



Off The Pews Newsletter Summer 2023



Change

Change is a word that is unequalled in terms of striking fear and anxiety into the hearts of mankind. Unexpected change can send us into joyous orbit or the deepest depression. We spend a good part of our existence attempting to control change with varying degrees of success. The undeniable truth—change is inevitable and unexpected change has to be ridden like a rollercoaster throughout life.

It's likely that we agree change is needed. What is less clear is how we can individually effect change in the world. We see huge problems unfold on the nightly news and it is hard to imagine how to help.

This newsletter's unintended theme seems to be change and features items focussed on where that change is taking place. We can all make incremental changes, and the collective effect will bear the fruit we'd like to see in the world. The biggest action we can take is to find out where the improvements are happening, shine a light on them, and see if there is a way to contribute to the effort.

As I typed that last sentence, the couple from Brazil who reforested their land over the course of 20 years popped into mind. The wife was looking for a solution to help her husband and the land and they (with the help of others) recreated a lost ecosystem. It is a story of hope, perseverance, and the power of community.

The link below will take you to an article about the Salgado's forest on intelligentliving.co which also happens to be an interesting site about, well, intelligent living.

[Read About the Salgado's Reforestation](#)



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Presents
Grow With Google
Digital Skills Workshops

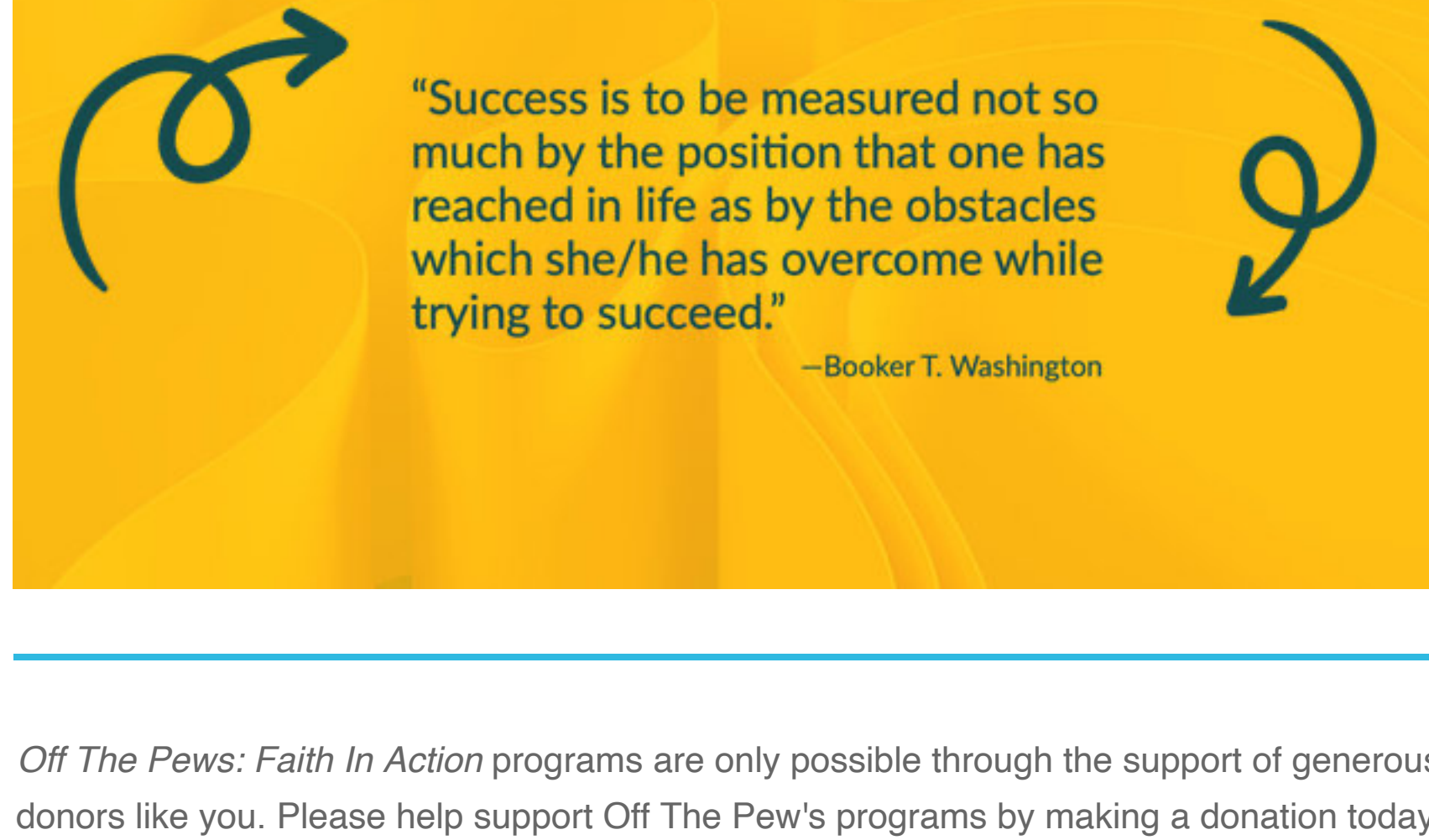
The Trinity UCC Prison Ministry has partnered with Grow with Google to provide Digital Skill Workshops focused on system impacted individuals and families. Over the course of the next several months, we will be providing workshops to grow basic digital knowledge of key applications provided in the Google ecosystem. This first series of workshops included cloud storage, setting up a Google account, understanding Google Calendar, and using Google Docs for document creation. Beginning in August, we have expanded our offerings to include using Google Search for job exploration; how to create a powerful resume; building a solid social media presence; and building a professional brand. We look forward to taking this journey of independence with you.

