



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns *Online*

September 28, 2022 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

*Little churches still matter,
says Martha's Vineyard pastor of church that took in migrants*

Bob Smietana, Religion News Service — The Rev. Vincent “Chip” Seadale was at a denominational meeting in North Carolina when he got a call that something was brewing on Martha’s Vineyard. The call was from a counselor who sometimes attends St. Andrew’s, the small Episcopal church Seadale pastors in Edgartown, Massachusetts, a popular island tourist destination. She had just learned that about 50 migrants from Venezuela had landed at the airport on Wednesday and needed help. They’d been sent to the Vineyard, about 28 miles offshore of Cape Cod, by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as part of a strategy by Republican governors to send immigrants to blue states.

Seadale and other members of the Martha’s Vineyard Island Clergy Association did what clergy do when a crisis happens: They jumped in to lend a hand. “We just decided we were going to make it work and then hope for the best,” said Seadale in a phone interview.



St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Edgartown, MA.
Photo courtesy of Chip Seadale.

Continued.

Little churches still matter, *continued*

For two nights, St. Andrew's played host to the Venezuelans, providing meals and a place to stay at the parish house, which hosts a shelter four nights a week during the winter. The church hall is already equipped with cots, a large kitchen, showers and laundry for the shelter. Other churches and community members sent food, clothes and other supplies — while the Martha's Vineyard Community Fund collected funds to support the Venezuelans. Immigration lawyers and other volunteers showed up to help them figure out where to go next. Many were in the U.S. to seek asylum and have contacts here but needed help connecting with them.

The Rev. Janet Newton, a minister at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, said that clergy, like other community leaders and residents of the island, had no idea the migrants were coming. "Ironically," she said, "we were prepared, even though we had no warning." The Vineyard, she said, is often seen as a playground for the rich and powerful. Former President Obama and other celebrities — television host David Letterman, journalist Diane Sawyer and film director Spike Lee — own homes on the island, she said, and that shapes how outsiders see the Vineyard.

That's not the whole story. In the off-season, she said, many people struggle. Affordable housing is hard to come by, and at times, folks who work seasonal jobs can't make ends meet. As a geographically isolated community, Newton said, year-round residents have learned to take care of each other. "That's probably a bit of a surprise to the people who sent the planes here," she said. "They didn't understand how our community operated or that we could be prepared for this. Hospitality matters here."



*"Before the internet,
Grandpa didn't know he was right about everything."*

Newton said clergy on the island and other community services had learned to work closely to solve long-term and short-term crises. She worries the Venezuelans are being used as pawns in a political drama, which Newton sees as an act of cruelty. As a faith leader, her response to that cruelty is to act in love. "We are taught to welcome the stranger," she said.

By Friday afternoon, migrants who wanted to leave the Vineyard were transferred to a new shelter at Joint Base Cape Cod, which is operated by the state and federal governments. State officials are working to provide support services, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, a Republican, said in a statement. He also praised residents of the Vineyard for their hospitality. *Continued*

*Condolences to the family of
Tom Bellamy, who passed away
September 25.*

*Services will be held Friday,
September 30, 2022 at 10:00 am
at Second Presbyterian Church
conducted by Rev. Caitilin Hoy.*

Little churches still matter, *continued*

“We are grateful to the providers, volunteers and local officials that stepped up on Martha’s Vineyard over the past few days to provide immediate services to these individuals,” Baker said in a statement.

Elizabeth Folcarelli, who runs Martha’s Vineyard Community Services, told reporters that the Venezuelans were told they would be going to Boston. “They were told that they would have a job and they would have housing,” Folcarelli told the Associated Press. Governor DeSantis’ office did not respond to a request for comment.

The Rev. Kenneth Young, associate director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, said that faith groups in the Bay State have long assisted immigrants — but their efforts often fly under the radar. He said that the story of the Venezuelans sent to the Vineyard got attention — because of the island’s reputation. But similar stories happen all the time, he said.

