



RESPONSE

The Presbyterian Church of White Plains **Newsletter**

39 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

(914) 761-8585 Website: wppresby.org E-mail: wppresby.church@optonline.net

DECEMBER 2012

Congregational Life

Nancy Re, Chair

Advent Fellowship Lunch

*Fun * Food * Fellowship*

Join us in celebrating the start of Advent with joy and laughter, potluck luncheon, crafts and caroling...

Sunday, December 2, 2012, after worship

What will you bring to share for lunch?
We need main courses, side dishes, dessert

If you would prefer to donate cash instead of food, we will arrange to purchase an appropriate contribution to the table. Please send us your donation several days in advance of the luncheon date.

Please fill out the attached form located on the last page designating your food or cash donation.

Other Events

Later in the Month of December,

- We will go Christmas Caroling to bring holiday cheer to our homebound members. Keep your ears open for opportunity to share Christmas Carols. Date to be announced.
- Don't miss our Children sharing their Christmas message in worship just before Christmas this year on December 23.

There is not a better time to share our church with others invite a friend to join us



Give So Others May Live

Heifer animals (and training in their care) offer hungry families all over the world a way to feed themselves and become self-reliant. Children receive nutritious milk or eggs. Families earn income for school, health care and better housing. Communities go beyond meeting immediate needs to fulfilling dreams. Farmers learn sustainable, environmentally sound agricultural techniques. For more information check for the displays after worship at the Fellowship Hour on December 2, 9, 16.

Here is how to help

- * Honor a friend or loved one by purchasing a life-changing gift from Heifer International..
- * Donate baked goods, gifts or "white elephants" to the Fundraiser
- * Purchase baked goods, gifts or "white elephants" at the Fundraiser
- * Purchase an earth friendly bag for your baked goods and treasures.
- * Tell all your friends about the Gift of Life and encourage them to also participate.

♪ **Glory to God:** ♪

The Presbyterian Hymnal



Here is your opportunity to honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a new hymnal. The names will be placed on a bookplate in front of the hymnal. If you wish to purchase a hymnal for a \$15 donation, please contact the office or fill the form below and send it to the church or place in the collection plate. You are also welcome to donate any amount you wish to the general hymnal fund.

Name of Honoree or Remembrance _____

Donor's Name _____

visit us online!

at our website wppresby.org

E-mail: wppresby.church@optonline.net



Rev. Jeffery A. Geary, Pastor

Tyrell Lundman, Director of Music

Lynn Dunn, Director of Christian Education

Stella M. Aviles, Executive Assistant.

Vicente Velasco, Facilities Supervisor

Doug Astarita, Night Custodian

Gina Cerillo, Nursery School Director

Noel Warner, Business Mgr.

Frank Re, Church Treasurer

Olga Daniels, Asst. Treasurer

Wanda Van Woert, President of Trustees

John Timmons, Financial Secretary

Worship Time: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 9:00-a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Website: wppresby.org

Telephone: (914) 761-8585

E-mail: wppresby.church@optonline.net,

View the up-to-date calendar on website



facebook.com



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Pastor Jeffrey Geary, Editor-in-Chief
Agnes Scheu, Editor, Layout Designer
Articles for coming months must be submitted as e-mails sent to pastorgeary@optonline.net by the **15th** of the month. The articles should be no longer than approximately **200** words.

Music

Tyrell Lundman, Music Director

Thank you for supporting the New York Chamber Brass, who we were fortunate to host in concert this October. This month we have another great opportunity to hear wonderful music at White Plains Presbyterian when a number of student brass ensembles come together for a festival concert on December 7.

The Purchase College Symphonic Brass, Trumpet Ensemble, Trombone Choir and other brass chamber groups will perform virtuosic music by Francis Poulenc, Michael Tilson-Thomas, Edmund Rubbra, Bruce Broughton and others - all led and conducted by Professor Graham Ashton and Peter Reit (led members of the NYCB).

Come support these bright students, many of whom were in attendance at the October concert. December 7 at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10.

As you have already no doubt noticed, this Advent and Christmas season we are using a visual addition to the worship space. This set of artworks was found by Lynn Dunn and is intended to help us experience in a more cohesive way the progression from the beginning of the church year on the first Sunday of Advent, through Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus.

Christmas and its icons can easily blot out everything else and leave us feeling a little let down in the stark light of January. We hope these images help remind us of the progression of the season, and the multiple festivals and remembrances that go with it.

Christmas services will continue to be at 7:30pm and 11:00 p.m., with a mixture of brass, choral, and solo music.