August/September Schedule

Thursday, August 10, 6:30pm Basics of Google Docs	Thursday, September 14, 7pm Build Your Professional Brand
Thursday, August 10, 7:30pm Basics of Google Meet	Saturday, September 16, 11am Basics of Google Calendar
Saturday, August 12, 10am Build Your Professional Brand	Saturday, September 16, 12:30pm Communicate with Calendar and Gmail
Saturday, August 19, 11am Power Your Job Search with Google Tools	Tuesday, September 19, 7:30pm Power Your Job Search with Google Tools
Thursday, August 24, 7pm Basics of Google Meet	Saturday, September 23, 11am Improve Your Resume with Practical Strategies
Thursday, August 31, 7pm Improve Your Resume with Practical Strategies	Tuesday, September 26, 6pm Power Your Job Search with Google Tools
Saturday, September 9, 11am Manage Your Online Presence	Thursday, September 28, 6:30pm Basics of Google Meet
Saturday, September 9, 12:30pm Basics of Google Drive	Friday, September 29, 6:30pm Manage Your Online Presence
Tuesday, September 12, 6:30pm Basics of Google Docs	

FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND TO REGISTER:
<https://linktr.ee/justicework>

[Download a PDF with the Class Descriptions](#)



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THE CLASS OF 2023: INEQUITY CONTINUES TO UNDERPIN INTERNSHIP PARTICIPATION AND PAY STATUS

August 07, 2023 | By Mary Gatta



The headline and photo above are a screen grab from naceweb.org the website of the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Many career services professionals working on college campuses throughout the U.S. belong to NACE in an effort to network with hiring managers at employers everywhere. They are the reporting body tracking how graduates enter the working world, and they do what they can to facilitate that transition.

Mary Gatta's August 7th article is a report with some interesting statistics, and she's presented them along with the number of students reporting—very helpful for context regarding representation (rather under-representation).

An excerpt:

