

# The Harbinger

October 2009

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## MEMORY VERSE



## OF THE MONTH!

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:6



## Alpha

We have been talking a lot this year about fulfilling our vision of “Rescuing the Dying” through building intentional relationships in order to bring them to a place where you can easily, comfortably and naturally share the hope of Christ with them. I truly pray that you have been doing this over the past nine months and want to encourage you to do so more and more as there is something on the horizon that could be helpful...ALPHA.

Several churches on the island have begun meeting and discussing the possibility of joining together to put on an ALPHA course island-wide. For those of you who do not know or have never heard of ALPHA before, it is a tool that many churches have used to reach out into their community with the Gospel. It is a 10 week course, so to speak, to which you invite your friends and neighbors who do not know Christ or know much about Christianity. Here's how it works.

The evenings follow a rather strict structure of a general welcome and then sitting down to a simple meal together. This is followed up with a 30-40 minute video in which a gentleman by the name of Nicky Gumble talks about various aspects of Christianity. There are such topics as “Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant”, “Who is Jesus?”, “Why did Jesus Die?”, “Why and How should I read my Bible?”, “Why and How do I Pray?”, “Who is the Holy Spirit?”, “How can I make the most of the rest of my life?”, etc.

Once the video talks are over, people remain at the tables at which they are sitting and just have a free flowing discussion about what they just heard. There is a trained facilitator at each table who keeps the discussion going. But, and here is the important part, it is not a ‘question and answer’ format. People who do not know Christ or much about Christianity are allowed in this environment to ask any and every question they want with no fear of being judged, preached at or corrected. These are discussions that are intended to bring out what is on people's minds regarding Jesus and Christianity.

Over the weeks as the videos delve deeper and the tables become safe environments, people begin to open up and set aside their defenses and consider for themselves what they have been hearing and discussing. ALPHA is a tried and true non-threatening tool that thousands of churches have used to reach out into their communities (i.e. Rescue the Dying).

The hope is to begin an ALPHA course starting the week of February 22 through the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will take a lot of prayer, a lot of commitment and a lot of effort from each of the four churches involved (Church of our Father, Tremont Congregational, Bar Harbor Baptist, and SWHCC).

As your pastor, I would like to encourage you in several respects; first, hit your

knees! Be praying for this island-wide outreach, that the Holy Spirit will begin touching people to respond to your ALPHA initiation. Secondly, pray about and consider being involved as a point-person for our church. There are several areas that need help which include food for the mealtime each week, music, retreat organization (there is a one-day offsite event in the middle of the course), table facilitators, help with Publicity and church-wide Prayer. Thirdly, be thinking and praying for those people in your life that you could invite to the ALPHA evenings. I get asked fairly often, "How do I share my faith?" This is a common question and one that is hard to answer specifically because every person is different, with different gifts, different friends, etc.. However, ALPHA is a great start! It is a very non-threatening way to 'stand on the side of Christ' and introduce people to the one who has given you so much. So please consider all of the above and at the very least add this to your daily prayers.

**Pastor Blake Brown**

### **Helps for Worship #20: Tithes and Offerings**

William Shishko

**"Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts." (Psalm 96:8)**

In both the Old Testament (e.g., Ex. 25:2; 35:5; 1 Chron. 16:29) and the New Testament (e.g., 1 Cor. 16:1–2), offerings are treated as part of the worship of God. While some preachers and churches put an over-emphasis on giving (thus sickening people), others put too little emphasis on the subject, and thus disregard an important part of biblical teaching. Some churches do not even include an offering as part of worship, but prefer to put collection boxes at certain spots in the place used for worship. This eliminates the opportunity for people to give as *part of worship*—something tithes and offerings are meant to be.

The tithe (10 percent of one's income) and offerings (gifts above and beyond the tithe) are a response of thanks for God's good gifts to us. Some churches place the offering after the sermon, so that the giving of tithes and offerings might reflect the commitment of the whole person to what has been preached. However, this may create the false impression that the giver is paying for the sermon, or that the giving of the offering is a sufficient response to a message that actually demands the commitment of the entire life.

