



Is It Summer Yet?

By Bill McIvor

On the verge of Independence Day we are usually already complaining about the heat, humidity, and mosquitoes when we sit on the deck in the early evening sipping iced tea. But this year if you are sitting outside, you probably need a winter parka and hot chocolate! Is it summer yet? According to the calendar, yes. According to the weather? Not so much.

On one of our few nice Saturdays this month, I did a wedding at a nearby country club. In chatting with some of the guests, I mentioned that I grew up in Seattle. Someone replied, "Oh, it rains a lot there, doesn't it?" I smiled and replied, "Well, 'a lot' is relative, isn't it?"

Boston's rainfall in June will probably exceed 3.3 inches (a bit higher than average). Seattle's June rainfall will be about 0.2 inches, more than an inch below normal. Is it summer yet? I guess it depends where you are.

But rain or shine, July brings Independence Day, the quintessential American holiday. When we celebrate this year it would be wise to remember David McCullough's wonderful book, *1776*. We think of July 4, 1776 as our nation's birth but the viability of the infant country was in serious doubt for a long time. War did not actually end until 1783 and McCullough writes that 1776 was actually a year "of all-too-few victories, of sustained suffering, disease, hunger, desertion, cowardice, disillusionment, defeat, terrible discouragement, and fear ... but also of phenomenal courage and bedrock devotion to country." It's good to remember the way it really was.

Massachusetts probably celebrates July 4th with greater enthusiasm than any other place. Parades large and small, concerts, fireworks, and towns festooned with American flags show our pride that events which took place within a few miles of our church were pivotal in

the formation of the United States. So let's enjoy the day. (Yes, rain or shine.)

Independence Day for the McIvors this year is mostly focused on graduation. On July 4th Merrie receives her Master of Arts in Teaching a Second Language at Bennington College in Vermont. Our kids are flying in for the weekend to see their mom graduate. They are proud of her and so am I.

After we get back from Bennington I head off to the conference celebrating John Calvin's 500th birthday. I hope to preach about Calvin this fall and I'm reading Peter Thuesen's *Predestination: The American Career of a Contentious Doctrine*. Predestination was, of course, one of Calvin's key doctrines and it was contentious even in his own time. Some of his countrymen so criticized his views about it that a bitter Calvin wrote from his deathbed, "You are a perverse and unhappy nation and you will have troubles when God shall have called me away." (I'll bet you just can't wait for this fall's sermon series!)

It turns out that the American Revolution actually was a threat to the idea of predestination. The idea of liberty — that an American was free to seek one's own destiny (at least white males were free) — presented a compelling historical counter to Calvinistic determinism. For some, Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" was a cry for political *and* religious freedom.

Hey, the sun just came out! At least I think that's what that big yellow thing is. Maybe it's summer after all! Enjoy.

[A bit more about Seattle's rain. There is a term — "Seattle Gray" — which natives of the Emerald City understand without explaining. But many cities, including Boston, actually receive more rain. Seattle's annual precipitation is 37.2 inches. Boston's is 41.7 inches. Seattle's rainy reputation is just to keep too many people from moving there.]





"A Song for Wingate"

By Peter Raymond

On Sunday, June 14th, Dr. McIvor delivered a wonderful sermon in which he referred to Bono. Bono (Paul David Hewson) is solidly etched in the minds of many people as the "front man" for the Irish rock band "U-2." "U-2" projects a performance which is loud and brash. I suspect I am not alone in considering Bono and his minstrels (and their borderline discordant brazenness) just not "my cup of tea" (Irish or otherwise). However, personal preference aside, the truth is that the lads are easily among the most commercially successful rock bands in history. Their lyrics are rebellious and irreverent and yet – from the beginning Bono (who was raised as a faithful Irish Anglican) and company the have sung about profoundly theological topics. Bill recounted for us Bono's professed affection for the Psalter and the inspiration he derives from the Songs of David as he composes the music of the people. In the same manner Dr. Tex Sample of St. Paul Theological Seminary in Kansas City has written extensively about country western music as the "psalms – the liturgy of working class America."¹ There is no doubt that much about our popular music inspires us in faith and emboldens us in hope.

Which brings us, obliquely, to *Worship at Wingate*:

Worship at Wingate is now in its eleventh year began as a project of PCIS Deacons in response to concerns of the family of the late Edith Person. Mrs. Person (a lifelong Presbyterian) had been relocated from Florida to the Wingate Nursing Home in Sudbury and there found herself without an outlet for worship in the Reformed Tradition to which she was accustomed. From a very modest beginning, the *Worship at Wingate* ministry has grown and become a resounding success – not only for Edith but for dozens of the facilities other residents who monthly gather around God's Word in prayer and praise-and Christian Fellowship. *Worship at Wingate* is an important element of the PCIS outreach ministry and the only Protestant worship regularly conducted at Wingate Nursing Home.

