



## THE ONSET VINE



Community of Christ Onset Branch  
Pastor: Bill Brousseau 508-291-7825

*Year: 2020 August Issue*

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### SAYING GOODBYE TO A PILLAR OF OUR COMMUNITY – BARBARA PORTER

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It is with great sadness to report that Barbara Porter passed away July 6 at the age of 91. Barbara and her late husband Richard had been married for 66 years. They had managed to travel to all 50 states and several countries.

Luckily for us, Barbara moved to Onset in 1982 and quickly became an active member of the church and volunteer in the community. Betsy Firby describes Barbara as a fun loving, welcoming, gracious lady with an unending love of her family. She was always in the stands when family members were on the field. Barbara's extended family included the dogs; Willie and Molly as well as Oscar the Cat. She loved Maine

Black Bear ice cream at Cool-Cone, York Peppermint patties, weekly hymn sings and all things "Swan". When Barbara's name is mentioned, those lucky enough to have known her, always smile. She brought so much kindness to all those around her.

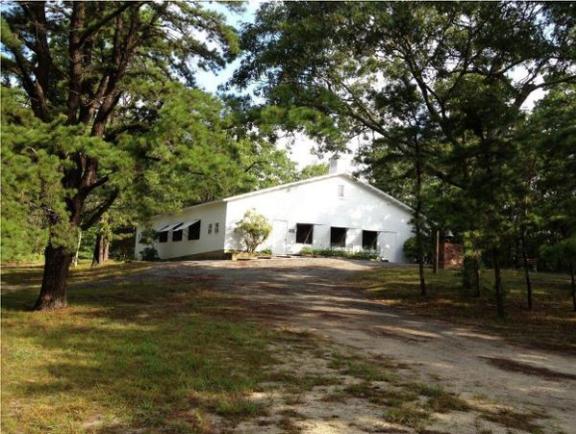
I only met her once and I too smile thinking of how proudly she spoke of "The Chef" and told how all the residents want the Chef to give lessons to their cooks. Barbara and I chatted for a while and spoke until it was time for the daily bingo game. She could hardly wait to start 😊

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# HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO THE TABERNACLE

1920 - 2020

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Just over 100 years ago we found ourselves with reunions quickly outgrowing our tent city. A 1926 article in the Autumn Leaves written by Florence Fisher told of the tabernacle tents having inadequate room, being difficult to screen, hot when the sun shone and wet when it rained. Ms. Fisher spoke of the new Tabernacle being constructed in 1920 and described it as, " a permanent wooden building of simple design. It had a sloping cement floor, shutters opening out over wide

screened spaces, ample platform for choirs and dramatic productions and with acoustics fine".

Records from the Massachusetts District Record, 1917-1950 stated the following:

1918, "Onset, Mass. One Reunion was held in the Reunion Grounds which was well attended by the Saints of the East. A goodly number of the Saints have builded (*sic*) cottages on the grounds and some families come down early, and remain generally until Labor Day. These hold meetings before and after the Reunion proper, some of these meetings are highly instructive and of a high Spiritual character. There is an apparent need of a meeting house of some kind on the grounds, where these anti- and post- Reunion meetings can be held, and properly advertized. We have had as many as one hundred out to some of these meetings. We are becoming a factor in the community". (District book pg 49/50)

I would love to report that there is a wealth of further information leading up to the building of the Tabernacle in 1920 but that's not what happened. Instead, in 1918 and 1919, there was a little kerfuffle between the District and the Reunion committee. The District felt it had final say and control over the Reunion and the Reunion committee disagreed. It unfortunately took the office of the First Presidency to decide that the district "conference might very well leave the district Reunion and its committee quite free and not hampered in its work and ought not to interfere unless there should be some very flagrant disregard for the rights of the district or the laws of the Church". And that is the end of - ANY- mention of Reunion at Onset in the District book.

This year; 2020, the Tabernacle remains closed, which I believe is a first - but when we do get to be together again, our gatherings and services, in the beautiful building that is the heart of our spiritual life will welcome us home once again.

Be well and safe everyone. Nan Miller

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## FOUR CORNER'S CORNER

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One of our honorary members of Four Corner's almost passed away last week and required immediate surgery to save his life. Four Corner's kicked into action for a fundraiser and generated over \$1,000 to help off-set some of the medical expenses. Baby made an appearance at the corner today in order to continue his guarding Ray and to show off his beautiful 4 tooth smile.



Last Friday a surprise recognition party was held for Scott Fisher. While Scott was 20 minutes late for his own party, he can't be blamed as he had no idea of the festivities awaiting him.

(Nobody could believe that the secret of the planned recognition party remained a secret.) When Scott finally did arrive, a rousing version of "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow which all of us will *Deny*" was sung. There was cake, enough lemonade to flood the 4 Corners, speeches, and an incredible gift of appreciation that Bill and Charlotte had been working on for months. Our great thanks go out to Scott for the kindness he bestows upon others. Witout Scott, Onset Grounds wouldn't be the wonderful community that we share today.

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## ONSET STORIES OF YESTERYEAR

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Shirley has finally come clean..... Back in the day, despite many warnings from parents, the young people used to sneak off to the local spring (called the Sand Pit). Shirley reports that after a day at the Point they all loved rinsing off in the Spring and hoofing it back home before anybody was the wiser. The spring is now surrounded by fencing on the backside of Stop & Shop. Rumor has it, it was the only way to keep Shirley and friends out.

