

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AMAGANSETT

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## FROM THE PASTOR

*"If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."  
(Psalms 139:9-10)*

"Recalculating..." That's what the British-accented voice on my portable Global Positioning System (GPS) says when I make a turn other than it directs. What the GPS does at that point is take into account my chosen diversion and readjust its directions to take me from where I am currently to where I'd like to be eventually. The beauty of the GPS is that no matter how many times I take a wrong turn or "go off on my own," it will always find me and get me home. There is no limit to how many times it will recalculate!

Which got me to thinking... Is not the life of faith a bit like my interaction with the GPS? It seems to me that it is, in at least the following ways:

- God has a "purpose" for each of us, as the GPS has a destination. For the GPS, our destination may be a vacation spot, a business location, or "home." For God, our purpose is whole and abundant life – life in which we know we are valued, our gifts are used, and God's creation is blessed.
- There is not just one path that we must find and follow in order to reach God's intended purpose for each of us, just as there are uncountable ways for a GPS to help us reach an intended destination. God gives us considerable latitude and will work with us even if we "take a wrong turn," or willfully go in a different direction.
- The GPS is forgiving and persistent (although I sometimes believe that the voice on it sound sa bit perturbed when it says "recalculating!"). So is God forgiving and persistent. When we make a mistake, mishear God's guidance or choose a different way, God steadily and persistently says "recalculating" and works with us to lay out a different route from where we are. When we meet an obstacle, it is not the end of the journey. It's simply time to recalculate!
- Finally, wherever we go on this planet, the GPS will find us. And in the life of faith, we have the assurance that wherever life's journey may take us, God is up to the task of finding us and bringing us home.

So remember... Whenever we take a wrong turn, or choose a different path that doesn't work out... whenever life confronts us with a detour we didn't plan on... the appropriate response is not hand-wringing or despair. It is (can you say it with me?) "recalculating!" And then the journey continues! May it be so for you and for me.

Sincerely,

*Steve Howarth*