A good place to include the offering is after the sung response to the Lord's promise of forgiveness. It is at this point in worship that we are specifically impressed with what God has done for us. He has given his Son for our sins! "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). It is out of a strongly felt sense of those riches

in the gospel that we give our tithes and offerings.

Tithes and offerings also show our commitment to the kingdom of God. All that is given to the church, whether by the weekly offering or by other offerings (such as a monthly deacon's offering), is used to show the love and grace of Christ to others and to make provision for his ministry locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. In political gatherings, people give their money for kingdoms that will end; in the gatherings of God's people, gifts are given to further the kingdom that will never end. What a privilege it is to give our tithes and offerings!

#### **For Reflection**

1. Do you count it a privilege or a burden to give tithes and offerings?
2. Why does God, who is in need of nothing, ask us to give gifts to him?
3. Have you ever thought of tithes and offerings as part of worship? How are they a response of praise and thanks?

*The author is pastor of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Franklin Square, New York. Reprinted from New Horizons, July 2007.*



## **The Outreach Ministry**

Here's the latest from our outreach partners:

2. **Doug & Fran Palmetter**—Life Ministries, Orono Campus  
(from a September correspondence)

We are trusting God to use us and others to glorify Himself. Doug worked last weekend with a fraternity way up north on a retreat. He helped them focus on their values of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. God has given Doug 3 men from this fraternity to mentor. Doug is also meeting with four great Christian students. Please pray with us that God will fully grab their hearts with the truth of the gospel.

Thank you for all your love and support of us and the ministry. We see God at work almost every day in peoples' lives.

Please remember to pray for all our Outreach Partners.



## FELLOWSHIP DINNER

You'll want to plan now on saving the evening of **October 17th** for a potluck supper and special program sponsored by the Missions Ministry. After the supper we'll be showing a 52-minute DVD called "*Mama Heidi*."

This film features the ministry of Heidi and Rolland Baker in Mozambique, Africa. The Bakers have established orphanages and clinics and also have outreaches to street children and people who frequent the city dump. You will be both humbled and inspired by their testimony, but you will also be given a glimpse of the country where one of our outreach partners, Stuart and Sindia Foster, serve. It will give you a glimpse of what Mozambique is like and insight into some of the challenges the Fosters face. That's the monthly potluck supper **SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 at 6PM** followed by the "*Mama Heidi*" video. Bring a salad, entrée, or dessert to share at the supper, and bring your open heart to "*Mama Heidi*."



October 31st from 5PM—7PM

Plan to attend

Plan to help out



# HARVEST CARNIVAL



**Operation  
Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

A QUICK REVIEW OF PAST Mission's minutes revealed that we began supporting Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child in 1997. So, this is our 12th year of filling brightly decorated shoeboxes with gifts for needy children throughout the world! Here's what Franklin Graham, the founder, says about this popular outreach:

Seeing children's faces light up when they receive shoe box gifts is a joy that will never grow old for me. God has blessed Operation Christmas Child beyond anything we ever imagined. This Samaritan's Purse outreach would not be possible without the faithful prayers and unwavering commitment of individuals, families, churches, and groups throughout the United States. Millions of children are hearing the Good News of the Savior in our follow-up discipleship programs overseas, and many are coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you for making an eternal difference in these precious lives, **"for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"** (Matthew 19:14b NIV) God bless you!

By the way, in case you've ever felt these were just boxes of trinkets, and that there might not be much of eternal value in the program..... please read this additional word from Franklin Graham:

What happens after a child receives a gift box? Sharing the Good News of the Savior is our ultimate goal. Many boys and girls are introduced to Jesus Christ through Greatest Gift of All booklets handed out during shoe box distributions. Then through follow-up ministries conducted by local churches, children are invited to enroll in the Operation Christmas Child Discipleship Program. The lesson materials take children on an exciting journey through the Bible. After graduation, they receive their own New Testament books. Millions of children have made decisions to follow Jesus after participating in the program, and the impact continues to be far-reaching as entire communities are transformed by the power of God's love.

