

The Crossnore Chronicle

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The Communication Team of Crossnore Presbyterian Church publishes the Crossnore Chronicle quarterly: Editors Betty Redman France and Fred France.



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The Time has Come

By Betty Redman

“The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things:
Of shoes and ships-and sealing wax-of cabbages and kings
And why the sea is boiling hot and whether pigs have wings.”

(Verse 11 of the poem, “The Walrus and the Carpenter” from Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll, 1871)

Most of us are familiar with this poem of trickery and selfishness. The Walrus is a distinguished but heartless character out to get whatever he can no matter who he hurts. The Carpenter is not the brightest one on the scene, but his motives are the same. The poem is nonsensical, and the world depicted in it is upside down and backward. If you read the complete poem, you will find that the Walrus is feasting on all the oysters surrounding him as he sits on a rock in the water, giving no thought to how they feel. Think about it.

The time has come: to consider what is going on in our world, a world that seems topsy turvy.

The time has come: to see how many of our brothers and sisters live, all God’s children, and try to put ourselves in their places.

The time has come: to ask ourselves, “Why are we in this state of confusion and controversy?”

The time has come: to “Be Still and Know That I Am God.”

The time has come: to listen, to be open, to recognize what God may be saying to us.

The time has come: to step up, to be brave, to be willing to put aside self and pride.

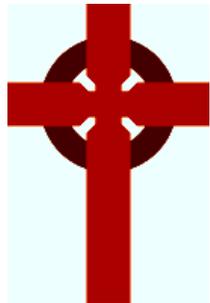
The time has come: to answer in whatever way we can to help to make conditions better.

The time has come: for us to begin to confront the evil permeating our world, to help eliminate racial injustice, individually and institutionally.

The time has come: to play our part in a moral revolution.

The Giving Time

By Betty Redman



Some of us have received the Presbyterian Giving Catalog for 2020 and 2021. In it, you can find many ways to join in the PCUSA mission around the world. Feeding the hungry, comforting those who are sad, and sharing our faith is demonstrated by giving in love through gifts. It may seem that as an individual, you cannot be of much help because the need is so great. The catalog provides ways to join with others to be effective. For instance, try *Links of Love. What is it?* “People across the country are connecting their generous actions and reaching out, joining with one another and people in need all over the world. Each decision to give results in a paper link joining with others in an illustration of how we are connected.” (*Presbyterian Giving Catalog, Page 3.*) The challenge is to circle the globe with a paper chain of Links of Love. You can learn about this by visiting: <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/links-of-love/>.

Or maybe you might like to be a part of the Coop Club. Joining is easy and faster than boiling an egg. You can give a family of chickens each month, or you can give an egg a day. Page 13 of the Giving Catalog has all the information and can answer the question, "Why did the chicken cross the globe?" There are many other ways to give through the Presbyterian Church, USA. Know that ninety-eight percent of your gift goes to the project you choose because our church has the organization, staff, and structure in place to make it happen.



Looking at the World from Different Perspectives

By Betty Redman

I grew up in a small town in North Carolina during the Great Depression, which I knew nothing about until much later when I studied history. The sheltering was not intentional. It was just that since I knew nothing different, I was happy with the way things were. I never felt deprived, but I recognized as I grew older that it was because, compared to many others, I was not.

Christmas time for my family was much simpler than it is today. There were three children in the family, and each child could ask for one item for Christmas. For years, my request was for a doll. We all had Christmas stockings filled with candy canes, oranges, and an assortment of candies and nuts. No stocking toys. My father insisted that we eat breakfast before being allowed in the living room where the Christmas tree and gifts were.

When we entered the living room, no toys were in sight. My father would say, "Betty, look under the cushion of the blue chair." I would look and find a note that said, "Betty, look in the piano bench." And there would be another note. After several messages, there was one that led to the doll I had requested. It was great fun. My brother and sister would go through the same routine to find their gift. When I visit families at Christmas today, I find that gift-giving has risen to a newer and higher level. Piles of gifts extend out from the tree far enough sometimes to take up half the room. I am always amazed.

I see Christmas from a different perspective



Another thing I remember vividly is that my mother would answer a knock on the door to see someone or two or three someone(s) standing there asking, "Do you have any food you can spare?" Mother never turned them away. They did not come in but sat on our steps while she prepared whatever she could to feed them. It happened many times, and I never knew why they were hungry, where they came from, or where they were going. No one ever told me, so I had no answers until I studied history and realized that they were homeless

and hungry due to the economy's conditions - the Depression.

To this day, I am conservative with food and anything else, even though I was never hungry. I even save aluminum foil if it is not dirty and carefully smooth it out, and fold it for another time. I can take a few leftover vegetables from the refrigerator and make a great soup. Do I have to do all these "saving" things? No, but I grew up in an era when throwing out any food was a big NO, NO.

