**Reflection**
by Kate Matthews

In the film, "Eat, Pray, Love" (based on the book by Elizabeth Gilbert), a woman goes on a personal quest that takes her to Italy, India, and Bali, where she, well, eats, prays, and loves. Perhaps she appropriately begins her spiritual journey not with strict, ascetic practices but with consuming big plates of pasta with unreserved gusto, for isn't physical hunger a good image for spiritual hunger? Eating--that most human and most necessary of activities--and all that we associate with it are entwined with our spiritual lives, so it's no surprise that meals and food are significant themes not just in the movies but in the Bible as well, including the Gospel of Luke.

Sitting here at dinner in the home of a Pharisee, with a dinner crowd of "good church members" who watch him with suspicion, Jesus makes

observations and gives advice that is really a clear instruction to us all about how to live in the reign of God: when making up our guest lists and deciding how to share the blessings we've received, don't be strategic. Don't go for reciprocity. Be extravagantly, forgetfully generous. Invite the most unlikely, most unexpected of guests into your home and share that most necessary, most enjoyable experience of eating together. "You will be blessed," Jesus says, repaid at the resurrection, for sure, but we sense that he's referring to more immediate blessings as well. Early in the film, "Eat, Pray, Love," the main character seems to realize that she's missing something in not being able to extend herself--to be present for--others. We might say that she hungers not just to count her blessings, but to be a blessing as well. In this week's reading, Jesus helps his followers understand where blessings are to be found, and how to live as a blessing as well.

**Upcoming Events**

* **Baptism Sept 1 Sunday worship service and baptism** Matt and Meredith Kew, and big sister, Caroline, will be bringing baby Warren, to be baptized during the service. Please come and welcome the family, and join in the promise of the community to bring Warren up in the love of God.
* **Memorial Service Saturday Sept 7th at 10 am. Tim Leach.** Tim was Ann Moser’s brother, and one of 8 children who grew up here in Mason. He died on July 26th at the age of 62, and after a long illness. Come share memories, and offer your support for the family. Interment will be in New Boston at 12 noon the same day as the service.
* **Save the Date September 12 @ 7:15 pm Button Up Workshop** is a 1 ½ hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of your home. It covers energy saving tips and NHSaves energy efficiency programs. Learn about saving electricity, insulation and air sealing, energy audit and weatherization programs, rebates on electric and gas appliances, and other incentives from NH’s energy utilities. NH residents that want to use energy wisely and save money will find this workshop invaluable! The workshop will take place Mason Church in downtown Mason—no parking fees! And there’s childcare too.
* **Sept 12th Thursday 5:30 to 7 pm Community Supper -** Bring a friend! This dinner will end at 7 but the fun doesn’t end there. Stay for the energy saving workshop. Menu is meat loaf, roasted potatoes, vegetable, and salad with apple crisp for dessert. Don’t let food sensitivities keep you home – Each community supper has a gluten-free, dairy-free, and nut-free entrée for our special guests.
* **Sept 14th 3:30pm Nashua Soup Kitchen** Meet in the church parking lot at 3:30 for carpooling to Nashua. We are usually back by 6:30 or 7pm. Share your love and energy in this outreach mission of our community. Contact Kathy Chapman, chapman.kathy@gmail.com or 878-4993 if you plan to go or need information. We welcome members of the community in this service mission.

#### Sept 21st 6:30 pm. Living Room Coffee House See website for full information <https://thelivingroomcoffeehouse.wordpress.com/> **Carl has been writing and perfecting his very distinctive and unique finger picking style for ten years. Its strong rhythmic backbone will have you moving, and his songs will have you singing the very first time you hear them. His songs are personal but possess a universal emotional connection to others. Outside of music, Carl makes a living as an engineer designing amusement rides and ski lifts.  His free time is spent writing and performing at area coffee houses, assisted living homes, and farmer’s markets.  He’s also part of the trio “Picket Hill”. Carl just completed his first solo CD “Ordinary Life”, whose songs have made it to Canadian and New Hampshire airways. His passion for songwriting led him to form the Brook House Songwriters’ Circle; providing community and inspiration to other local songwriters.**

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* **Curt Dunn** Curt is at the rehab center Courville, 44 West Webster Street in Manchester. Although he has trouble reading, he still loves cards, but of course, enjoys calls and visits even more. He is over the pneumonia, and lost strength while recovering, so don’t bring any germs with you! Courville phone is 647-5900
* **Welcome to new family in Mason,** Lisa and Brian Charbonneau, 130 Jeds Lane, Mason, NH 03048 878-1502. Welcome to Mason Church!
* **Susan and Jim Suokko** have moved to Leominster, MA. Their new address is : 50 Brooks Pond Rd, Apt 104, Leominster, MA 01453. Packing and unpacking is no one’s favorite activity, but settling in to a new place is something they have been looking forward to!
* **Gwen Whitbeck** had surgery 4 months ago to amputate her leg. This is a huge adjustment, as anyone can imagine. Check with Doug – dwhitbeck@hotmail.com – if you want to visit or call her. This month she has had further surgery on her other leg to help with the circulation. The Whitbecks have given so much to NH and the community in service – many thanks! Now let us help you.
* **Laila Washburn is 100 years old!** Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company and cards. At 100, every day is treasured. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 603-924-6238
* **Karin Eisenhaure** is driving, and getting stronger every day, but recovery is always slower than we want or expect! She, like the rest of us, enjoys seeing friends, and sharing a meal. So give her a call 878-2675.
* **Gretchen and Wally Brown** Always in need of a little cheer, and Gretchen needs contact with the outside world, so stop by with a smile, a meal, or just to pick up syrup and say hello!

Cards to: 421 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Mason, NH 03048 phone: 878-1481

* **Forty Family growing!**  Meredith had her baby boy, Warren, on May 18th 7 pounds, 5 oz of healthy baby! All is well. Judy and Kent can be contacted at alpineangels@hotmail.com See the Upcoming events for Warren’s baptism/christening.

***"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.  You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." anonymous***

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You can get a ride to medical appointments, mental health therapy, physical therapy, etc. Also to the pharmacy, and to the grocery store. Find out more information by calling the friendly people at CVTC at 877 428-2882