

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Got Resolutions? Part 5

We are in the midst of an extended series on 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24.

I posit that the mandates put forth in this passage make wonderful resolutions to live for in the New Year. Let us continue to explore this text, penned by the apostle Paul, which touches upon the theme of thankfulness:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)
18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

What should we be grateful for? Consider this quotation, penned by theologian Albert Barnes, in reply:

"In everything give thanks . . . for all temporal good things; for our beings, the preservation of them; for food and raiment, and all the mercies of life; for the means of grace, the word and ordinances, and the ministers of the Gospel; for spiritual blessings, for electing, redeeming, regenerating, adopting, pardoning, justifying, and persevering grace: for a meetness for heaven, a right unto it, and a good hope of it; and especially for Jesus Christ, for such an husband, such an head, such a surety and Saviour, and advocate with the Father, as he is; and for life, peace, joy, comfort, righteousness, and salvation in him: and thanks should be given to God in every circumstance of life; in adversity, as Job did; when not in so comfortable and agreeable a frame of soul as to be wished for, since it might be worse, and is not black despair; even under the temptations of Satan, since they might be greater and heavier, and since the grace of God is sufficient to bear up under them, and deliver out of them, and since there is such a sympathizing high priest and Savior; and in afflictions of every kind, since they are all for good, temporal, or spiritual, or eternal."

How can we learn to give thanks in all circumstances, fulfilling the good purpose of God for our lives? In my experience, much of thanksgiving has to do with proper perspective, and remembering scriptural truth even in the darkest of seasons.

When I find myself in a time of crisis and the offering of thanks seems to be the last thing I want to do, I take time to consider passages like the following:

John 16:33 (Christ Speaking)
33 "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world."
Romans 8:28 (Paul Speaking)
28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:35, 37-39 (Paul Speaking)
35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . .
37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any

powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 (Paul Speaking)

7 . . . in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Next time you find it difficult to give thanks in all things, spend some time with such passages and more. I have found that they foster much-needed perspective and a spirit of gratitude that transcends the bleakest moments of life and living! Until next week, give thanks to the Lord and continue to review 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24! Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

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Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

"The Love of Christ is not from this World"

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13 v 1 - 13

I. Introduction:
In December 2013, my husband Jim and I traveled to South Africa to visit my family.

This visit included a bittersweet journey when we as a family drove to my birthplace, Kenhardt, to bury my father's ashes. My father passed away the year before, the day after Christmas. We spent time mourning, but it was also a time of bonding and appreciating each other. One person was absent on this trip, who we had hoped would join us. It was our beautiful niece, Elzette, who had to work and could not take time off. When we arrived in Cape Town that December, Elzette and her husband welcomed us at the airport and she, overcome with joy, immediately told us that they were expecting their first baby. Her happiness was written all over her face! We arranged to visit them during our vacation. It was awesome!

Jim and I returned to the United States on Jan. 20, 2014. Two weeks later, on Feb. 3, we received the devastating news that Elzette had passed away in a car accident. We were thrown into an awful hole of grief and sadness. Elzette was widely regarded as a loving, caring, kind, sweet, and humble individual. We were deeply saddened by the loss of such an amazing human being.

While reading this passage from Paul regarding love, I began to contemplate where I have encountered such a beautiful and selfless form of love. Elzette's face came to mind, and on this 11th anniversary of her death, I thought

it appropriate to tell you about her, the young woman whom we all loved and wept over, who left a hole in our lives and who was like an angel among us.

II. The Love of Christ is not from this world

Paul talks to the Christians in Corinth about love as the excellent way, that even if he himself had all the spiritual gifts and talents and faith, and speak in tongues, and give to the poor and more, but does not have love, he would be like a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal, or would be nothing or gain nothing.

And so, none of the things they have or do would matter if they did not have love. He then describes in verses 4 - 7 what this love is. Love is patient and kind, it does not envy or boast, it is not self-seeking or easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongdoings.

It does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. This kind of love, says Paul D. Gardner in his commentary on 1 Corinthians, "is a Biblical path that will bring the Christian to a proper maturity as a spiritual person."

This kind of love is therefore deeply spiritual. It is the love our Lord Jesus Christ lived out during His earthly journey and tried to explain to those who wanted to know what the commandment of loving God and neighbor meant, and what they needed to do to inherit eternal life. He would tell them parables like the Good Samaritan who showed unconditional and caring love in the face of danger helping the wounded man on the road.

That man gave of himself and more, and Jesus told the lawyer who asked the question to go and do the same. Christ's love for humanity was not a love from this world. It was a perfect love filled with patience and kindness and humility, a love He wants us to live out, as we serve with our spiritual gifts.

III. Conclusion:

The love Christ talks about is a love that must be part of our being, thinking, acting and living, says Gardner. Some would say, God came to take God's angel, Elzette, because of the beautiful and loving human being she was, but for those of us who knew her so well, we wished we could have learned more from her how to be, how to love, how to give of ourselves, and to see how she would have raised her children the same way. Elzette was a follower of Christ and a worship leader in her church. She inspired many with her love for God and her fellow human beings. And yes, we believe she is with God and that she dwells among the angels. Each one of you has your own stories of this kind of love you may have encountered. You yourself may be that kind of loving person.