I see hunger from a different perspective



There was a Presbyterian-related black college in my hometown. Barber-Scotia. I walked by it on my way home from school. The boys and girls would often be outside playing games or talking with each other, all nicely dressed and clean. Our pastor had one of the young people visit our church and sing in our choir. I also sang in the choir from the time I was about 12 years old, so I got to know them a little as we practiced. I wondered why white people separated black people from us—why we went to different schools and different churches. I asked my mother. She responded, "They are all right, in their place." I thought, "Where is their place?"

I have a personal perspective on racism issues.

The point of all this personal information is that we all look at life differently. It depends on who you are and where you came from, and how those varying conditions affected your life and affect your perspectives on many issues facing us today. It behooves all of us to respect the differences in people.



It is also necessary for all of us to work lovingly to change perspectives that are destructive to individuals and the community at large. We do not live in isolation, although it may seem so as we endure the limits imposed upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic. We live in a community and contribute to the community's health in good or bad ways. Everyone has rights in a community, so we ask, "How far do my rights extend in the community?" The answer is, "As far as it can go without adversely affecting others: another individual or the community as a whole."

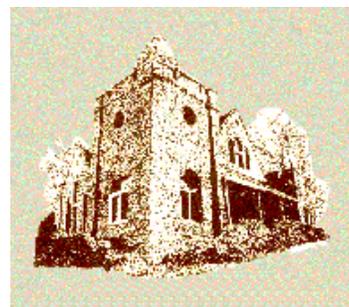
Turkeys, Christmas Pudding and Black-eye Peas

By Betty Redman

From Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, our dining room tables in most of our homes will be laden with food. As we give thanks and bless the food, we may also remember to pray for the hungry and homeless multitudes. Presbyterians around the world, including Crossnore Presbyterian Church, will find ways to work towards relieving hunger and homelessness.

At our church, we donate to food banks, give away food baskets at Thanksgiving, work with *Habitat for Humanity* to build homes, and *Meals on Wheels* to deliver food to the homebound and needy. These are all ways that we can show God's love. Thus we feed their souls as well as their bodies.

Poverty, and the hunger and homelessness it brings, has always been a crisis that many Presbyterians have tried to ease with food pantries or seasonal, make-shift shelters. But as 2021 approaches, the work to eradicate poverty becomes more crucial, significantly as the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic worsens living conditions worldwide." (Presbyterians Today, "Pandemic Heightens work of *Matthew 25*", p. 25")



Congregational members are becoming more aware of the words of Jesus in *Matthew 25, Chapter: 25: 31-40*: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Our General Assembly held an online gathering focused on eradicating systemic poverty in the United States in September. Led by The Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the gathering addressed poverty, dismantling racism, and building congregational vitality. The issue of poverty is more about the problems that bring about poverty. It is more than just feeding the hungry. "Folks living in poverty do need food, but they also need access to jobs, transportation, fair wages, affordable housing, education, racial justice, and more," says The Rev. Rebecca Barnes, coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Presbyterian churches all over the United States are working with each other, with other faith groups, with local and federal agencies to take steps toward living out the mandate in *Matthew 25*. It takes churches, schools, local agencies, the police, and local businesses to address the issues to carry out the work. Each has a role, and not one can do it alone.

This information is from a story in the November/December issue of Presbyterians Today, a publication of the Presbyterian Church USA. The magazine features stories of what Presbyterian churches and agencies and

individual Presbyterians are doing worldwide. When we read these stories, we realize that our donations of money are multiplied many times through the work of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our World Has Changed

By Fred France

The world is a different place in many ways than it was just a short time ago. We took for granted the ease of moving from place to place - virtually anywhere in the world. No longer valid as countries try to slow the spread of contagion. We now have vaccines that can make us immune from the disease – unless it mutates beyond the scope of the two we have. Many people in our country are food insecure, worried about losing their homes, and being on the street. We cannot solve this with a band-aid approach. And yet, that is the way we are attempting to solve our problems.

We must be ready to confront this sort of situation in the future. Viruses, bacteria, insects, plants, animals, various other diseases will continue to move around the earth with ever-increasing speed. In a sense, it is like we are living in Pangea. Our local flora and fauna (including us) will have to adapt to the speed of these challenges and changes – we must adapt, or our world will die.

Coastlines change, water and food are becoming scarcer, ocean currents are shifting, and climates worldwide are altering. If we continue along the path of isolation and self-interest, global problems will not/cannot be solved. Localities will die. We are living in an interdependent world - a space station of sorts, an aquarium. We must learn, grow, and follow the science.

As we enter this new year, remember the task(s) set for us. We are custodians of the earth. We are our brothers keepers. Remember that Jesus said that the greatest commandment was LOVE. We are entering, and are in, difficult times. We must try to love our neighbor. Getting through the difficult times ahead will not happen if we cannot work together, and if we forget to love our neighbor as ourselves. And our neighbors are everywhere. The whole earth is our neighborhood, and we are its custodians.

