



RESPONSE

The Presbyterian Church of White Plains **Newsletter**

39 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

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OCTOBER 2012

Congregational Life

Nancy Re

Progressive Dinner Party

We're Holding our 2nd Progressive Dinner Party – October 6th

You might be asking "What is a progressive dinner party?". It is a party where each successive course is eaten at a different host's house -- the guests progress from house to house. Hence, the name progressive dinner party.

A Progressive Dinner is like a potluck dinner, but instead of the food traveling to one location, the guests travel to the location of the food. Guests begin at one house with appetizers then the guests move to another house for the dinner course. Then guests from all houses travel to the church house for a concluding dessert *en mass*. The pressure is off any one person to be the sole host of the party, both in the entertaining, numbers and cost. Given our current economy, this seemed like a great idea. Therefore, for the appetizer course there will be several hosts, each hosting one table of eight guests; same idea for the dinner we will all share dessert together at the church.

If you would like to participate in the meal, simply give the office a call or sign up on the sheet in worship, if you would be interested in hosting either appetizers or dinner for eight in your home, please speak with Nancy Re, email her at nancyre@yahoo.com, or speak with the pastor.

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Adult Education

Barbara Horan

In response to the violence of the past two months, Christian Education retooled our programs for the early fall. For example, anti-Muslim rhetoric led your pastors to speak out against the bigotry in letters, sermons and the media; your Church Council offered our church house as an alternate site for a press conference condemning the Islamophobic ads placed in our Metro-North train stations; and when the ads reappeared they put their money where their mouth was and helped support a new positive ad (which will soon appear) which simply states: "Love your Muslim neighbor."

During September, the adult education class has been discussing the both the terror, the violence, and the peaceful protests in the Arab world. They have also been learning more about Islam. But rather than simply talking *about* Muslims we want to talk *with* Muslims, and so have extended invitations to some Muslim women to come share with us. Watch for details in the bulletin and the intra-week email.

On October 14, the good folks from Stony Point Presbyterian Church will be with us in worship and will stay for our 11:30 class during which they will speak about their church's response to recent gun violence. Having spent a year studying the PC(USA) policy statement, *Gun Violence, Gospel Values*, SPC was the first congregation to respond to the wave of violence in August, including the Colorado shooting. Come for the inspiring story, but stay to help us commit to doing something to end this plague.

Session/Council Snippets

Deirdre Lewin, Clerk of Council/Session

The Council (aka Session) met twice in September and here are some of the things that I thought you might be interested to know about.

Jeff is using some of his study leave for two interesting educational opportunities. On Sept. 21-22 he attended a preaching conference at Harvard - and was able to be back in time to be at the service on Sunday with Rev. Alex Smith. And in October he will be attending a class on "Approaches to Urban Ministry" at Princeton Theological Seminary. He will be taking some well-earned vacation time off later in November.

The upstairs apartment in the house owned by WPPC, 46 Rockledge Avenue, has been rented and we are grateful to Vinodh Vivekanda and the property commission for organizing the preparation of the apartment and the process of renting it.

We were most appreciative of a lovely note from Boh Yum Kim, Grace Kim's mother following the death of Boh Yum's husband and Grace's father that read:

*"Dear all of Presbyterian Church Members,
Thank you all for your expression of sympathy. I am sincerely grateful to you for your prayer for my husband and my family, and specially taking care of my daughter Grace. Thank you very much again. Blessings to you all,
Love and Peace, Boh Yum Kim (Grace's Mother)*

Mrs. Kim has graciously given the church a generous donation to buy a number of the new hymnals that will be purchased later this year.

Peace and blessings to you all.

Deirdre Lewin, Clerk of Council/Session
dklewin@optonline.net

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

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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 by the

15th of the month. The articles should be no longer than approximately **200** words.

Mission

Elder Mike Doehring, Chair

Samaritan House

Drop off any toiletry items in the basket in the narthex so that women in need can feel refreshed, etc. A small task perhaps but greatly appreciated.

