



# RESPONSE

The Presbyterian Church of White Plains **Newsletter**  
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**DECEMBER 2013**

## YO MISS

### **YO MISS! Teaching Inside the Cultural Divide – Let's go together on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>!**

In October, White Plains Presbyterian Church and the Cross-Cultural Network of Hudson River Presbytery co-hosted a performance of Judith Sloan's *Crossing the BLVD.: strangers, neighbors, aliens in a new america*. About 50 people gathered in the church house to hear the voices and see the portraits of immigrants from all over the world who settled in Queens and shared their stories with actress and activist, Judith Sloan. It was a moving event that highlighted the incredible diversity of how people journey to this country and how we encounter one another in our lives together in the United States.

Now we have the opportunity in Judith Sloan's **YO MISS! Teaching Inside the Cultural Divide** to listen to the voices of young adults as they engage across cultures! Judith Sloan spent 15 years teaching in schools and jails where she encountered and reported on immigration stories, cultural clashes, and generation gaps. Fusing the art of theatre and radio, **YO MISS! Teaching Inside the Cultural Divide** is an eye- and ear-witness account of

one artist navigating a maze of miscommunications and memories, while breaking down assumptions that divide residents of a city who live in close proximity but come from conflicting worlds. Through poetry, vivid character portrayals and music, she brings their tales to life along with her own stories revealing the ripple effects of the Holocaust on her family, as she and her students find resilience in the face of tragedy. In **YO MISS!** Sloan transforms into a multitude of characters, in this sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always truth-seeking performance.

Rev. Sarah Henkel is organizing a caravan to the performance of Yo Miss! at the Puffin Cultural Forum in Teaneck, NJ on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.. We will leave the church at 3:00 p.m. and return by 7:00 p.m. Interested in attending? Contact Sarah at [sarah@hudrivpres.org](mailto:sarah@hudrivpres.org)



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rev. Lynn Dunn

The season of Advent has begun. This holy season marks the beginning of the church year, and is a time of preparation to appreciate 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 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 the world!

The response to our Godly Play giving tree has been wonderful, and we have received donations for all the materials we need for the four weeks of Advent. The children signed thank-you notes to our donors last week! Items still on the tree include the "Ten Best Ways" that we still need for January 19 and the "Mystery of Easter" that we need for March 2. Class attendance in Godly Play has been great and the children have been enthusiastic. During Advent, the children in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be guests in the Godly Play room to hear the Advent lessons, which build from week to week leading up to Christmas. Here is a photo of the class (guests are in the rear) as they are about to hear the first Advent lesson: December 8 is the second Sunday of Advent and during the Advent Fellowship Lunch following worship, there will be

an Advent craft activity for school-aged children. We hope to see everyone there!

Our Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 22, during worship. We will let families know about upcoming rehearsals. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

College Student Sunday will be December 29, and we look forward to worship led by young adults from our congregation.

## Christian Education Calendar for this Month

**December 8 -- Advent crafts for children at the Advent Fellowship Lunch.**

**Saturday, December 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. -- Pageant dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary.**

**December 22 -- 10:00 a.m., 2013 Christmas Pageant, during worship.**



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Nancy Re, Chair

### Mark your calendar for our events.

On **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our Advent potluck luncheon. We will eat, sing carols, and make an advent craft. This will be our congregational Advent party. Kingsley House residents have been invited to join the potluck. The Angel Tree families may also join us.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. we will go Christmas Caroling to bring the love of the holiday to our homebound members and others. We will start at Kingsley House and then move on.

### Shopping for a cause opportunities

12/1: Boy Scout Troop X - Wreath Sale, Support our resident Troop

12/1-12/15: **Heifer International** – Bake and Share Sale

12/1-12/15: **My Sisters Place** - Holiday Boutique

**Amazon** – Shop through our website year round to support the church

Coffee Hour host/hostess needed during Advent and January. If you haven't had the opportunity to host and meet others, please consider it.

Wishing everyone a Happy Healthy Advent, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

## Donations for Christmas Poinsettias

I wish to give flowers for Christmas Sunday, December 22, 2013 in loving memory/honor of :

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### Donor's

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Suggested Amount of Gift: \$25.00)

### All Checks for donations must be received by Sunday, December 15, 2013

Please make checks payable to the Presbyterian Church (memo your check "Flower Fund") and send to: Mrs. Julene Goode

Flower Fund  
39 North Broad  
White Plains, NY 10601  
(914) 761-8585



# Merry Christmas

## MUSIC

Tyrell Lundman, Music Director

Advent. Four short weeks to get ready for Christmas.

Or four short weeks to get ready for the whole year?

Who are the church-year seasons for?

Are they something we give up to

Christ, a kind of temporal greeting card?

Are they for the business of the church, that nothing from tradition be forgotten?

Or are they a way of ordering our own lives in order to better reflect our duties as Christians?

My favorite hymn line (one of them) from People Look East: "Make your house fair, as you are able." Last year I let myself off the hook, and wrote about "as you are able" in the sense of "Just as I am," and nothing more. This year as Rev. Peggy might say. I am writing, "Just as I am – thank you. Now What?"

In the church year, the time of preparation is short. The time of celebration is shorter. The time we sit with the gift, marveling, wondering, is longer. Then comes austerity, and passion, finally more celebration, a little longer this time. We are slightly over halfway through. Then, action.

I hate sirens. I live in New York City, it doesn't do me any good to hate them.

But what I object to is the limitedness of their vocabulary. Move=honk. Don't move=honk. Sirens are heralds.

Something is coming that demands our attention. Preparation does not always equal preparation. Preparing for Christmas is not preparing for the whole year.

What will we have done this month that will affect our Thanksgiving next year?

## Mission

Mike Doerhing, Chair

I wrote this last year but it still fits!

Christmas is coming! 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 2013 theme is "One True Light – Share the 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 & offering envelopes will be in the worship bulletin on Sundays, December 8, 15 & 22 with the offering received on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**PRISON FELLOWSHIP- CHRISTMAS CARDS** Join us on Sunday, December 1 after Worship and then again on 12/8 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 1, 8 and 15 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.

**ANGEL TREE** – We give Christmas presents to children of local prisoners. Pick up "angels" in Fellowship time on December 1 and bring presents back by Saturday, December 7. The families have been invited to our Advent luncheon on December 8. Just another way to bring some Christmas cheer to our neighbors.

### PEACE!