Worship at Wingate is enthusiastically embraced by residents, and praised by their families and the Wingate staff. In fact, in 2007, the ministry was specially

honored by the Wingate administrators. The program began with a handful of resident-congregants .By 2008-09 attendance had more than tripled, averaging 30+ and occasionally reaching highs of 50+ (including an all time high of 62). From the beginning, worship attendance has been a proximate function of the number of PCIS volunteers present. Those volunteers assist the residents, provide leadership in worship and music and embrace fellowship. Many of our volunteers have been from the Junior and Senior High School segments of the PCIS community. Although we have been blessed over the years with a core of faithful volunteers (Jean Mugford and Marilyn Walter from the beginning) including Leslie Mileski, Mary Smith, Aileen Gardner, John and Nancy Kohl, Estelle and Peter Kaczenas and Mark, Cindy and Jamie Faulkner – no less than 73 PCIS folks (plus Beth DuToit's Girl Scouts and Brownies) have facilitated the ministry. Jane Young, our pianist, is as faithful and gracious as she is talented and Susan DeHoff brings pertinent and insightful prayers. Highlights of the program year have included the annual Christmas Celebration in Lessons and Carols (with the Chancel Choir) , The Observance of Palm Sunday and Easter (with the Jarvis Family and Jamie Faulkner) and The Old Tyme Gospel Hour (with the Praise Team).

For me, *Worship at Wingate* is a work of love. Over our time together, far too many accolades have come my way in response to the caring outreach of God's Word. Those compliments have been both manifestly heartwarming and mildly disquieting. In a proper alignment of the planets – it is I who should be thanking you for allowing me to engage a service of care whose profound blessings I will cherish always. It is not me but the many PCIS volunteers who ought to be applauded for it is *their* loving sacrifice and *their* faithful commitment which has expanded *Worship at Wingate* into the vibrant ministry it is. Thank you all so much for allowing me to share in that. *Worship at Wingate* is our ministry. It is the ministry of PCIS – our lovely little covenant community. *Worship at Wingate* belongs to the dear souls on Boston Post Road – and to all of us at PCIS.

Shortly I will no longer share that precious gift with you. The precise timing of when that will be I do not know. I do know that the days are surely coming when I will be leaving Wingate and PCIS. Certainly not before September, but probably sometime very shortly thereafter. I suspect that for many of us it will be a melancholy time. I am also confident that it will be an exciting

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¹ *White Soul: Country Music, the Church, and Working Americans*, Abingdon Press, 1996

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Pastoral Care

By Susan DeHoff

Pastor McIvor has asked me to preach on July 26th. The lectionary readings for that Sunday provided me with a difficult choice: Ephesians 3.14-21 or John 6.1-21. I chose the latter, but the former remains on my radar screen, so I will use that text for this column.

What these two passages have in common is the matter of what we receive from God. I mentioned in last month's column that at times what we feel we need and what God knows we need might not match. We confront that potential mismatch each time we say prayers of supplication. It is a good exercise to scroll back through the "sent" prayers from time to time and consider what kinds of things we have been requesting, not only for ourselves but also for others. I will have a bit more to say about that on July 19th.

For a moment, consider the things Paul requested in Ephesians 3.14-21 for fellow believers. First he prayed, "that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man." Often I hear people pray for strength in times of trial, but the strength for which they pray is temporary strength just to get through the trial. That is different from what Paul requests. Strength in the inner person is strength of soul and spirit, and it is permanent strength to love and follow God "to march into hell for a heavenly cause," as the song from the play *Man of La Mancha* says.

It is the strength the early Christians needed to endure the cruel persecution they suffered for their faith and to continue to build the church in an often hellish world.

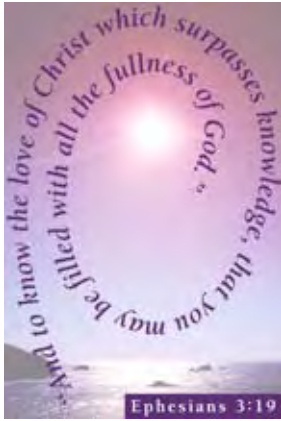
Next Paul prayed, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." This request means more than just keeping the faith by tenaciously hanging onto a belief. Paul could make this request because he knew the Spirit of Christ is alive and that through the power of his Spirit within us, grounding us in love, we may experience "the breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love. This is the source of what we sometimes call "tough love." It is the source of the love that moves us to care for someone who is dying. It is the source of love that calls us to provide

food, clothing, shelter, and a listening ear to those who lack these essentials.