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. 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

We have long supported this hunger relief program and its efforts to convince politicians to vote to approve legislation to end hunger at home & abroad. Sunday October 21 will be our Bread for the World Sunday. "Through education, prayer, and worship, congregations commit themselves to the fight against hunger and poverty in our country and around the world." It's simple - no financial offering involved – just write letters to members of Congress – we'll provide letters that you can sign through the Bread for the World Offering of Letters. Check with Mike Doehring or Leslie Mardenborough and/or see HYPERLINK "<http://www.bread.org>" www.bread.org.

A Reminder – PC(USA) Special Offerings

We know that peace and harmony do not always exist around our country and the globe. So, we try to help make the world a better place. One of the ways we can do that is through the PC(USA) Mission Projects. The General Assembly of the PC(USA) supports four special Mission offerings during the 2012-2013 year:

Peacemaking Offering on October 7 in conjunction with World Communion

Christmas Joy Offering on December 23

One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent on March 3

Pentecost Offering on May 19

Also, we here at White Plains Presbyterian have a special Easter offering on March 31.

A portion of the Peacemaking & Pentecost offerings are retained here at WPPC for initiatives designated by the Session as is all of our Easter Offering.

Rural & Migrant Ministry – works to foster the empowerment of farm workers and supports farm

worker justice. Consider going to the Sowing Seeds of Justice Dinner, Saturday October 27, 2012 at St. Bartholomew's Church, 82 Prospect St., White Plains. 4-6 pm film **The Harvest/La Cosechs** a presentation on the lives of migrant children & their families. Among the honorees is The Rev. Dr. William Weisenbach, retiring pastor of 1st Presbyterian Church in Katonah. 6pm – dinner and reception. RMM does important work in our area and the rest of NY and we hope to support them and celebrate their efforts at this program and dinner. You can, of course, just attend the film presentation and skip the dinner. HYPERLINK "<http://www.ruralmigrantministry.org>" www.ruralmigrantministry.org Contact Leslie Mardenborough for more details (HYPERLINK "<mailto:lamardenborough@optonline.net>" lamardenborough@optonline.net)

Muslim Neighbors

Supporting Our Muslim neighbors after Anti-Muslim ads. Starting this week, hateful anti-Muslim ads are running in the New York City subway system. City transit officials don't want to run these ads, but a federal judge ruled that the ads are protected by the Constitution. **The bad news is that no one can stop these hateful ads from running. But here's good news: We can counter the ads with a more faithful message!**

Council/Session agreed to contribute \$100 to help raise \$5,000 so that the national group Sojourners (Faith in Action for Social Justice HYPERLINK "<http://www.sojo.net>" www.sojo.net) can buy ads saying "Love Your Muslim Neighbor" and put them in the same subway stations as the offensive ads.

Tensions between Christians and Muslims are high all around the world, so we need to do our part to put out the flames in our own backyard. Hateful ads like this can only result in violence, hatred, and more fear. *Everyone* – regardless of race, religion, or creed – deserves to feel welcome and safe when riding public transit in the United States.

Send a message in New York: Christ called us to love all people, including our Muslim neighbors.

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Peacemaking

“The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Peacemaking Offering were created in 1980 to support the efforts of the PC(USA) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God.

This year’s Peacemaking Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 7. It will be distributed as follows:

- 50% to Presbyterian Peacemaking ministries of the General Assembly Mission Council
 - 25% to Presbytery and Synod peacemaking efforts
 - 25% to a local WPPC initiative. This year we have chosen to support the PC(USA) program for South Sudan Relief.
- Hopefully we and others can make a difference.

Briefly:

SOUTH SUDAN

A volatile region of the world for centuries, South Sudan just recently got its independence.

In the January 9, 2011 referendum, nearly 99 percent of voters in southern Sudan — which is predominantly Christian and animist — chose to secede from the Islamic State of Sudan based in the northern capital of Khartoum.