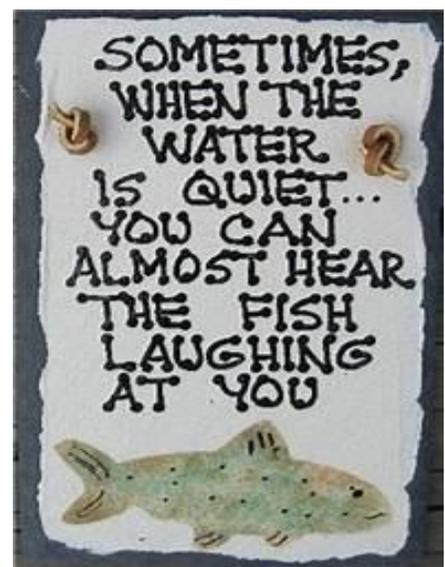
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## YOU DON'T SEE THIS EVERYDAY

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To maintain publication integrity, the Vine never pays for stories or photographs. In the case below however, we were definitely willing to make an exception. As it turns out we didn't have to. David's nephew John was more than happy to supply the below photo when he heard it would be published.

To those of you worried about David, the lure was successfully removed at the local emergency room and David's nose remains mostly in tact. The fish that spit the hook, sending it flying back into David's nose is reportedly laughing hysterically and saying, "So how do you like it".



# Happy Birthday

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Porter-Couto  
Aug 12<sup>th</sup> Laura King  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Deb Pillsbury  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Ray Courchesne  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Pat Cote

Aug 26<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Larson  
Aug 27<sup>th</sup> Philip Johnson  
Aug 28<sup>th</sup> Joanne Calvarese  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Marsha Bars

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## AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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One photo from our wedding 40 years ago, August 9, 1980 with Elder Donald Crowell (Scott's grandfather) who married us. One photo from today — same location, overlooking the Old Old Path and Muddy Cove. The Happily Ever After continues...

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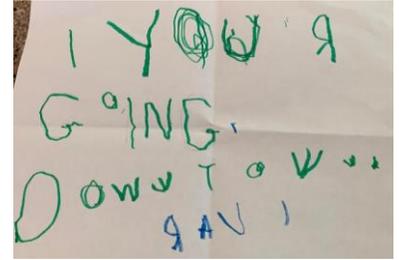
## DOWNTOWN BOYS BEST JOKES

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why was 6 afraid of 7?  
Coz 7 8 9!

I tried to catch fog but I  
mist!



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## ONSET CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT -7/30/2020

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Dear Extended Onset Family;

As you may have read in the July 30, 2020 email that was forwarded out by our wonderful Communications Chair (**Onset – Proposed Bylaw Amendment for Onset Conference**), the OBOT has approved a Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of Governance for the Onset Board of Trustees (Bylaws) as received from the Office of General Counsel. This Amendment is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions from both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the First Presidency of the church which make holding a “normal” in-person Onset Conference problematic.

This proposed language shall be voted on at an in-person, live Meeting 1 of the 2020 Onset Conference scheduled to occur on **Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 11:30am in the ballfield of the Onset Campgrounds, Onset MA.** This Meeting 1 of the Onset Conference has been approved by Apostle Mackay and shall obey all social distancing, mask wearing and other safety protocols as required by the Massachusetts at the time of the meeting, which most likely will also include preregistering for a spot and providing your own ballfield-approved seating.

If this Proposed Amendment is approved then the meeting shall be adjourned to a Meeting 2 scheduled for September 26, 2020, anticipated to be held via Zoom or other electronic means. If this Proposed Amendment is NOT approved then the meeting shall be adjourned and the Onset Board of Trustees will move forward with the 2020-2021 year as required under the current Bylaws and without the benefit of the guidance of the 2020 Onset Conference.

The proposed language is **bolded** below and begins at Section 6.1.5:

6.1 The Onset Conference: The Board recognizes its empowerment by and jurisdictional responsibility to the Onset Conference. In this regard, the Board shall:

6.1.1 Provide an annual accounting of all fiscal matters, including budget for approval to the annual Onset Conference meeting.

6.1.2 Will accept direction as initiated by action of the annual meeting of the Conference, incorporating policy, vote or mandate as appropriate in the care and safekeeping of the Campgrounds and program development.

6.1.3 Provide copies of such written regulations and procedures as are created by the

Board to the Onset Conference.

6.1.4 Provide the dates for quarterly meetings for the following year.

**6.1.5 Provide for the Onset Conference to be conducted by teleconference, or by other technology, if either:**

**6.1.5.1\*The Board determines for health and safety reasons, and the Mission Center President affirms,**

**6.1.5.2\*Applicable Community of Christ policies in effect at the time dictate,**

**or \***

**6.1.5.3 Applicable governmental orders in effect at the time dictate, that an in-person meeting of the Onset Conference is either not advisable or not permissible. For any Onset Conference conducted by teleconference or other technology a quorum of members must be present and able to hear and participate in the meeting by telephone or other technological means which allow all persons participating to hear and respond to each other at the same time**

Any questions can be directed to me at [nissgrp@aol.com](mailto:nissgrp@aol.com) and if I cannot answer them, I can forward them to someone who can.

Be safe, stay healthy,

~ Kristin Carter Smith

2019-2020 OBOT Chair