Seadale said he was grateful for church members who rallied to help the Venezuelans and for the aid from other congregations and the broader community. Because he was out of state, most of his job was making phone calls when people in the church responded on the ground. He said that little churches like St. Andrew’s still matter. And the response of the church and the community shows that when people listen to their hearts, they can still rally together.

Love, he said, still is the answer. And faith leaders can choose to help heal the nation’s divides — rather than fueling them. “It’s becoming much clearer to me these days that there is a role for responsible people of faith,” he said. “We need to step up and fill this void in a responsible way — caring for everyone, no matter what they say or think.”

Our Worship Channels

click on the logos



Worship Info for October 2



Courtney.

This Sunday's anthem will be *In Remembrance of Me*, with text by Ragan Courtney and music by Buryl Red. It is a musical setting of Jesus' charge to his disciples at the Last Supper: heal the sick, feed the hungry and pray for the time that God's will is done.

Courtney (b.1941) is a poet, author, librettist and clinician. He has written and collaborated on numerous church musicals, and for more than 25 years has written, directed, and performed in "A Christmas Spectacular" at First Baptist Church, Houston, TX.

Red (1936- 2013) was a conductor, producer, composer and arranger. Described by the Washington Post as "uncommonly creative," Red's extensive body of works includes more than 1,600 published compositions and award-winning arrangements. In 1972, Red wrote *Celebrate Life*, a musical collaboration with book and lyrics author Ragan Courtney, which has become a classic work for Southern Baptist youth choirs. The 1991 song "In Remembrance" is from the musical.



Red.



Foote.

The prelude and postlude were composed by Arthur Foote (1853-1937), a Massachusetts native who studied at the New England Conservatory of Music and what was then Harvard College. Foote also received a Master of Arts degree in music from Harvard, the first such degree conferred in America. He was the first noteworthy American composer to be trained entirely in the United States. Foote was one of the founders of the American Guild of Organists, which he served as president for three years.

Worship This Week

Liturgist: Bill Pannill

Scripture lessons: Romans 8:31-34

Luke 15: 5-6

Sermon: If...

World Communion Sunday

WPC Men's Breakfast



10/08
8:00 AM

Westminster Fellowship Hall

Join us to hear speaker,
Evan Steele!

*Breakfast is prepared by
Ed Crawford and crew

This Week in History.



Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa's crossing the Isthmus of Panama ends at the Pacific Ocean.
September 25, 1513



The Venetian army attacks Turkish forces occupying the Acropolis in Athens, resulting in heavy damage to the Parthenon.
September 26, 1687



Samuel Adams born in Boston, MA. A delegate to the 1st and 2nd Continental Congresses, he signed the Declaration of Independence.
September 27, 1722



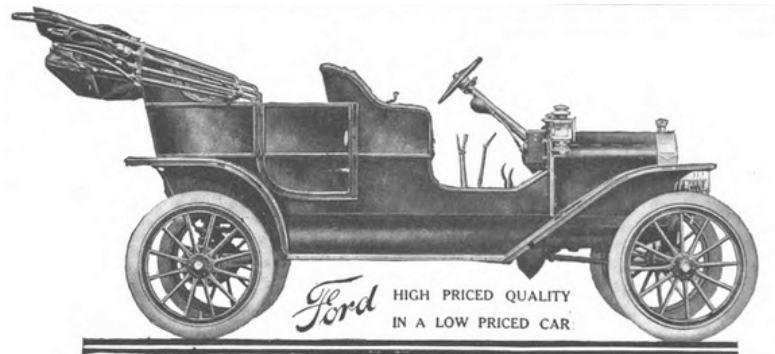
Pope John Paul I dies after only 33 days in office.
September 29, 1978



The Greater London Metropolitan Police established. Referred to as 'Bobbies,' after Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel, the force would become known as *Scotland Yard*, the site of their first headquarters.
September 29, 1829



Actor James Dean dies in auto accident near Cholame, CA. He was 24 years old and had completed only 3 films.
September 30, 1955



The Ford Motor Co. introduces the 'Model T'. It would go on to sell more than 15 million examples.
October 1, 1908