The referendum ended nearly 60 years of intractable conflict in the country — which gained its independence from the British and Egyptian governments in 1956 — including two civil wars that consumed more than three decades (1963-1972 and 1983-2005). During those years more than two million Sudanese died and four million were displaced.

Violence and turmoil in the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan are in the headlines every week. Christians are being marginalized and persecuted in the Republic of Sudan (North) and there is inter-ethnic fighting in South Sudan, and violence along the border. In the midst of these crises, Presbyterians are working alongside Sudanese and South Sudanese partners to be agents of reconciliation, evangelism and justice in Africa. PC(USA) is also working to support health and education initiatives in Sudan.

See: HYPERLINK "<http://www.pcusa.org/sudan>" www.pcusa.org/sudan

PRAY for peace in all its forms.

Who's Having A Birthday?

OCTOBER

- 4 Adriana Aviles
- 5 Pamela Iodice
- 6 Alannah Taylor Smith
- 6 Eddie Iodice
- 7 Jessamyn Brown
- 8 Alistair MacDonald
- 9 Ruth Heubel
- 10 Laura Yardley
- 10 Patty Nohara
- 11 Margaret Brown
- 11 Jeff Lyman
- 15 Sarah Brown
- 16 Akeyla Sterling
- 17 Felicia Brown-Smith
- 17 James Reap
- 20 Allison Fuerst
- 21 Carly Davis
- 23 Kiah Sterling
- 26 Emily Torreyson

Best Wishes from your church family



Hi folks,

I am going to take advantage of our online format for our church newsletter to try something new: I am going to include a link to a cool video. It is called HYPERLINK "<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlpjA-QgmQM>" [Training Fleas](#) and was made available on *YouTube* about five years ago. In the video, an announcer says: "Training fleas is really very easy. All you need is a glass jar with a lid. The fleas are placed inside the jar and the lid is then sealed." At this point, most viewers will gasp and urge the announcer to 'hurry up' and put the lid on, as the fleas are beginning to jump out of the jar. The lid is placed on the jar and the announcer walk away.

After a screen wipe, he continues: "The fleas are left undisturbed for three days. Then when the jar is opened, the fleas will not jump out. In fact, the fleas will never jump higher than the level set by the lid. Their behavior is now set for the rest of their lives." At this point the glass jar disappears, and the fleas continue to jump within the set confines of the now missing jar, as we are told: "And, when these fleas reproduce, their offspring will automatically follow their example."

The video was originally a commercial for the SONY Playstation 2, back in 2001. It ended with the tag: **Escape the circus and live beyond the imaginary lid.**

It is discomfoting to think about the implications for the church. We don't like to think of ourselves as so set in our behavior that we can't move outside the confines of our old habits and ways of doing things; that we don't notice that the jar is gone, the world has changed, the tomb is opened and God is 'out there' doing something new. "Behold, I am doing a new thing. Have you not noticed?" asked God through the prophet Isaiah.

The behavior of the fleas is set for life – unless they are disturbed and their habits interrupted. In this there is hope. We claim to follow a Christ who not only comforts the afflicted, but who afflicts the comfortable. We come to worship not only for comfort and strength, but so that God can disturb and disrupt us, and send us back out to the world that God so loves.

Our Executive Presbyter, The Rev. Susan Andrews, reminds us that "Mission means *to be sent*. And *to be sent* means to spend more time outside the building than inside the building. *To be sent* means to find the pain and help heal it, to find the hunger and try to fill it, to discover the loneliness and reach to touch it, to recognize the violence and decide to transform it. *To be sent* means to get into the boat with Jesus and go straight toward the storm, avoiding the rocks and welcoming the wind, and trusting that what lies ahead is love – a love that finds its home in our neighbors."