Wishing a Peaceful Advent and a Merry Christmas,

Ty

Who's Having A Birthday?

DECEMBER

- 3 Carol Dold
- 13 Bianca Boshkov
- 13 Nancy Re
- 14 William Vrooman
- 18 Leah Vinodh
- 21 Angel Lyman
- 23 Kristine Burton
- 23 Rebecca Buring
- 26 Gabriel Millard
- 27 Sandra Barran
- 31 Charles Anyidoho

Best Wishes from your church family



Of Hope and Prayer and Action

On Saturday, November 10th just 12 days after Sandy changed our corner of the world, our Prayer Ministry hosted a breakfast that featured enthusiastic singing, warm and spirited fellowship, a delicious and satisfying meal *and* an opportunity to embrace different perspectives on prayer.

Thanks to all the members of the Prayer Ministry who helped make this breakfast a success.



Our keynote speaker, Rev. W. Mark Koenig, is Director, Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. Rev. Koenig challenged us not to ever think of prayer as "the least" we can do for someone in need. When we pray for someone, we establish a relationship with them. We make a commitment to them that we will take their issues, needs, whatever to our God.

Prayer is action since being in relationship always means action. It is communication. It is an affirmation of human worth and dignity.

Action can also be prayer. The act of reaching out after prayer extends our prayer. An example of this is when on Bread for the World Sunday we pray for the hungry to be fed then make the offering of letters to our government representatives.

Prayer is itself a relationship, a gift from, but also a relationship with God. Like most relationships this one comes with challenges. But, God calls us, sustains us and won't forsake us. God isn't co-dependent. God doesn't need us, but wants us, loves us, even though it's often easier to see God's presence in hindsight.

Prayer is always personal and always communal. True communication always flows in multiple directions. While prayer changes things, it first

changes us and invites us into new communities. When we pray we are enveloped in the great cloud of witnesses.

Finally, hope is the most important aspect of prayer. It is inextricably tied to prayer and action as they are rooted in and encourage hope. Hope is awareness that God is God and we are not. It is the knowledge that God will do a new thing, will have the final word, a word of grace, faith and love. When we proclaim our faith, we proclaim hope.



Life Line Screening

The Presbyterian Church of White Plains is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on Thursday, January 31, 2013, 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$149. All five ultrasound screenings take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-888-653-6441 for more information or to pre-register.



Mission
Elder Mike Doehring, Chair



Christmas is coming! Yeah! A time of giving – presents, yes, but so much more. Giving of ourselves – our time and our good wishes and our resources – to our friends and to strangers. All because the world was changed by the birth and life of one “individual” some 2000 years ago. Christ was born and we still celebrate a new beginning. How do we celebrate?

By fellowship with others.
By giving to those in need.
By praying that the world will be a better place.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

One way to help others at this special time of the year is the PC(USA) Special Christmas Joy Offering. The 2012 theme is “Good News of Great Joy”.

The offering is split between:

1) Assistance programs of the Board of Pensions [retired clergy are definitely not part of the rich 2%] and 2) Racial

ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA)

These special offerings make a difference in the lives of young and old alike.

Information and offering envelopes will be in the worship bulletin on Sundays December 9, 16 and 23 with the offering received on the 23rd.



PRISON FELLOWSHIP- CHRISTMAS CARDS

Join us on Sunday December 2 at the Advent event and write Christmas cards to prisoners to help bring them some holiday cheer. We will supply the cards and envelopes and will mail them. It was a success last year.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL Sundays December 2, 9 and 16 See the separate note.

Calendars

You know those calendars you get in the mail (with contribution requests)? Give your extras to the Presbytery’s Prison Partnership. Put them on the table on the way to coffee hour in the blue bag labeled for “Prison Ministry” Calendars. Not only can those in prison keep tabs on the date but usually the photos are quite uplifting and can brighten the day.

Bread for the World By the way, remember those letters we sent to politicians asking them to work for hunger relief in Congress, etc? I got a reply - so those letters do catch their attention.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance The effects of Superstorm Sandy will be with us for a long time. Thank you for your response – perhaps you might consider putting PDA on your Christmas list.

Two personal notes:

- (1) In checking out possible track meets for my high school team one of the meet directors on his website said not to send entries to him just yet because he lives in Breezy Point and his house was destroyed and he’s still working on new living arrangements.
- (2) The brother of our former White Plains landlord lives on the south shore of Long Island on the water. The Great South Bay came up to the second floor of his house – he’s coming to WP to live while he decides what to do.