**Sounds pretty exciting, doesn't it?!**

Our church's collection date this year is **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15th**. We know money is tight for everyone right now, but please consider doing this for a little one who has nothing. We'd like to collect at least 30 boxes, so start shopping now! Extra empty shoeboxes are appreciated—just leave them in the back of the church. Following are some box-packing instructions.

*Its Simple to*  
**Pack a Shoe Box**

1. **SHOE BOX** Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), **but wrapping is not required**. Most important, pray for the child who will receive your gift.
2. **BOY or GIRL?**  
Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Use the appropriate boy/girl label from the brochure. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box. If you need additional labels, make photocopies or download from our Web site.
3. **FILL WITH GIFTS**  
Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. We've listed gift suggestions to help give you some ideas.
4. **INCLUDE YOUR DONATION**  
Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You can use the inserted donation envelope or you can give online through our EZ Give method. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation..
5. **DROP OFF**  
Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and bring to church on **Sunday, November 15th**.

**DO NOT INCLUDE:**

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out of date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

**Gift Suggestions:**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

**TOYS**

Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

**HYGIENE ITEMS**

Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

**OTHER**

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

**A PERSONAL NOTE**

In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)



## BLONE BROWNIES

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 cup flour             | 1 3/4 cup butter      |
| 1/2 teas. Baking powder | 1 cup brown sugar     |
| 1/8 teas baking soda    | 1 egg slightly beaten |
| 1/2 teas. Salt          | 1 teas. Vanilla       |
| 1/2 cup chopped nuts    | 1/2 pkg. choc chips   |

Melt butter, mix in sugar and cool. Stir in egg & vanilla. Add dry ingredients, nuts and choc. Chips. Mix well & spread in greased 9"x9" pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes.  
(Butterscotch bits can also be added, if desired)

## OATMEAL CRISPIES

- Thoroughly cream:
- 1 cup shortening
  - 1 cup brown sugar
  - 1 cup white sugar
- Add:
- 2 eggs beaten
  - 1 teas. Vanilla
- Beat well and add:
- 1 1/2 cups sifted flour
  - 1 teas salt
  - 1 teas soda
- Add:
- 3 cups oatmeal
  - 1/2 cup chopped nuts

Chill in log—rolls or drop on ungreased cookie sheet.  
Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

## SAUSAGE BALLS

- 10 oz. sharp or extra sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 lb bulk sausage (I use Jimmy Dean & add ab out 1 TBLS of olive oil)
- 2 cups Bisquick

Cook sausage & oil until no longer pink. Mix cheese & Bisquick. Add sausage. Mix and form into balls. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.



## News from the den

By Chaz Reed

Our church is such a generous church! And with such a heart for the youth of this community.

We had a plan to take 7 youth (mostly non-Christian) to the Inside Out Soul Festival. The youth ministry thought it would be a good idea to submerge them in a Christian worldview that pervades every facet of life – entertainment, mission, conversation, meals, camping, fires, etc. And, with your help, we were able to do just that.

\$250 per person is a stiff price to impose on teens and their families, especially when there are a couple families sending more than one youth. And you, the Southwest Harbor Congregational Church, helped us make the burden much lighter through your giving spirit. Through the donation of bottles for our bottle drive, crafts and food for our table at the Quietside Festival, and straight-up cash, we raised over \$400! Thank you so much!

We are, in the course of the next few months, working toward introducing you to the teens who show their faces here on Wednesday nights, Sunday afternoons, and our scheduled outings. There will be “compassion child” like cards on the youth board with the teens’ pictures and basic info: name, age, short bio, etc. These will be for you to take home with you, if you so choose, to aid you in praying for this rising generation. They will also help you to recognize these kids on the street, in Walmart, and – who knows? – maybe even in church so you can say, “Hi.” You can make them feel welcome.

Check the youth board in the fellowship hall for updates, ways you can continue to pray for the ministry, opportunities for us to help each other, etc. And thank you again for your overwhelming generosity!

Our next fundraiser is October 17th—a Bottle Drive.