My friends, we are learning this at WPPC. There are many new things happening, which you will find in these pages: a reaching out to our Muslim neighbors, a new church school class to pre-schoolers, a commitment addressing the causes of hunger through a Bread for the World offering of letters on October 21, a Brass Concert with our new friend at SUNY Purchase, a Heritage Day celebration with our friends at the White Plains Historical Society, and much, much more. And the Stewardship Team will challenge us to help make it happen. Let your Godly imagination wander outside the glass jar as your read, and ask yourself, to what is God calling and sending me?

Christian Education

Lynn Dunn, Director of Christian Education

I am delighted to report that we are now offering a pre-school class on Sunday mornings for children aged 3 through 5. The class will include short, age-appropriate lessons, music and stories, followed by play and creative time that children who have been with us in child-care are acquainted with. We hope this short class will introduce pre-school aged children to the stories and music that will be a foundation for their future engagement with worship, church school and youth programs. Melanie Millard, May Skoury, Kim Ackbarali and I will be teaching this class with continuing support from Darlene Zackson and teen volunteers.

One of the features of the new pre-school class will be the introduction of lessons and materials from the well-known Godly Play program. This is a Montessori based religious education program. It will complement and serve as an early-childhood foundation for the Feasting on the Word curriculum we are using in the school-aged classes. If you would like to learn more about Godly Play, please ask me and I will be happy to talk with you about it.

The pre-school class will meet in the same room where children have been in child care, and we think the children will benefit from the continuity of having their new class in the same room that they are used to.

Teaching Teams for 2012-2013

Pre-School (ages 3-4-5):

Kim Ackbarali
Melanie Millard
May Skoury
Lynn Dunn
Darlene Zackson
with assistance from Allison Fuerst and Annick Tabb

Grades 1-2-3:

Melanie Millard
May Skoury
Akeyla Sterling
Karlyn Tabb
Sydney Walsh

Grades 4-5-6:

Yasmin Barnes
Nicole Freeman
Gerry Schroeder
Tom Walsh

October Dates for Christian Education

October 7, 2012	World Communion Sunday
October 13, 2013	Annual Tag Sale/Bake Sale

Youth needed to help with the tag sale!!

Tyrell Lundman,

Music Director

Welcome to Fall. As you may have noticed, the choir has moved to the other side of the chancel, and many of you have moved across the aisle as well. Knowing that you come to WPPC largely to be kept on your toes, we do our best to shock and amaze. We are beginning a cycle of new repertory, much of which has been culled from the existing library, some of which have never been performed. Continue to come find out what exists in the darkest corners of the choral vault. (Teaser: one of our scores is nothing but a spiral with block capitals A-D).

On a less mysterious note, as you begin pumpkin hunting, I hope you will mark your calendars for October 26, 7:30 p.m. We are thrilled to be hosting the New York Chamber Brass in

concert in our sanctuary. Specializing in music composed since 1950, they will offer an exciting program of both modern and contemporary music. Not to be missed! This is not your father's brass band! Check out the program on our website and call the church office for tickets. \$20 General, \$10 Students/Seniors.

Finally, we are reaching a level of comfort with many of the new hymnal offerings. How exciting! I hope the blend of old and new is pleasing and you may take comfort in knowing that someday when, as my family would say, "things settle down," we will develop a canon of music truly our own.

Thanks for being a terrific church!
Ty

Congregational Life

Nancy Re, Chair

October Tag Sale October 13th

The “Nifty Thrifties” are our group of hard working women who keep alive the vision of the Women’s Association and that is to serve the congregation and our community in Christ’s name. Barbara Barnes, Beryl Dilworth, Carmen Gray, Milme Hoag and Edna Shaw faithfully gather each Monday and Friday to sort and select the many donations of clothing and household items left at the church throughout the week. These offerings support the Thrift Shop at the south end of our building (open 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each Tuesday and 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month) and a semi-annual tag sale each fall and spring. Donations from the tag sale both support the general budget of the church and, in these tough economic times, is a service to our community. The tag sale will take place on October 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Church House. Donations are welcome until October.7th.

