



# RESPONSE

The Presbyterian Church of White Plains **Newsletter**

39 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

(914) 761-8585

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**FEBRUARY 2012**

## Music

Tyrell Lundman, Music Director

I have had a number of comments on the thematic preludes and postludes as described in last month's digital *Response*, and I look forward to similar projects in the future. Order gives us something to look forward to, at the least, and I always appreciate your feedback. Keep it coming!

This last month we introduced a new Gloria from new hymnal. It seems to have been popular and we plan to

introduce other new works as they come available. As some of you already know, I, along with the Worship and Music committee, intend to be a leader in adopting and making full use of this new worship



resource. It will be mix of new and old, and brings together a number of the disparate traditions in the PC(USA). As an exciting church-wide project, it has been both a mark of unity and a commitment to the future. Please read more about the project, including projected completion dates and history at [www.presbyterianhymnal.org](http://www.presbyterianhymnal.org).

That said, I hope you are taking the opportunity to have a green or red hymnal, either as a memory or for use at home. We still have many. I would like to see all of these beautiful and meaningful books out of our boxes and cabinets and into a home.

Thanks, blessings and peace,  
Ty

## Annual Meeting

**The Call for the Annual Meeting  
The White Plains Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, February 5, 2012**

The annual meeting is called for Sunday, February 5 at 11:15 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary immediately following the morning worship service for the following purposes:

1. Election of Officers

Elders Four (4) for the class of 2015  
(3 year terms)

Deacons One (1) for the class of 2013 (1 year term)  
Five (5) for the class of 2015 (3 year term)

2. To elect the Congregational Nominating Committee of five members to report in February 2013

3. To elect the Ruling Elders as Trustees

4. To present the 2012 budget as approved by the Session

5. To approve the terms of call for the Rev. J. Geary

6. To elect the auditors for 2012.

7. To accept the end-of-the-year Financial Report for 2012

## from the *pastor*

*Shepherd of Israel,  
you sent a star to enlighten the wise  
and a child to topple the tyrant.  
Make us wise enough to seek you  
among the least of your children,  
wise enough to trade our treasure  
for the gift of overwhelming joy.*

By the time RESPONSE reaches your mailbox or inbox, four weeks will have passed since the visit of the wise men. By now they are well along on their journeys home, perhaps so far that they are no longer traveling together. But they return a bit wiser. They have seen the truth.

We too have moved on. We have entered “the season after Epiphany” sometimes simply called Ordinary Time. It is one of our “green” seasons, a season of growth and maturity, although the term “green” today is also a wake up call to our responsibilities as creatures of our Creator in creation.

It is a quick journey this year. On February 19 we will celebrate Transfiguration Sunday and the ordination and installation of ruling elders and deacons. That is a **RED LETTER DAY** in the liturgical calendar, and we **WEAR RED** as a sign of the Spirit’s work among us.

Before the month is over, we will have entered upon the hard discipline of Lent and donned the purple of penitence. Plan now to be a part of our congregational study of the Belhar Confession of Faith which comes out of the church in South Africa and addresses themes of racism, reconciliation and Christian unity. The full confession can be found on our website.

Uniting the entire month will be our celebration of Black History Month with special music and prayers each week. The history of racism in this country, and in Christian churches, is one that calls for growth, maturity, repentance, and surely, surely, an acknowledgement that the Spirit moves - even through us.

Let us worship God,

Pastor Jeff

## visit us online!

at our website [wppresby.org](http://wppresby.org),  
E-mail: [wppresby.church@optonline.net](mailto:wppresby.church@optonline.net),  
for the up-to-date news.



**Rev. Jeffery A. Geary**, Pastor  
**Tyrell Lundman**, Director of Music  
**Lynn Dunn**, Director of Christian Education  
**Stella M. Aviles**, Executive Assistant.  
**Vicente Velasco**, Sexton  
**Doug Astarita**, Night Custodian  
**Gina Cerillo**, Nursery School Director  
**Noel Warner**, Business Mgr.  
**Elizabeth Peene**, 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](http://wppresby.org)

Telephone: (914) 761-8585

E-mail: [wppresby.church@optonline.net](mailto:wppresby.church@optonline.net),

View the up-to-date calendar on website

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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](mailto:pastorgeary@optonline.net) by the **12th** of the month. The articles should be no longer than approximately **200** words.

## Congregational Life

Nancy Re, Chair



### Congregational Events

Leading up to the start of Lent  
(Ash Wednesday 2/22/2012)



#### **Kingsley House Valentine Celebration – Friday 2/10**

Each year we hold a Valentine celebration for the residents of our senior residence next door at Kingsley House on the Friday before Valentine's Day. The celebration includes a simple dinner and dessert as well as Valentines, balloons and a sing-along.

The setup starts about 4:30 p.m., the event starts at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to participate that day by helping in preparing part of the meal or a dessert, please let one of us (Nancy Re, John Paradise, Barbara Barnes, Edna Shaw or Norma Smikle) know. We would love the help. Our Church family has already made the Valentine's cards during coffee hour on MLK Sunday.