If you want us to stop by your house, let Chaz Reed 244-0210 or Kirk Ritter 244-9176 know.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



The September meeting of Women's Fellowship was Wednesday, September 9 at 7:30pm. The topic was 'Who Does Depression Hurt', a discussion led by Dr. Diehl Snyder. The meeting was scheduled in the evening so that people who work or with young children could come.\* Judging from the number of people who came (39) it was obvious that the subject was one which interested many. One of the most valuable points made was that there is a deep spiritual aspect to treating depression which is equally as important as the physical. Dr. Snyder was generous with his time and answered many questions with tact and humor, and abundantly shared his love for Christ.

The October meeting will be on Thursday, October 15th also in the evening at 6:00pm.\* It will be at Kay Woody's house, 244-9469, for directions. We will have a potluck supper, a time of prayer, possibly a game or two and a DVD called 'Finding Home' an absorbing story set in Maine. We hope many will come and enjoy the pleasure of being together. Bring your Bibles. ALL are welcome.



November 14th  
(Rain date November 21st)  
9AM start  
Noon lunch by Joan Alexander  
See you there!

## LET US GET TO KNOW YOU!



### Chaz Reed

#### How did you become a Christian?

I grew up in a Christian home. We went to the local Nazarene church every Sunday where, believe it or not, I had to wear a clip-on tie. Very snazzy. But it wasn't at my home church where I was ultimately born again. At a small Baptist church down the road they held a VBS every year. In the summer just before third grade, I learned about flannel-board Joseph and how he was a type of Christ, saving his whole family even though his brothers didn't deserve it. John, our VBS teacher, told us that Christ has done the same for us, but that he had to actually die for us to be saved. It was the first time I truly felt the weight of my own sin. I was ashamed that Jesus had to go through all that for me, that he got what I deserved. But I was thankful, too. And so, when they led us through the sinner's prayer that Thursday, I repented of my sins, thanking Jesus for his sacrifice, and committing to follow his lead as my Lord. Pretty basic conversion story. But, you know what? Angels sang that day! Because of what Christ had done 2,000 years ago for me! Someday I will visit them and sing, too. In heaven, even Bob Dylan can sound glorious!

#### Besides Jesus, who or what had the most impact on your life? Why?

Kent Davis. He was the greatest youth pastor I have ever known. And I don't even remember if he was a good teacher or not!

I was an awkward teenager. I was the biggest kid in my class, had no social graces whatsoever, and just didn't know where I fit in. In other words, I was typical. I first attended Kent's youth group when I was 13. It was a barbecue, followed by a game called "spoons." I had never played and didn't really want to learn. Kent sat and talked with me for 3 hours – about anything and everything: the bike I just built, my comic book collection, my love for soccer. It was great! I really have no idea what his basic theology was. I didn't listen too well when he taught. I was the typical teen who goofed off and didn't pay much attention. But I do know two things - Kent loved Christ, and Kent loved me. And that love he had for me helped anchor me to Christ through the rough years of adolescence. I so wish Kent was still a youth pastor!

John Piper. More than any other theologian since Paul, John Piper has molded me. I read his works and am blessed by his deep love for Jesus, for missions, and for investing in the next generation. And he's a great writer to boot. Piper has helped me to understand that seeking God's glory and the underlying desire to be happy are not two different ends – that I can have my cake and eat it, too. Glorifying God AND enjoying him are one and the same goal. As Piper puts it, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him." I tend to live in my head too much. My heart is often not affected by my theology. John Piper showed taught me to wed head and heart. Now I'm better able to think WITH FEELING!

My mom. I grew up in a somewhat Christian home. My father has always basically believed in God, but he has never really felt the need to consistently attend church, search the Scriptures, or disciple his family. It was my mom who rose to the occasion. I was not always a good boy, but she would discipline me with Bible verses on her lips. She read her Bible every morning. We would always open at her place at the table, often covered in flour or other food things dropped on it in her preparation for the family breakfast. And my mother was, and has continued to be, a fervent prayer warrior. I would hear her at night crying, praying for the souls of her children and her husband. And her perseverance has paid off. She has a husband (my father!) who now attends church more often than not, a son (me!) pursuing a ministerial calling, and 3 other children (two daughters and a son). The prayer of a righteous (wo)man appears to avail much!