Finally, Paul prayed, "that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." His other two requests have concrete examples that help us understand Paul's requests for fellow believers. We can feel that kind of strength or at least observe it in others; we can experience that depth of love either by offering it or receiving it – or both. But "filled with the fullness of God:" How can we speak of what that means? Perhaps we can't. Perhaps we just face the cross and the empty tomb and then thank God from the depth of our being.

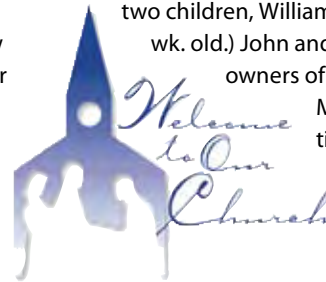
What we, and those for whom we pray, receive from God is woven into our prayers. Paul here reminds us that we are to pray for strength of heart and soul, for Christ to live within us, and for the fullness of God to fill us. One of the great miracles of life is that God has created us to need and receive all these things. We need only ask.

Paul concluded this chapter of Ephesians with my favorite benediction: "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."



Welcome New Members!

We welcome John and Darlene Lauderbach. John and Darlene are originally from Saginaw, Michigan. John is currently employed by Roche Bros. Markets while Darlene is enjoying some time off after working in retail most of her life. John is an inactive Elder and former Treasurer and Darlene is an inactive Deacon in the Presbyterian church. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Cindy, and two grandchildren. Elizabeth and her husband, Brian, live in Chicago. Cindy and her husband, Derek, live in the Denver area with their two children, William (2 ½ yr. old) and Rachel (2 wk. old.) John and Darlene are also the proud owners of two Irish Setters, Sara &



Molly! They are enjoying getting to know the Boston area and are looking forward to becoming active members of the Presbyterian Church in Sudbury.

The Session		
Class of 2010	Class of 2011	Class of 2012
Christine Clark	Dave Hamel	Hal Goetsch
Jack Kaiser	Sally Millar	Ruth Jarvis
Allison Latta	Jessie Robinson	Jake Warden
Andy Roosa	Peter Welsh	Tammy Wilson
Leigh Smith		

PCIS News and Announcements



Favorite Hymn Sing and Barbecue on July 19th

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to sing, sing, sing and enjoy some outdoor fellowship. On July 19th, we will be dedicating our morning service to hymns, all chosen by you! If you have a favorite hymn, or several favorite hymns, please pass them along to us by July 12th. After we have sung to our hearts' delight, we will gather outside for a potluck barbecue. Grill items will be provided by the church. You can sign-up to bring salad, sides and desserts on sheet posted in Fellowship Hall. Weather permitting, we will even rally for a pick up wiffle ball game at Noyes. Family, friends and guests are all most welcome. Fun, fun, fun for all!



Free books! Get 'em while they last!

We are clearing out the church library! There are a wide variety of books available to chose from. Feel free to come into the Chapel a pick a few to take home. Enjoy!



M.A.T.E. Team Leaving Soon!

After Service on July 26th, the M.A.T.E. team leaves and would appreciate cookies and snacks for their trip! Please bring them July 26th, packaged for travel in well-marked throw-away containers.

Start Up the Coffee! Summer is here—And we need volunteers to “host” this important time of fellowship! The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall with a full set of guidelines posted. For questions, contact Christine Clark (978-443-8417 or christineclark_us@yahoo.com).



Flowers for the Sanctuary: We all enjoy flowers in the Sanctuary during worship. It is a special way to honor or remember a loved one. The sign up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$35.00. Please contact Jane Dossett for more information at 508-820-7219 or janedossett@comcast.net.



Your Capital Campaign Dollars At Work!

Much needed work and improvements have now begun! Over the next 4 weeks or so, please pardon our appearance while much needed work on the interior is being done: from painting and new flooring and doors to creation of closets and benches. If you have questions about the interior work, please contact Shepherding Team Chair, Dave Hamel (dhamel@arizant.com or 781-710-2395). The exterior work is expected to occur over the next 6 weeks or so and address the obvious (and not so obvious) effects of time and weather on the building. If you have questions about the exterior work, please contact one of the Trustees: Karen Penn Quinlan (karen@thequinlans.com or 978-4061) or Trevor Haydon (megtrev@msn.com or 978-443-3364). The objectives of the interior and exterior repairs and improvements is to create an immediate positive impression to all whom enter our doors and provide a clean overall look to the church. Thanks for your patience!