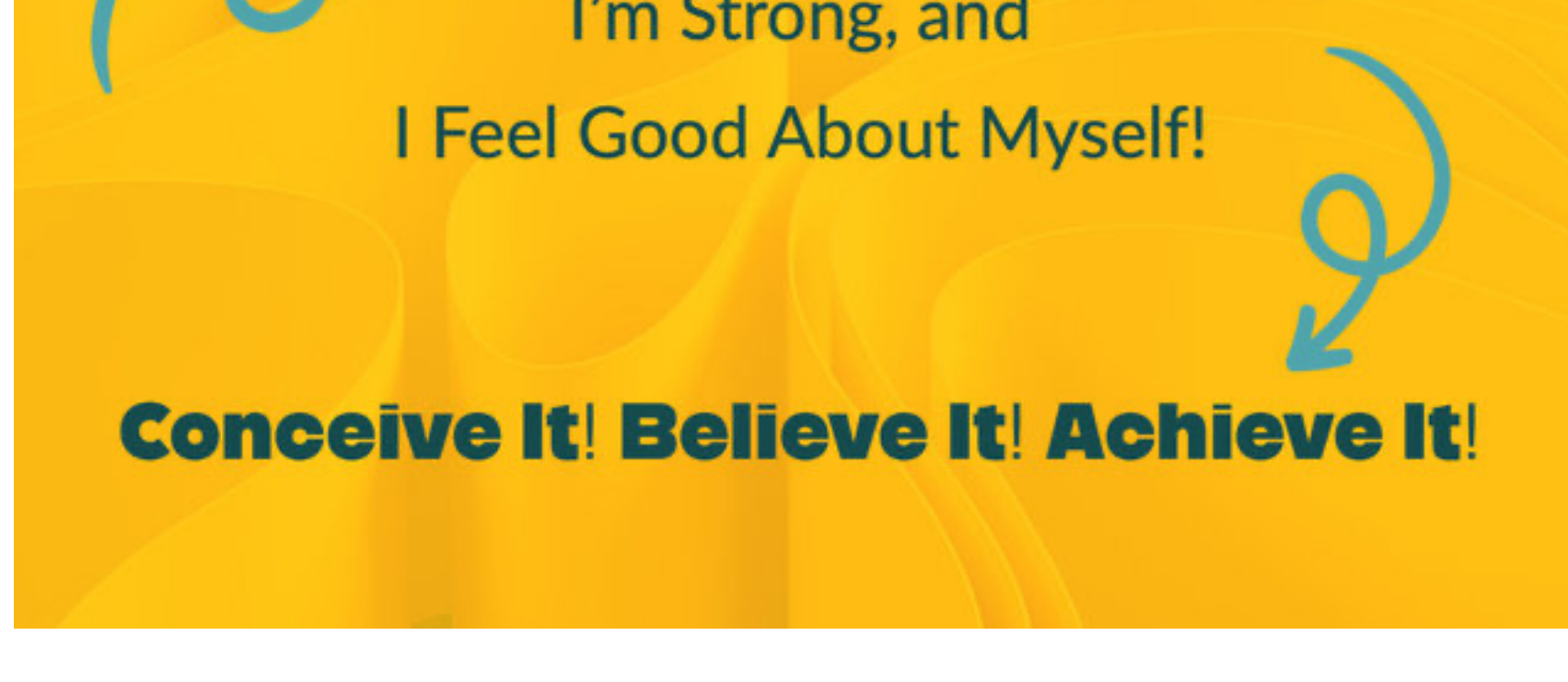
"NACE research has consistently found that students who take part in paid internships receive more job offers and garner higher starting salaries than those who participate in unpaid internships. These trends hold true for the Class of 2023, with paid interns averaging 1.4 job offers and unpaid interns averaging 0.9.

"Not only do paid interns enjoy more job offers on average, but they are also offered higher starting pay. Among the survey's graduating seniors who were paid interns, the median starting salary is \$67,500 compared to unpaid interns, who reported earning a median starting salary of \$45,000.

"These patterns continue to underscore NACE's position that all internships must be paid as a matter of fairness and equity."

Since her article is written for the NACE community, she goes on to define steps career service professionals and employers can take to mitigate the inequity in the system.

[Read the Complete Article on Naceweb.org](#)



Affirmation shared by Joyce Butts.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

[Food Equity and the 2023 Farm Act](#)

When most families talk about quality time spent in community with one another there is usually a meal involved. Weddings; coming of age celebrations; observance of religious holidays from many denominations; graduation parties; funerals; even a brief meeting of long-separated friends often includes lunch, dinner or, at the very least, a trip to a coffee shop.

Food nurtures our bodies, and a meal with friends or family nurtures our soul. A shared meal builds a community.