#### Do you have a life verse(s)? If so, what is it/are they and why?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

*"Listen up, children of God!*

*"GOD is our God! GOD the one and only!*

*"Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got!*

*"Write these commandments that I've given you today, the very Word of God, on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then diligently work to get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates."*

These verses remind me what my charge as the father to my children is. I fall so short of my calling, but these verses keep my eyes on the goal – my diligently working to get the very Word of God into the hearts of my children by making the very Word of God unavoidable. It is to cross over into every facet of my life. It's to be constantly on my lips, hit every part of the day, affect my

body, be placed where my eyes can't avoid it. In other words, I need to see the world through Scripture tinted glasses. And the hope is that this will be the inheritance I leave to my children – they will wear these same glasses and share with their children what they see. Multi-generational faithfulness (google it!) starts now.

**Tell us about the journey that brought you to this church.**

I was pastoring a small church in Bridgton Maine. Kari and I had begun the work two years prior and felt overwhelmed. I needed more training, more education, more mentoring. So I was looking for a church who held similar theological convictions that was willing to help me grow. And I found one! And I was hired! This is the best job I've ever had! In the famous words of Sally Fields: "They like me! They really, really like me!" Thank you all for two wonderful years, with many more to come.

## **Pat Lewis**

**How did you become a Christian?**

How did I become a Christian?.....That's kind of a hard question to answer, because somehow I always knew that God was there. Even from my childhood I somehow knew someone was watching over me.

I was born at M. D. I. Hospital in Bar Harbor, Me., in 1942. Most of the adult men were away in the service of their country at that time, or were soon going. In a small, rural area such as the island, there was not always enough work to provide adequate housing or food, so it was difficult for many families. Also, it had not been encouraged for women to work outside the home, so I think my family found it very difficult to have a baby to worry about at this time. Three years later I would have a brother. Over the years we became pretty close to each other.

As I grew older, I had a great deal of responsibility and by eleven, I was doing household chores, getting meals, and taking care of my brother as best as I could. Sometimes I resented doing that when I wanted to just go play, but even then, I knew someone watched over me, although I'm not sure I knew who.

So I guess I would have to say, there was really no "magic moment" for me, but a steady knowledge of a "guardian" who was always there.

Being in school and learning, for me, was a great thing. I loved it. I could learn, make friends and be relatively happy. In high school, I had a teacher, that took an interest in me (Maybe because I was his top student), but I babysat for him and his wife and got to see another kind of life. I remember him letting me drive his bright red convertible one day, to pick up some items for our class. What a thrill!...Spiritually however, I was still lacking knowledge.

Around ten years later, through a bible study that my brother and his wife had at their house, I feel was the beginning of a thirst of what God's word was and how it applied to my life. Bit by bit, I dug, asked questions, studied as best I could, looking for real knowledge. It has been a journey since then. Sometimes not making the progress I had hoped, but to persevere on and hope to do better than before. My journey continues to today, and I have learned much, but I have much yet to learn, so I continue.

**Do you have a life verse(s)? If so, what is it/are they and why?**

My favorite verse is Psalm 121. It has seen me through much and makes me know there is nothing that can happen to me, but what the Lord knows and cares. He is truly, the only one that can satisfy your soul. He is the only one who will not leave you to face perils alone and when God is with you, it's a majority.

**Tell us about the journey that brought you to this church.**

The journey that brought me to SWHcc, is really simple. It was here when I was a child and I was in the brownies/girl scouts. Our meetings were held here. Later, Carey and I were married here. I was baptized here, as was our son. Then years later, our son and daughter-in-law were married here. This church is a very important part of my life..





# Harvest Carnival 2009

## Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

### 5:00pm~7:00pm

The weather has gotten a little colder and the leaves are starting to fall. That can only mean one thing. It is time to start planning the Harvest Carnival. We set-up games and contests in the basement of the church and have loads of prizes and candy for everyone who comes. This is a safe environment for families as well as a great opportunity to introduce members of the community to our church. Watch the October bulletin for invitation postcards that you can pass out to the families on your street.