God calls us all to be filled with the love of God and Christ and the Holy Spirit as we serve and care for one another. Therefore, let us not waste time to not forgive and not show the patience and kindness that the love of Christ is about. Life is short as we see and know, in the story of my niece, the ones in your own lives you lost, and this week and this year...too many lives that have been lost. Let's go forth and be the loving people Christ wants us to be.

Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St. Barre

Oakham Conservation Commission
There will be an NOI hearing at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Rd., Oakham on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:25p.m.** The applicant, Michael Toomey of Brookfield, MA proposes to construct a home on lot 11 Crawford Rd., Oakham, MA. This work may fall under the jurisdiction of the WPA.
Lucy Tessnau, Clerk
Oakham Conservation Commission
02/06/2025

Oakham Conservation Commission
There will be a NOI hearing at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Rd., Oakham on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:10p.m.** The applicant, Heart of New England BSA, Goddard Consulting, LLC, filed the NOI for an ecological restoration at Browning Pond to remediate to previous conditions by the use of selective herbicide treatment. This work is within the resource areas of Land Under Waterways and Waterbodies.
Lucy Tessnau, Clerk
Oakham Conservation Commission
02/06/2025

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON February 15, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:
1998 Toyota Camry Beige VIN 4T1BG22K3WU257410
2012 Hyundai TUCSON VIN KM8JUCAC6CUC533840
2014 Maserati Ghibli VIN ZAM57RTA4E1090339
2007 Mazda Mazda 6 VIN 1YVHP80C475M59840
2009 Honda CR-V VIN SJ6RE48509L019590
1983 Mercedes-Benz 300-Class VIN WDBCB20A2DB051536
2006 Hummer H3 VIN 5GTDN136368158134

QUABOAG HILLS CHAMBER, continued from page 1

enough providers." Banko talked about the wait time to see a provider, including an average of eight months for a primary care physician, nine months for a dermatologist and one year for a procedure such as a colonoscopy. Because of these waits, Baystate Health is losing a lot of commercial insurance patients to medical facilities in Boston. "We need to make sure you don't have to leave the community to get care," he said. Banko also addressed Baystate Medical Center's "D" rating from The Leapfrog Group. "We want to be a great place for our physicians and staff to work," he said.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

Do make sure your tools are sharp, and if there is any hint of disease, be sure to disinfect in between cuts or at least in between specimens. If any of your fruit trees

2013 Nissan Pathfinder VIN 5N1AR2MMXDC612516
2009 Nissan Rogue VIN JN8AS58V49W176592
2005 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM56495A118401
2011 Ford Fusion VIN 3FAHP0JA3BR254381
2005 Dodge Ram 2500 VIN 3D7KR28C95G722892
2010 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA1F55AH539986
2011 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA1F5XKH533179
The sale will be held at Early's on Park Avenue 536 Park Avenue Worcester, MA 01603 01/30, 02/06, 02/13/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 160 Bentley Road, Barre, MA 01005 and Assessor's Parcel E-136
By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian August Gentile to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. d/b/a Norcom Mortgage, and now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, said mortgage dated June 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62641, Page 174, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc., d/b/a Norcom Mortgage to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment dated February 27, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68864, Page 169; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on March 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings and improvements thereon situated at 160 Bentley Street, Barre, Massachusetts, more particularly bounded and described as follows:
PARCEL 1
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #1 on a "Plan of Lots Owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley", drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows: viz:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof, at a corner of stone walls and in the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE N. 59° 46' E. along a stone wall and other land of said Bentleys 125 feet to a corner;
THENCE N. 18° 45' W. Along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #8 on said Plan, 115 feet to a corner;
THENCE S. 59° 46' W. along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #2 on said Plan 125.3 feet to a point in a stone wall on the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE S. 19° 05' E. along the line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.
Said premises are to be used for residential purposes only, and are conveyed subject to the restriction that no dwelling house or portion thereof shall be erected or maintained within 40 feet of the easterly line of Bentley Street.
Subject to all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record, insofar as the same may be in force and applicable.
PARCEL 2
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #2 on a "Plan of Lots owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley", drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows: viz:
BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof at a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of said street, at the northwesterly corner of Lot designated as #1 on the aforementioned plan;
THENCE North 59° 46' east along the northerly line of said Lot #1, 123.3 feet to

a corner;
THENCE North 18° 45' west along other land of said Bentleys, being the westerly line of lot designated as #7 on said plan, 115 feet to a corner;
THENCE South 59° 46' west along other land of said Bentleys, being designated as Lot #3 on said plan, 125.6 feet to a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of Bentley Street;
THENCE South 19° 05' east along the easterly line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.
For title reference see Deed record herewith.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 15, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62641, Page 170.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025



Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.
Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.
The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more.
The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhama.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhama.com.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.
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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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A very sincere
Thank You

to everyone and anyone who in any way contributed to making the loss of our son,
Bill Robinson, Jr.,
more bearable.

The floral arrangements, money donations, the tributes and the masses said for him daily are so much appreciated.

He is now in heaven with our Lord and he is now at peace.

*Thank you and God Bless,
The Robinson Family.*