

Pastor's Log 7-15-20

2 Timothy 1:8-10

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and **called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

As many of you know, I serve New Brunswick Presbytery as the chairperson of an Administrative Commission working with the Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. They are currently involved in the search for the person who will serve as their next pastor. While that person will be a contracted person, as Ann and I are, it is still referred to as "calling a pastor." This work, and the work we are doing here in our new congregation, brings up a number of questions around that word, "call."

What is a, or, the call? What does it mean to be called? Who does the calling, is it God? the people? an individual? the church? And, how are we called? Are we called by name? By what name shall we be called? And then, what is this holy calling that Paul writes of?

One of the basic tenants of our part of the Christian tradition is the concept of the priesthood of all believers. This protestant understanding is that each and every person is called to serve God, to live as Christ has taught us to life. In our particular Reformed part of this protestant understanding is the idea that while we are called to different kinds of ministry, according to the gifts and talents we have been given, we are all equally called. And, together, we are called to be the Body of Christ, where each of us is equally important to the whole.

We are called to witness to the presence of God's Kingdom in our midst, I the midst of all that is going on around us, and throughout our world. What does that say about how we are to live our own life, and our life together. My hope is that the visioning process that will show us the gifts and talents that this congregation is called to use in witnessing to the reign of Christ present in this world right now. We will learn how it is that we can meet the people of this community where they are in the midst of their lives to share this good news of the grace of God, and its power to change what has been into what God wishes for all. And in doing so we will hear not only what we are called to become, but we will hear the name by which this congregation shall be called. (yes, remember that the earliest name for the church of Jesus Christ was the Followers of the Way.)

Grace and Peace be with you,

Pastor Paul

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church is our official name for now

Please note that we are officially the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church. Share that news with your friends. Please use that name for all checks and other contributions to the church.

Join Don Lovett in Celebrating

Lawrence Michael Lovett-Capone arrived in Oxford, UK, at 5:36 am to celebrate Bastille Day. After a very long and difficult labour (yes, British spelling), mom and baby are doing fine. 7 lb. 9 oz.

Although he will go by the name 'Wren' (<https://www.starwars.com/databank/clan-wren>), he was named after his paternal grandfather and paternal great grandfather, who were both named Lawrence; and, both of his maternal grandfathers and his maternal great grandfather all had the middle name of Lawrence. Wren's middle name honors his Uncle Mike.

Please Support Anchor House Again This Year (Sandy and Jim have begun their ride.)

Hi Church Friends! This summer between July 11 and August 22 my husband Jim and I will be cycling 500 miles to support the mission of Anchor House. This is our third year helping to support this great cause.

Please consider supporting me by making a donation toward my goal of \$2,000 so that Anchor House can continue their mission to help children, teens, young adults and families.

Please visit my personal page:

<https://anchorhouseride.rallybound.org/Member/MyPage/3858685/Sandy-Pezzillo>

Or you can send a check made out to Anchor House to:

Sandy Pezzillo
10 Blackfoot Road
Pennington, NJ 08534

Thank you in advance for your support. I truly appreciate your generosity
Sandy Pezzillo