We need a lot of help from the SWHCC community to pull off a fun evening filled with games and activities. We will need volunteers to help run the games, pass out prizes, and distribute snacks from the kitchen. Jobs include everything from wrapping packages to decorating the downstairs. It would also be helpful to have some of the prizes and finger foods donated. Below is a brief "wish list". There will be a sign-up list at coffee fellowship after Worship starting on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Preparation and Participation Jobs:

- ◆ Wrap 4 packages with several layers of newspaper and wrapping paper for the game "Pass the package"
- ◆ Help the Local Outreach Ministry with decorating the fellowship hall on October 31<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Four people to bake two dozen cupcakes each for decorating at the party
- ◆ Volunteers to man the apple-bobbing, Jumbo Yahtzee game, cupcake decorating stations, and other games.

#### Items Needed:

- ◆ Cornstalks and squashes for decorating
- ◆ Bags of candy
- ◆ Four gallons of cider
- ◆ Finger sandwiches
- ◆ Potato chips and popcorn
- ◆ Vegetable and fruit platter



FROM THE HYMN  
CORNER  
FOR October  
Sandy Johnson

‘HOLY, HOLY,  
HOLY’

## Reginald Heber

Born 1783 – Died 1826, Church of England  
bishop, now remembered chiefly as a hymn-  
writer.



*“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty who was, and is and is to come” (Rev.4:8)*

Worship has been studied in a past adult Sunday school class taught by Pastor Blake which was excellent. There have been explanations in our Sunday bulletins for different parts of our worship service which have also been very helpful. When I think about coming into God’s House to worship, my heart has been changed. I am going to God’s House to bless and magnify HIM! Do I bring my water bottle to church? Would I do that if I were meeting the President? Do I continue to talk to those around me just before the service begins, or do I quiet my heart and pray to really hear what God wants to teach me? Some good questions for me to ask of myself each week as I enter the sanctuary!

One person who ‘got it right’ was Reginald Heber born (in England to a wealthy family) over 200 years ago who wrote the text for the hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy.” It was said of him that ‘he was distinguished by a sweet disposition, obedient and trusted in God’s providence which was a strong character mark at a young age. He could read the Bible with fluency at 5 years old which he studied with fervor and had a wonderful memory of its contents, amazing his parents. His passion for books was insatiable from the moment he could read.’ Educated in Oxford, he wrote, published and won many prizes for both Latin and English poetry.

Ordained in 1807, he served as a vicar for 16 years and was so “loved by his parishners, kneeling often at sickbeds at the risk of his life; where there was strife, the peacemaker; where there was want, the free-giver.” He and Amelia Shipley were married in 1809, also of wealthy and spiritual descent. It is said that he wrote all of his hymn writing during those 16 years. Later he contributed much to the writing of a dictionary of the Bible.

Off to India in 1822 with much reluctance, turning down two previous offers, he was appointed the Bishop of Calcutta (included all of India, Ceylon, and Australia). After reading several articles on Bishop Heber, I have found that he was known, not only for his extremely high intelligence and creativity, but possessed a great capacity for administration and judgment, was enthusiastic, witty, had boundless energy, not affected with piety.

After three years of traveling with his intense missionary fervor, Heber died suddenly at the age of 42 from a stroke while in his bath. I am amazed at all he accomplished in his short life! His widow published 57 of his hymns one year after his death as a tribute to his memory and faithful ministry.

“Worship is the cornerstone of a believer’s spiritual life. The bedrock of the local church is its worship service. It is only as a Christian truly worships that he begins to grow spiritually. Learning to worship and praise God, then should be a believer’s lifetime pursuit. Our worship reflects the depth of our relationship with God, learning to worship Him not only for what He is doing in our personal lives, but above all for who He is—His being, character and deeds” (from Amazing Grace). I feel that Bishop Heber could only write his hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy” as he had truly learned to worship God beautifully. Enjoy singing this hymn as you read the verses and praise God in worshipping Him. We will be doing that for all Eternity.

**“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”**

set to a stately Scottish air, Tennyson considered this hymn to be one of the finest ever written.

*“Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!  
Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.  
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky,  
and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!”*