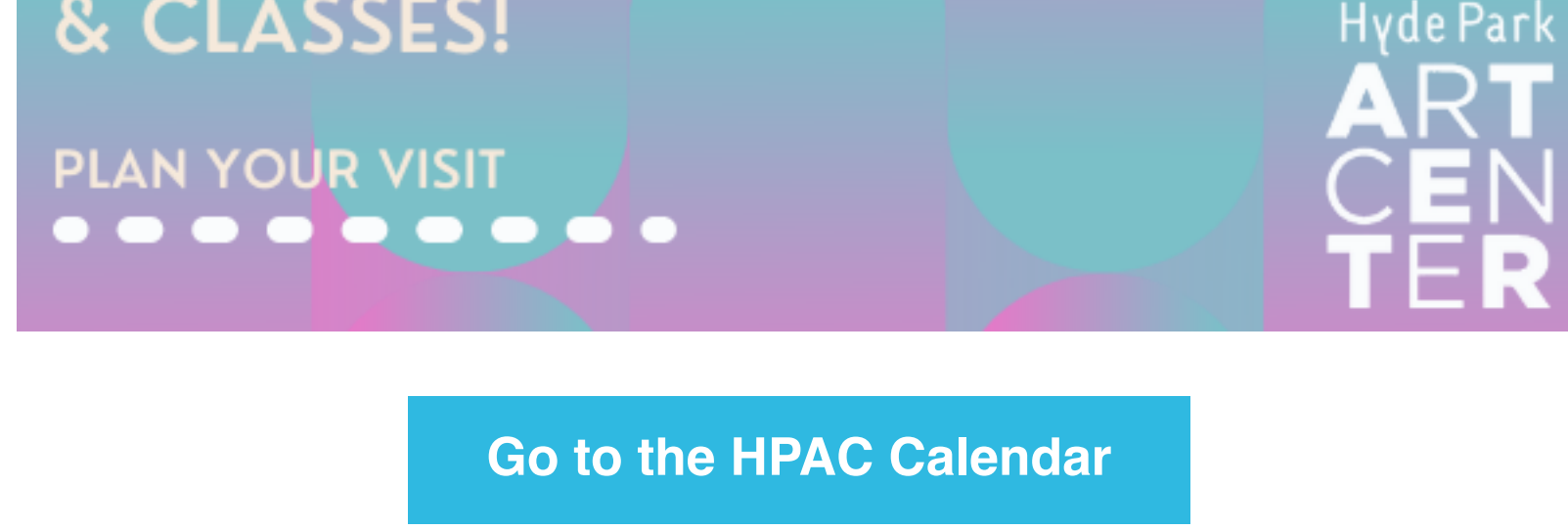
When strangers are brought in from the cold, we offer them a blanket and a warm cup of something to drink and some food. We recognize on a primal level that people need to collect themselves before they can even begin to tell their story...before their brain functions properly they need to be safe, warm, and fed. It is the bare minimum of human kindness that we offer to one another.

"Anti-hunger advocates are closely watching negotiations over the 2023 Farm Bill. Every five years, Congress considers [this large piece of legislation](#) - but it doesn't just impact agriculture. The Farm Bill also contains funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP - the country's largest food aid program." These are the opening lines of Eric Tegethoff's "[Changes to SNAP in 2023 Farm Bill Concern Hunger-Fighting Groups](#)," (Public Health Service, Monday, July 17, 2023, full article at the link).

The Farm Bill only comes up for review once every five years, and this September will mark the beginning of the debate on potential changes to the 2023 Farm Bill which will shape the effectiveness of the SNAP program to support families from 2023 until 2028.

Mr. Tegethoff's article talks about the hunger cliff that followed the end of benefits put in place to get families through the pandemic, but there are other regularly occurring hunger cliffs that families face when they rely on the SNAP program to put food on the table.

[Read the Post on OTP's Site](#)



[Go to the HPAC Calendar](#)

Off The Pews Board of Directors

Thank you very much to the OTP board for all of their hard work keeping the lights on and the mission moving forward! More information about our board members is available at on the [Our Team page](#).



SHARE Network continues to offer Yoga classes via Zoom. Visit <https://sharenetworkchicago.org/events/> to see upcoming classes.

SHARE...Supporting Healthy Aging Resilience & Education

Photo by www.shutterstock.com via Wikimedia Commons

Community Partners

We are very grateful to all of our community partners for their continued support. We encourage you to visit [OTP Community Partners page](#) to find links to their sites.

webmaster@offthepews.org

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