#### **Mardi Gras brunch [Pot Luck] - Sunday 2/19 after worship**

During the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday is a time for study and reflection for Christians all over the world.

However, Mardi Gras is the last day before Lent when we celebrate this time together on Sunday, February 20 with a brunch of goodies. Traditionally,

WPPC had a pancake supper along with a lot of sweets, unfortunately we are no longer able to use the big kitchen. So POTLUCK it is. We would like everyone to come and bring something like, egg bakes, French toast, ham, bacon, drinks and of course, yummy desserts. We will have some suggestions available but are *open to all cultural options*.

Because some people have dietary restrictions we request that you make a tag with the name of the item and the ingredients in it. This will allow anyone with dietary restrictions to make smart choices.

So what do you need to do..?

Make a reservation – fill in the bulletin notice or call the office;

Tell us what you will bring;

Come and have a great time together in fellowship with your Church family.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for these dates and **Ash Wednesday worship on February 22 at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.**

Have a question? Wish to join the Congregational Life Commission?

Speak to Nancy Re, John Paradise, Barbara Barnes, Edna Shaw or Norma Smikle.

Or email [nancyre@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyre@yahoo.com)

## Adult Education

### **CONFESSING FAITH IN DIVISIVE TIMES: The Belhar Confession**

The Belhar Confession emerged from South Africa as a witness of Christian faith against the sins of racism and focuses on major themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice in the context of the church's Trinitarian belief. It calls the church to a deeper appreciation of the values of unity in diversity in relation to the divisions of race, culture and other facets of the human condition.

We believe ... that unity is, therefore, both a gift and a obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through

the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; ... that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God;

Beginning February 26 join us at 11:15 a.m. each Sunday during Lent for this challenging exploration of a Christian faith for our times.



## Mission Commission

Elder Mike Doehring, Chair



Our expectations going forward during 2012 are most likely good health, a better economy, no major disasters, as well as your own expectations. And, perhaps looking to an increased presence of the grace of Jesus Christ in the world.

1) Last year 2011 had some major natural disasters — earthquake in Japan, tornadoes, hurricane and other disruptions. We pray that this year they will be minimal. However, we never can predict the future. The One Great Hour of Sharing programs of PC (USA) (OGHS) supports not only disasters it also supports two other initiatives:

- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self-Development of People
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Our financial support helps these programs respond swiftly to needs all over the world. Last June we sent over two dozen Presbyterian Disaster Kits to PC(USA).

Contributions for this Special PC(USA) Offering will be received on three Sundays –

February 26, March 4 and March 11. Offering envelopes will be in the worship bulletins.

2) Easter – the rebirth of the earth and our faith. The miracle is that we *believe* some 2000 years later and we weren't even present at the time! How do we respond in our efforts in the world? Something to ponder in the coming weeks.

3) Earth Day 2012 – Sunday April 22. We are in the planning stages for an Earth Day event. This event will include a celebration of the life and visions of Dr. Wangari Maathai. Stay tuned. If you'd like to help with the event and planning, contact with Mike Doehring at [clover7med@aol.com](mailto:clover7med@aol.com).

4) FOCUS (Friends of Christ United in Service) – serves meals to the men of the Open Arms shelter in White Plains. The meal is usually served on the third Thursday of the month at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Church House. Got some free time? Help out and enjoy a meal with the men.

Remember – Mission is Possible!

### Book Club

The WPPC Book Group meets each month to discuss contemporary books (fiction and non-fiction) through which we engage with the issues, struggles and joys of life and faith. Each selection is announced six weeks in advance in so that participants have an opportunity to acquire and read the book. Meetings are open to all and guests are always welcome. On February 28<sup>th</sup> we will be discussing *A Mountain of Crumbs* by Elena Gorokhova. It is a memoir about a girl growing up in St. Petersburg, Russia and how she finally managed to emigrate to the United States. The Book Club meets in the Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday each month.



### A Thought to Ponder

Easter is a time of rebirth for the earth and for our faith. What difference does trust in the resurrected Christ - our baptismal identification with Christ's life, death and resurrection - make in the world?

Easter draws the disappointed disciples back into community (Emmaus) and sends them forth to "turn the world upside down" (Acts) not merely by having personal faith but by living as kingdom people (Matthew, Mark, Luke). There are fruits of the kingdom (most parables, Paul) and faith must issue in work or it is dead (James).

## Christian Education

Lynn Dunn, Director of Christian Education

On New Year's Day this year, our young adults and youth led us in a worship service that revolved around a hymn by Brian Wren, entitled "Great Holy One." Worship included readings and songs around this theme, with the congregation invited to respond in song:

Great Holy One,  
Spreading time and space  
Show us who you are  
In a human face.

Hide and seek:  
Learn to trust,  
No one's really ever lost.  
Hide and seek:  
When we're found  
We'll be safe on holy ground.

It was moving to begin the new year with worship led by our young adults, and affirm with them that no matter where life may take them, they are never lost, but are ever sought and being found by the Holy One, who will sustain and guide them.