HELP WANTED

We need your help to have a successful sale – please consider sharing your time and/or your abundance. Volunteer to help! Share an hour or two, or a day or be part of the ongoing team. We especially need help with the clean up at the end to pack and restore the Church House for Sunday morning.

Can you share an hour or two on Saturday afternoon October 13th - we need your help. Please mark your calendar and sign up to help!

Prayer Ministry

Mark Your Calendars! November 10th Prayer Breakfast

The Rev. Mark Koenig, the director of Presbyterian ministry at the United Nations, will be the featured speaker for the Saturday, November 10th prayer breakfast which will be held in the church house at 9:00 a.m. and is sponsored by the Prayer Ministry. The title of Mark Koenig’s talk will be: ***Of Hope and Prayer and Action.*** Please join us for this inspirational time of prayer, singing hymns and fellowship. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00.

Below is a description provided by Mr. Koenig detailing the topic he will discuss:

We will explore the complimentary relationship between hope, prayer and action. As followers of Jesus, we act. We work to make God’s community livable for all. We extend compassion, pursue peace, and work for justice. But our actions do not provide the basis for hope. Rather, our hope rests in God. When we turn to God in prayer, God renews our strength and provides us hope that sustains us in our action.

Rev. Koenig was a guest preacher at White Plains Presbyterian Church last summer.

The Stewardship Team

GIVING FROM THE TOP

I just purchased a book recommended by Pastor Jeff for my Kindle. As soon as I “clicked” the convenient 1-click option, I said a bad word because I’d forgotten to go through the church’s Amazon website link! The church’s budget isn’t going to be seriously affected by the cents not recouped from this sale, but I order from Amazon a lot and “missed cents” add up.

Like many of us, I live on a fixed income. I tithe (when my monthly income is direct deposited to my account, the first check I write is for 10 percent of that income made out to WPPC) and budget for our planned special offerings. There isn’t a lot of room for me to do more financially for our church, so I appreciate opportunities like the HYPERLINK "<http://www.wppresby.org/give.php>" [Amazon Affiliate Program](#).

In the last year, members of your Steward Team have repeatedly shared stories of how we or others have honored increased pledges, continued to tithe, made special contributions, contributed to ministries or provided financial assistance to a person or family in need – all the while wondering how we would meet our own financial obligations that month or week. At other times we wonder how we’re going to take on this next task to serve the

ministries of our church, or attend one more study, or reach out to a member...it’s not like we’re not already juggling

Every story ends this way: “I didn’t know how I was going to be able to afford or do this, but I did.” The implication being that we expected to be disadvantaged by the offering of time or money...but we weren’t.

We believe that this is because each of us is clear that we give not because we “ought to.” We give in praise of and thanksgiving to our God who showers us with blessings – in times of joy and times of distress. God responds by relieving us concern when we follow the examples of Abel who gave God the “firstlings of his flock”, the widow with two small coins, the Christians we read about in Acts of the Apostles who “had all things in common”: *giving from the top*.

As we move through the season of our annual stewardship campaign, we encourage you to think and pray about the next step in how you respond to God’s generosity: what can you do in 2013 to give from the top – of your financial blessings, of your God-given gifts and talents, of your time. Join us in experiencing your own miracle of the loaves and fishes.

Dear Church Family

Please know how much your prayers of comfort and support have meant to me and my family during my time in the hospital - and now that I am home - knowing they will continue to help me through my recovery. To realize how much everyone cares has been a very humbling experience for me. The doctors are very pleased with the way things are going and that is very encouraging for us.

To those who donated blood and platelets (could you make sure I spelled that correctly?) thank you so much. If I wasn't able to use the blood I know that some one else in need received the benefit from it. I did receive the platelets - they came with a bright red tag saying they had been donated for me!

Once again - my sincerest thanks.

Prayerfully,
Doris Fraser Greenfield