

May 2022 \* A Message From Your Regent:

A Parable, an Anecdote and a Book Review One of my favorite parables is the story of a man whose home is being flooded by the rising river. As the water laps at his front door, a man in a row boat comes by. "Get into the boat, and I will save you." The man in the house waves him off and tells him "God will save me." The water continues to rise, and the man is forced to the second floor. Another boat comes by, but it too is waved off with the reply "God will save me." The man is now on the roof of his house as the water continues to rise. A helicopter comes by and lowers a rope, but the man shakes off this rescue. "God will save me." Eventually the water is so high that the man is swept away in the flood waters and perishes. When he gets to Heaven he says to God, "I prayed to you. You were supposed to save me." God replied, "What do you want? I sent you two row boats and a helicopter." Of course, the lesson here is that God hears us, but we need to recognize Him and what He's telling us and maybe the answer to our prayers has come in an unrecognizable format. In a recent snow storm, my husband and I were clearing the driveway. As my husband is removing the pile of slop left by the snow plow, a man with a pickup truck and a plow pulled up and offered to clear the driveway at no charge. My husband said thank you, but denied the offer of help. Even more astonishingly, a second vehicle with a young couple pulled up and offered to help. My husband said "no thank you," and off they went. I yelled down to him, "I'm going inside to warm my hands. If a helicopter comes by, please say yes!" (Yes, we're still married!) I related this story to my daughter, and we had a good laugh. She said that she had heard about a book that follows along with this theme, so I ordered it right away. It's *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom. The story is about survivors of a shipwreck in a lifeboat who pluck a stranger from the water. When they ask him why he is there, he responds with "Haven't you been calling me?" Skeptical, he is asked "Are you here to save us?" He replies "I can only do that when everyone here believes I am who I say I am." The story follows the people in the boat as well as the person who finds the journal of one of the lifeboat occupants. I won't give away the ending, but it's a wonderful little book that I enjoyed immensely. I highly recommend it. If God appeared to you today, would you believe it was Him?