



## The Second Church of Plymouth, Manomet, MA

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Office Hours: M 9am-5pm

Available by appointment M-F 9am-5pm

Food Pantry Hours: M - 10am - 12pm

### The Bell

August 2024

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From Pastor Bruce

### Stingers

*There is a fine balance between honoring the past and losing yourself in it.*

*For example, you can acknowledge and learn from mistakes you made,  
and then move on and refocus on the now.*

*It is called forgiving yourself.*

*Eckhart Tolle*

When we lived in Indiana we had an inground swimming pool. It was older and, while a lot of fun for my boys and their friends, it was also a lot of work for me. The only time I minded the effort was when my boys left home, and the pool was largely unused. One Fall, while preparing what the Beverly Hillbillies called a "cee-ment pond" for its annual winter hibernation, I got a big surprise. I reached into the skimmer to wipe it clean and got stung on the finger! I got stung by a bee that had been dead for quite some time. His last defiant act before drowning was to aim that curved, venomous little barb in the general direction of the next sucker (Me!) to invade his memorial. Dead or not, it hurt! It also has made me think about how many times I get stung by something that I thought was safely dead and tucked far away from where it could reach me.

Positive attitude and outlook are essential and delicate parts of human survival. They are often undermined by a firmly planted stinger from the past. That is why I'm constantly amazed at how easily I can be brought down by a word or situation that serves as a direct pipeline to a past failure or uncomfortable situation. I have discovered that an important part of what much of life (faith, parenting, teaching, . . .) is all about is seed planting. What seeds am I sowing? In what type of soil? What foundation am I laying? My every single gesture, situation and comment is either a seed or stinger that could pop up at any time in the future. Scary, isn't it?

"The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be," wrote a man named Paul Valery. One can only guess at his original intent, especially since I lost, long ago, the article in which I originally found that line. It does provide a tongue - in- cheek look at our strenuous desire to keep a strangle-hold on the past. I had a Sociology Professor in college who told us on the first day of class that he had no intention of teaching sociology. He was, he said, "equipping an army of futurists." Trying to avoid the stingers, though, requires a special kind of vigilance. Why? Because very often they pop up when we're least prepared to deal with them. We're looking to put the past in, well in the past, and a stinger breaks the skin of the present and threatens to infect the future. What do I do about it? Pour chlorine into the water, layer antiseptic on my finger and look east, to see what's next on the horizon.

*We are products of our past, but we don't have to be prisoners of it.*

*Rick Warren*

### Upcoming Events at Second Church

August 17<sup>th</sup> is the church Yard Sale from 9am to 2pm. Volunteers and donations are needed for this big fundraiser as well. Please contact the office for more information.



The Food Pantry is open!  
Mondays 10am-12pm



From your Life Deacon, Deborah LaBreck  
God is watching over you - because He cares for you!

## Gift of Love

If you want to honor or memorialize someone and aren't sure what to do, why not consider a Gift of Love. A Gift of Love is a donation made in someone's name, to the church. A letter is sent to the giver (these gifts are tax deductible) and an acknowledgement is sent to the honoree (or the family in the case of a memorial). If you are interested, please pick up a form in the narthex or contact the office.



We continue to have church in person and virtually on Sunday's at 10am. Come on in! Or check us out on Facebook via Second Church Virtual Services! If you have been watching, see you on Sunday! You can also watch the services on PACTV. Thursday at 8am and Sunday at 6pm. (Comcast channel 13 or Verizon channel 43)



You can watch services that have already happened!

It's easy to do. If you've never used YouTube, just type it in your search engine (Google, or whatever you use). Or go to youtube.com. In the search bar at the top of the screen, type in "second church of plymouth" and click on "Subscribe". Don't worry, it's free. Follow the prompts and you're in!

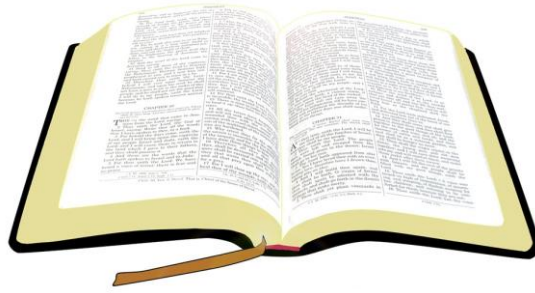
If you have any problem getting set up, please feel free to contact the office.



Visit us at [www.secondchurchofplymouth.org](http://www.secondchurchofplymouth.org) . Our goal with the website is to provide our visitors an easier way to learn about Second Church of Plymouth and what the church offers. The website contains our social media buttons for Facebook and YouTube. We are constantly updating our content with updated information on church events and announcements.

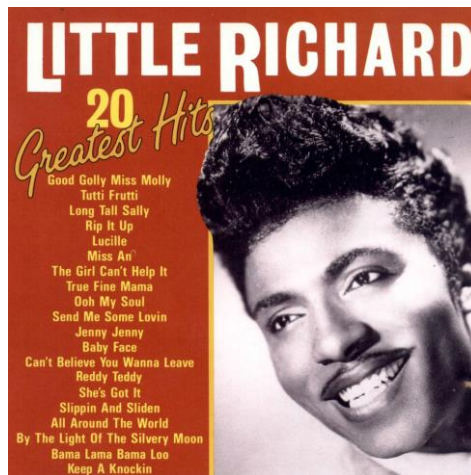
## Did you know - or ever think about?

Submitted by Ruthanne Gellar



One way to count the length of Jesus' ministry is to look in John's gospel. He refers to four Passovers: John 2:13, 5:1, 6:4, and 13:1.

This signifies that Jesus' ministry lasted at least three years.



Do you know what song these lyrics came from:  
"A-wop-bop-a-loo-mop-a-loop-bam-boom"  
Little Richard recorded "Tutti-Frutti" in September 1955.



Do you know that a group of frogs is called an army?



## Birthdays

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office.

August 11 - Tim English

August 12 - Erik Luke

August 15 - Peter Renaud

August 16 - Janette Johnson

August 22 - Hannah Giacomozzi

August 27 - Charlotte Dempsey

August 31 - Katie Ozelius

September 7 - Sean Walsh

Happy  
Anniversary



*A Life Celebration Home*

**Funeral Directors**

John J. Vincent, Jr.  
Daniel H. Holland  
Mary R. Aveni  
Heidie L. Grant  
Kathy Cartmell-Sirrico

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# August 2024

Second Church of  
 Plymouth  
 100 South  
 Plymouth, MA  
 02360

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 4 10am Church Service 7pm AA	5 10am Food Pantry	6 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	7 10am Class with Pastor Bruce "If Experience is Such a Good Teacher" 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	8 7pm Trustees 7pm AA	9 7pm AA	10 9am AA
11 10am Church Service 7pm AA	12 10am Food Pantry	13 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	14 10am Class with Pastor Bruce "If Experience is Such a Good Teacher" 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	15 7pm AA	16 7pm AA	17 9am Yard Sale 9am AA
18 10am Church Service 7pm AA	19 10am Food Pantry	20 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	21 10am Class with Pastor Bruce "If Experience is Such a Good Teacher" 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	22 7pm AA	23 7pm AA	24 9am AA
25 10am Church Service 7pm AA	26 10am Food Pantry	27 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	28 10am Class with Pastor Bruce "If Experience is Such a Good Teacher" 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	29 7pm AA	30 7pm AA	31 9am AA