Looking ahead to the coming month, our youth group will have the opportunity to serve at the annual Kingsley House Valentine's party on February 10. They will also help fight hunger

locally through the " 'Souper' Bowl of Caring" project. Youth will make and serve a delicious soup during coffee hour on February 12 and funds raised will be given to local hunger programs. (We defer this project to the week following the Super Bowl because of our congregational meeting on February 5.)

Lent begins at the end of February, and while our Adult Education program will study the Belhar Confession, we plan to have concurrent programs for children and youth. Children up to third grade will work on various arts and crafts projects, while students in fifth grade through young adult will be invited to help me create a set of banners depicting the history of God's relationship with God's people described in Scripture, from creation through resurrection and the new creation. For this project, we will use the motif of the tree, a symbol that recurs throughout Scripture.

### February Christian Education Dates:

February 10 - Youth will serve at the Kingsley House Valentine's party

February 12 - "'Souper' Bowl of Caring" during fellowship hour

February 26 - First Sunday of Lent: One Great Hour of Sharing banks will be distributed

Lenten Education and Youth Lenten Arts program begins.

## Scholarship

Application Essays are being accepted for the

### William Small Scholarship Award

The scholarship is based on merit and need and will be awarded to an individual who has made major contributions to the life of the Church and who is pursuing a post-high school education.

Essay submission deadline is the end of March.  
Please place your essay in Christian Education folder by the office.



**Prayer Ministry**  
Sharon Callender

**Something to Pray About: Don't Judge, just love**  
(Based on Bible Reading from Matthew 7:1-5 – Judging Others )

Most of the time, it is so easy to pinpoint and zero-in on the perceived flaws, mistakes and shortcomings of others; dwelling on it, ruminating on those thoughts, until it manifests into something our loving God would not approve.

Until you walk in their shoes, live their life, experience the pain, the joy, the frustrations of their existence, you cannot and should not utter a judgmental word toward another. No one but God adeptly understands the real circumstances and struggles behind an individual's actions.

Maybe there's something deliciously enticing about judging others that makes us feel better about ourselves and maybe even flawless in comparison to the terribly imperfect other.

Next time we are tempted to judge remember this:

**Don't judge,  
just love,  
offer a prayer instead of  
an angry glare.**

**Don't judge,  
just love,  
offer a hug,  
instead of a frustrated shrug.**

**Don't judge,  
just love,  
for no one is perfect,  
and can never be,  
except for our loving Savior,  
who set us free.**

**Let this be the cry of our hearts...don't judge, just love.**

Matthew 7:1-5 reminds us to let go of whatever it is that leaves our hearts heavy with judgment, and to focus on working out the imperfections in our own lives, by walking hand in hand with God.

*Who's Having A Birthday?*

**FEBRUARY**

- 2 Russell J. Hoag
- 4 Elizabeth Peene
- 5 Doyle Branche
- 7 Brian David Owings
- 8 Thomas Cerillo
- 8 William Torreyson
- 8 Pamela Goode Jenkins
- 9 Matthew Mariani
- 13 Mary Davidson
- 13 Milme Hoag
- 13 Edna Shaw
- 14 Beth Pappalardo
- 15 Spencer Ross Smith
- 16 La Sheila Brown
- 16 Mavis Burton
- 16 Robert Murphy
- 20 Carol Sue Norris
- 26 Eleanor Lounsbury

*Best Wishes from your church family*



**What's coming up at Church**  
**Add the events to your calendar and join us**

**Sunday, February 5**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**After Worship in Sanctuary**

**Friday, February 10**  
**Kingsley House Valentine Celebration**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, February 19**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**Installation / Ordination of Officers and Deacons**  
During worship

**Sunday, February 19**  
**Lenten Event – Mardi Gras Party**  
Luncheon after worship for everyone

**February 22 – Ash Wednesday Worship**  
**12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.**

**Beginning February 26 and during Lent**  
**Adult Education**  
**11:15 a.m. after Worship**

**Sunday, April 22 Earth Day**  
In the planning stage. Anyone with suggestions are welcome.

**We welcome all to God's house**  
**Help us Share the Holy Days with others in our community**  
**Help others find God and share the invitation to join us**



The Presbyterian Church  
39 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

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**Call for the  
Annual Meeting of  
the Congregation**

**Sunday, February 5 at  
11:15 a.m.**

**What's Coming Up at White Plains Presbyterian Church**

Christian Education  
Lynn Dunn, Dir. of Christian  
Education

Music  
Adult Choir & Children's Choir  
Tyrell Lundman, Dir. of Music

Mission  
Elder Michael Doehring

Annual Meeting  
Session Clerk

Adult Education  
Barbara Horan

Congregational Life  
Nancy Re

Prayer Ministry  
Sharon Callender

**Mardi Gras Brunch will be held the  
Sunday before Ash Wednesday,  
February 19**

The Congregation is asked to bring a pre-lenten dish to the  
brunch

**Ash Wednesday**

Services will be held during the day at  
**12:00 noon**  
and an evening service at  
**7:30 p.m.**