PCIS Church Group News!

Sanctuary Banner Group

A new group is forming to bring new life to our banner inventory. If you are handy with a glue gun, have a good eye for color, or even know how to work a sewing machine? We could use your help! Possibilities are literally endless and no skill set is too small. Lively conversation and fellowship are sure to fall in naturally as well. Interested? Please contact Allison Latta (978-443-9678 or ablatta@comcast.net.)



Groups in Recess for the Summer: The Moms' Bible Study, Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Artist's Group, and Adult Education Classes will resume in the fall!

The Board of Deacons

Class of 2010
Sheri Francis
Aileen Gardner
Gail Hamel

Class of 2011
Jane Dossett
Vera Schlichter
Tom Shineman

Class of 2012
Beth du Toit
Peter Kaczenas
Amy Shroff

What's Happening in July



Youth Gone South Meeting Sunday, July 12th, 7:00pm

Everyone planning to go on Mission Trip to Galveston, TX must attend this important meeting to discuss the logistics of the trip. This is a **mandatory** meeting for those going: youth and their parents! Questions? Contact Dan Olsen at danolsen@gmail.com.

Salvation Army Dinner Friday, July 10th, 6:00pm

The Salvation Army in Framingham provides meals to those in need nearly every night of the week. Along with many other Churches in the area, PCIS donates dinner on a regular basis. Join us in this great opportunity to do something tangible and provide for others who have a lot less than you. It is very satisfying! Recipes and a sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall. You can make a meal or serve.



Ministry at Wingate Sunday, July 19th, 1:00pm

Please join us for Worship at Wingate. This ministry is dependent upon volunteers. The commitment is approximately one hour a month. If you can help, please contact Peter Raymond at 978-443-9151.

Meetings and Events in July

- July 5 10:00am Rev. Wayne Parrish, preaching
7:00pm Senior High Youth Group
- July 10 8:30am Shepherding Team Meeting
6:00pm Salvation Army Dinner
- July 11 7:00pm Duplicate Bridge
- July 12 10:00am Peter Raymond, preaching
12:00pm Trustees Meeting
7:00pm Youth Gone South Meeting
- July 14 7:00pm Deacons Meeting
- July 19 10:00am Dr. McIvor preaching
12:00pm Mission Team Meeting
1:00pm Ministry at Wingate
7:00pm Senior High Youth Group
- July 20 7:00pm Key Team Meeting
- July 26 10:00am Susan DeHoff, preaching
7:00pm Senior High Youth Group
- July 26 - August 1 MATE

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time as God breathes afresh his revitalizing power upon Wingate and us all. *Worship at Wingate* will be – on account of your exquisite discipleship in embracing God's grace (which has brought us to here "thus far") – better and more nurturing than ever. I hope many of you will encourage and counsel Bill and me as we plan to transition into what will be the *next* ten years of *your* sacred ministry.

Transitions and passages are poignant and risky affairs. They are life's crucibles - tests of faith and courage. Sometimes those trials are made less sharp by the moderating wisdom of the Psalms – Bono's encouragement – the inspirational melodic liturgy of Tex Sample's working class American - simple songs made so very potent and restorative.

As he battled his own demons, the great country western vocalist Johnny Cash belted out one of the great hits of 1953. In it he confronted the sometimes darkened corners of life – the confusion, contention and annoyance. He also raised up the promise of a life grounded in faith and in that he inspires us all:

I believe for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows...
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night, a candle glows...
I believe for everyone who goes away, Someone will come, to show the way,
I believe, above the storm the smallest prayer, will still be heard...
I believe, that Someone in that great somewhere hears every word...
Every time I hear a newborn baby cry, or touch a leaf, or see the sky,
then I know why, I believe! ²

May God Bless Wingate and us all.

² *I Believe*, Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl & Al Stillman. Jerry Morris ©Bromo Records 2001 BMI, All Rights Reserved.

Master Calendar: Our calendar is online! Check it regularly for updates at <www.pcsudbury.org>. For assignments, feel free to stop by the office and check the bulletin board or call the office at 978-443-9151.

Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for all submissions to the August PCIS Newsletter is Wednesday, July 16th. Please mark your calendars. Feel free to call 978-443-9151 if you have questions.

Summer Schedule will run through the summer up to and including Start Up Sunday, September 13th and returning to the two service schedule along with Education and Programming on September 20th.

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July 

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