PEACE

Reverend Sarah Henkel Honored

The American Jewish Council Westchester and its partners (including the Hudson River Presbytery) hosted its Annual Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast on Thursday, November 15th at Manhattanville College. This year's theme was Diversity Within Diversity and honored the work of Rabbi Manny Vinas, Bishop Martin Nelson and Reverend Sarah Henkel.

The video introducing the honorees was filmed just after Sarah's recent surgery. So three members of the Presbytery's Cross Cultural Network enthusiastically described their experience of and with Sarah in this vital ministry: Rev. Betty Griffin, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Mount Vernon; Sergio Gonzalez, Ruling Elder Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Yonkers; and Leslie Mardenborough, Ruling Elder, our church.

Rev. Jeffrey Geary, Olga Daniels, Mike and Ruth Doerhing and Leslie Mardenborough and our General Presbyter, Susan Andrews joined Sarah and Will at this celebration.

Below is Sarah's acceptance speech (which was read on her behalf by Leslie):

Thank you to the Westchester/Fairfield County American Jewish Committee for honoring me with this award and, most importantly, for digging deeper into the diversity within diversity that exists within our faith traditions. It feels right to accept this award, trusting another member of the Cross-Cultural Network to be my voice and standing here with two other members who are essential to the work and joy of the Cross-Cultural Network. We are a leader-full movement.

It is incredible what can be born when our differences or our diversity is understood to be the holy ground where we truly meet one another. I think it's safe to say that one thing we definitely hold in common across faiths is that holy ground can be terrifying, being willing to really see and embrace the divine in one another, God in us, is risky and transformative. No person remains the same. Thank you for recognizing the risky, transformative work being done by the Hudson River Presbytery. We look forward to being partners in work and service with this gathered community here both locally and globally. Thank you.



Christian Education

Lynn Dunn, Director of Christian Education

The season of Advent is now upon us. This holy season marks the beginning of the church year, and is a time of preparation, so we might enter into the mystery of the incarnation and the coming of the light of Christ into our world. During the four Sundays of Advent and on Christmas Eve, a different family will be light the candles of the Advent wreath in worship. As the light of the Advent candles in our sanctuary grows progressively stronger during these next four weeks, may the light of Christ also grow within each of us, our congregation, and our world.

December 2 is the first Sunday of Advent. During the Advent Fellowship Lunch following worship, we will offer Advent craft activities for school-aged children. We hope to see everyone there!

Our Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 23, during worship. Rehearsals will be held with Ty Lundman after worship on December 9 and 16, and the Dress Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.



Christmas Vacation

Looking for something new to do during the Christmas vacation? Christmas Camp at Holmes, December 27-30, may be just the thing to make the holidays special this year. Activities will include Vespers, Bible Study, Holiday Arts and Crafts, Hiking, Team Building, Winter Environmental Education, Bakery, Games, Songs, Campfires and S'mores! (If it snows, there will be time for fun activities like sledding and snowman making.) For

grades 1-12. Registration forms are on the CE bulletin board across from my office.

College Student Sunday will be December 30, and we look forward to worship led by young adults from our congregation. (Please note: This is new date, changed from the CE calendar published in September.)



Christian Education Calendar for this Month

December 2 -- Advent crafts for children at the Advent Fellowship Lunch.

December 9 and December 16 -- **Christmas Pageant Rehearsals** after worship in the Choir Room with Ty Lundman.

Saturday, December 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. -- **Pageant dress rehearsal** in the Sanctuary.

December 23 -- 10 a.m., **2012 Christmas Pageant, during worship.**

December 30 - **College Student Sunday** -- Christmas Vacation -- **No Church School.**



Advent Fellowship Luncheon

*Fun * Food * Fellowship*

Join us in celebrating the start of Advent with a potluck luncheon including joy and laughter, crafts and caroling...

Sunday, December 2, 2012, after worship approx. 11:30

What will you bring to share for lunch?

We need main courses, side dishes, dessert

RSVP by November 25th sign up or call 761-8585

I'll bring *

Name _____ Number Attending _____

Main course _____

Side dish _____

Dessert _____

What's Coming Up at White Plains Presbyterian Church

Advent Luncheon	After worship	December 2
Heifer Fund	After worship	December 2, 9, 16
Bake Sale	After worship	December 2, 9, 16
New York Chamber Brass	7:30 p.m.	December 7
Pageant Rehearsals	After worship	December 9, 16
Dress Rehearsal	10:00 a.m.-12:00	Sat. December 22
College Student Sunday	Worship	December 30
Christmas Pageant	Worship	December 23
Christmas Family Service.	7:00 p.m	Mon. December 24
Christmas Candlelight Service	11:00 p.m.	Mon. December 24