

From the pastor's desk ... The 12 Step Program & the Door to God

The founder of AA, Bill Wilson often said that Reverend Samuel Shoemaker's early teachings did much to inspire him and Dr. Bob, the other founder of AA. And, that from Shoemaker, he and Dr. Bob absorbed most of the Twelve Step principles.

Later, Wilson added that the early AA movement learned about moral inventory, amends for harm done, turning their wills and lives over to God, meditation and prayer from Shoemaker. Finally, Bill wrote to Sam himself in 1963: "The Twelve Steps of A.A. simply represented an attempt to state in more detail, breadth, and depth, what we had been taught—primarily by you" and said: "Without this, there could have been nothing—nothing at all."

Shoemaker was the Episcopal Rector at Calvary Church in New York, the church which operated Calvary Rescue Mission where both Bill Wilson and his "sponsor" Ebby Thacher made their decisions for Christ.

Bill Wilson actually asked Sam Shoemaker to write the Twelve Steps; but Sam declined, saying the Steps should be written by an alcoholic, namely, Bill. Then, when Bill had completed the Big Book manuscript, he circulated it to Sam for review prior to publication.

But Shoemaker did write this poem years later:

"I stand by the door.

I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out.

The door is the most important door in the world.

It is the door through which people walk when they find God."

Looking ahead ... worship in April Mark your calendars ... special services this month.

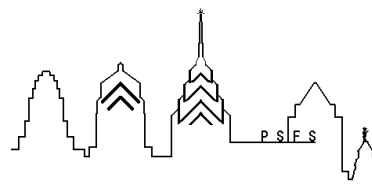


April 8: Communion and the celebration of young people receiving communion after completing their "communion education class." Message: "what is the meaning of communion?"

April 15: Annual Baseball Sunday - the message will focus on a baseball theme and we will sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame"
- remember to wear your favorite team's gear!



April 22: We will share pictures and stories from this year's youth mission trip to Philadelphia.



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From a resident at Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation (where pastor Scott works 6 hours/ week) ... Barbara Preite asked if we would run her thoughts on "hate" in our newsletter.

Hate ... How can this "small" word, cause such "powerful" emotion and result, at times, into destructive outcomes. Where does it begin?? ... childhood ... the people or things one gets involved with ... an incident ... Understanding its beginning is "key." Finding a path away from it is, vital!! Hate consumes the "life." It causes the "free flow of creativity to stop!" Health is compromised and freedom may be lost. The internet, television shows watched, even music can either stir hate or bring calm understanding. Confronting what or who hates is the first step. One may need help, dissecting hate within. Trust, with someone, can ease its intensity. Hate gets you nowhere. It truly is a self-defeating emotion.

From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry

You are invited to connect with each other and our community!

Healing Ministry

- **PrayerConnect** – Do you need spiritual support or a reflective moment? Perhaps just some daily words of encouragement? You can receive this daily reflection...And it can come to you privately in your email-of-choice each day, Monday through Friday. Why not sign up and see what can come? You can catch the three weekly editions on Facebook at this address: <https://www.facebook.com/woodridgePrayerconnect>

Associate Pastor Sermon Series upcoming

- **April 29 & May 6** – “How is God Important to Us?”
- **June 17, 24, & July 1** - TBA

Music Ministry

- **Choir & Chimes** *Thursday rehearsals continue on April 12 ...Chimes 6:30 pm in the sanctuary...Choir 7:30 pm in the music room. We need more to join!*
- **‘Prime Time’ Chimes group** – rehearsals Sundays, right after worship in our sanctuary!
- **Do you play an instrument?** We are looking to build up the “band”. How about you?

Hallelujah Chorus – Many thanks to the 30+ people that came together for our famous “Hallelujah Chorus” gathering for the 9th year in a row!

Please continue to pray for all our ministries, that they will grow and expand into many places, guided by the Spirit. Amen!

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bob

Email: nolan062400@gmail.com

Phone: (401) 339-6134

Christian Education & Youth News

Upcoming Events! Mark Your Calendar

April 16-20 - Senior High Mission Trip, in Philadelphia.

April 8 - Sun. First Communion Celebration

May 20 - Sun. Confirmation Ceremony at Edgewood, during 10am service.

June 3 - Sun. Confirmation Ceremony at Woodridge, during 10am service.



Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of the church through pledges, offerings and special gifts. Keeping your support up-to-date even when circumstances keep you away from church on Sunday is very much appreciated.



WARRANT

A Special Meeting of
Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ
will be held on **Sunday, April 15, 2018**,
in the sanctuary immediately after the worship service
at which time the following agenda will be in order:

1. To hear a report on the pew project from the Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds Department.
2. To vote on funding the purchase of new pews and flooring in the sanctuary.

Holly Cole, Clerk

Marsha S. Southard, Moderator

Our 36th Almost May Breakfast

Saturday, April 28th - 8:00-11:00 AM

***Menu: Eggs, Frittatas, Johnny Cakes, Waffles, Ham, Sausage,
Corned Beef Hash, Home Fries
Homemade Baked Beans, Homemade Strudel & Muffins, Coffee,
Tea, Juice, Milk***

Tickets: \$9 Adults Children (3-10) \$5

Help make this event another great success:

***Volunteers are needed to bake, prepare food, serve, set up and
clean up.***

***Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex and will be enclosed in
Sunday bulletins.***

Tickets are on sale now.

See Deb Scipione or Courtney Lombardi for both!

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***A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Irish/Italian Night.
We could not have done without you! Our Net Profit is \$2486.68.***

Sincerely,

***Deborah Scipione,
Chair Membership & Fellowship***

Service Committee update

Members of Woodridge Church continue to volunteer at the Interfaith Food Pantry on the second Saturday of each month. Our next food pantry Saturday is **April 14th**.

Our Lenten Collection for the [Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center](#) continues:

- Collection Boxes are set up in Narthex and Fellowship Hall
- Requested Items include: disinfecting wipes, disposable mops, sponges, paper towels, toilet paper, table napkins, trash bags, Murphy's oil soap and laundry detergent
- Items may be donated now through **April 8th**



Deadline for our next (May) issue – April 23; to be mailed/emailed the end of April.

Visit our website for the year-to-date financial report, latest board meeting minutes, birthdays & anniversaries and the prayer list:

www.woodridgechurchri.org

For the latest news, to be added to their email list, and most anything else about the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ, visit their website:

www.ricucc.org

Woodridge Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

A Caring and Welcoming Community



Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/woodridgecongregational

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