 114.56 feet along Gutowski land to an iron pin set in a stone wall in the northeasterly line of South Road;

THENCE N. 47 degrees 47' 35" W., 25.79 feet along a stone wall along the northeasterly side South Road to the point beginning.

Containing 1,045.00 square feet.

Being a portion of the premises conveyed to Stanley L. Gutowski and Julia R. Gutowski by deed of Richard J. Paquette and Mary Kay Paquette dated July 30, 2002 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 27173, Page 25.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 27173, Page 25.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee for CSMC 2018-RPL6 Trust Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Gutowski, Stanley L. & Julia R. Gutowski, 20-037757 05/04, 05/11, 05/18/2023

Inc., Owned by Stanley L. and Julia R. Gutowski, 453 South Road, Oakham, MA, October 20, 2003" and which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 808, Plan 32 and which Parcel A is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin set in the intersection of stone walls in the northeasterly line of South Road other land of William B. and Maura J. Herrick;

THENCE N. 07 degrees 55' 37" E., 175.49 feet along said Herrick land to an iron pin set;

THENCE S. 02 degrees 47' 35" E., 114.56 feet along Gutowski land to an iron pin set in a stone wall in the northeasterly line of South Road;

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BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof on the northerly side of the road leading from New Braintree to Worcester;

THENCE northerly by land formerly of Roland Winter and a stone wall 322 feet, more or less, to a stake in said stone wall;

THENCE westerly by another stone wall 566 feet, more or less, to a stake in said stone wall;

THENCE southerly by another stone wall 180 feet, more or less, to stake in said stone wall at the New Braintree - Worcester Road;

THENCE easterly by said New Braintree - Worcester Road 646 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning.

Subject to a right of way from the New Braintree - Worcester Road at a northerly direction about 200 feet to the opening in a stone wall at the northerly line of the above described parcel. Said right of way is over the present traveled way about 12 feet in width, the easterly line of which about 25 feet westerly of the west side of the house on the above described premises.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the Grantors by deed dated June 28, 2001 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 24453 Page 12.

E X C E P T I N G THEREFROM

Land on the northeasterly side of South Road in Oakham, being shown as Parcel A on a plan entitled "Plan of Land located on South Road, Oakham, Mass, prepared for D. A. Robinson Contracting,

Inc., Owned by Stanley L. and Julia R. Gutowski, 453 South Road, Oakham, MA, October 20, 2003" and which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 808, Plan 32 and which Parcel A is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin set in the intersection of stone walls in the northeasterly line of South Road other land of William B. and Maura J. Herrick;

THENCE N. 07 degrees 55' 37" E., 175.49 feet along said Herrick land to an iron pin set;

THENCE S. 02 degrees 47' 35" E., 114.56 feet along Gutowski land to an iron pin set in a stone wall in the northeasterly line of South Road;

THENCE N. 47 degrees 47' 35" W., 25.79 feet along a stone wall along the northeasterly side South Road to the point beginning.

Containing 1,045.00 square feet.

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The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

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TAG SALE

MOVING TAG SALE 56 SABIN STREET BELCHERTOWN MAY 5, 6, 7 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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