



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

FEBRUARY 2013

Congregational Life

Nancy Re, Chair

Mardi Gras Brunch [Pot Luck] - Sunday 2/10 after worship

Leading up to the Start of Lent on Ash Wednesday 2/13/2013

Mardi Gras is a prelude to Lent, a time of study and reflection for Christians all over the world, during the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

We celebrate this time together with a brunch of goodies – traditionally at one time it was a pancake supper with lots of sweets, unfortunately we are unable to use the big kitchen.

So POTLUCK it is. We would like everyone to come and bring something for the brunch such as egg bakes, French toast, ham, bacon, drinks and, of course, desserts. We will have some suggestions available but are *open to all cultural options*.

Because some of the congregation have dietary restrictions, we are requesting that you make a tag with the name of the dish and the ingredients. This will allow anyone with dietary restrictions to make smart choices.

What you need to do is..?

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

Tell us what dish you can bring

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

Kingsley House Valentine Celebration – Friday 2/15

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

Setup is at about 4:00 p.m. The event starts at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to participate as a host that day, please let one of us, listed below, know as we would love the help.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for these dates and Ash Wednesday worship February 13, 2013.

Do you have a question or wish to join the Congregational Life Commission? We are always looking for suggestions, for volunteers and your support.

Please speak to Nancy Re, John Paradise, Barbara Barnes, Edna Shaw or Norma Smikle if you wish to join Congregational Life or email nancyre@yahoo.com.



Council Snippets

The council/session has met twice since the last council Snippets appeared. The main focus of our last meeting was THE BUDGET for 2013! A great amount of work goes into this process – particularly from our finance people. This budget is established with input from commission chairs and then all the elders discuss and refine the result at the council meeting. The end result of all this work will be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 3rd. (Don't forget to put that date on your calendars – immediately after the morning worship service – in the chancel.)

We thanked Beth Mills for the amazing amount of baking that she does each year for the Heifer project – and has done for so many years that I have lost count. Beth takes her vacation time from her job and uses most of this time literally baking for the Heifer fund for days. And, now, somewhere in the mountains of Peru, or on the veld of Africa or along a river in India a family is enjoying its new farm animal or a tree or bees or fish and has no idea that a woman in far away White Plains has spent many hours baking to help provide that living treasure for them. Many thanks to ALL those that helped with Heifer fundraiser – both in the baked goods section and those who herded the “white elephants” to the tables so we could enhance our Christmas celebrations with all kinds of treasures and to those persons who made monetary contributions. And then there is Edna Shaw whose talents resulted in the lovely Afghans that were sold to raise funds for *My Sister's Place*. Thank you all!

Discussions also focused on the pastoral work Jeff is doing, with great appreciation to him and all those who helped with calling church members prior to and after Sandy to check in on them; updates on various ongoing projects in the church and the many personnel and “housekeeping” issues that are part of the routine administration of the church’s work.

And here’s wishing each and every one reading this a blessed and peace-filled year in 2013 – and for the miracle of peace for this planet of ours.

Deirdre Lewin – Clerk of Session

visit us online!

at our website wppresby.org

E-mail: wppresby.church@optonline.net



Rev. Jeffery A. Geary, Pastor
Peggy Howland, Parish Associate
Sarah Henkel, Parish Associate
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.
Agnes Scheu, Church Treasurer
Olga Daniels, Asst. Treasurer
Wanda Van Woert, President of Trustees
Betty Peene, 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



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

Christian Education

Lynn Dunn, Director of Christian Education

These chilly mornings in the first weeks of February will yield to early signs of spring, such as a crocus peeking up through the snow, by the end of the month. Just so, the Lenten season begins mid-month and it points us toward the coming of new life and resurrection faith we look for at Easter.



Church School classes resumed in January after the brief holiday break. The children explored the meaning of Epiphany and who Jesus is followed by several weeks exploring the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit and the nature of God's call to us attested to in Scripture and revealed anew in Jesus Christ. Soon, the Church School classes will begin the observation of Lent, as each class opens with prayer around a table draped with a purple cloth and lessons on what it means to follow Jesus.

The Youth Group has been meeting twice a month. In January the group went to the Cliff's in Valhalla for indoor rock climbing. Photos were posted on the church's Facebook page.

For the third year, I will offer a Lenten Arts Program for youth as part of the church's Lenten education program. The series will begin February 17 for five weeks. This year the Lenten Arts Program will also be open to adults. A \$10 fee for the series will cover the cost of materials, and pre-registration is requested for planning purposes. Ty Lundman and Barbara Horan will offer two other Lenten education programs, beginning February 24.

Christian Education Calendar for this Month

February 3 - Souper Bowl of Caring Collection for local hunger projects

February 3 and 17 - 5:30-7:15 p.m. - Youth Meeting

February 13 - Ash Wednesday Services - 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.

February 15 - Youth serve at Kingsley House Valentine's Day Party

February 17, 24 and March 1, 10 and 17 - Third annual Lenten Arts Program, "Art and Soul" for youth (sixth grade and up) and for adults.

Who's Having A Birthday?

FEBRUARY

- 2 Russell Hoag
- 4 Elizabeth Peene
- 5 Doyle Branche
- 7 Brian 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 Smith
- 15 Deirdre Lewin
- 16 LaSheila Brown
- 16 Mavis Burton
- 16 Robert Murphy
- 20 Carol Sue Norris
- 22 Austin Lyman
- 26 Eleanor Lounsbury

Best Wishes from your church family



William Small Scholarship

2013

Annual application essays are being accepted now.

The scholarship 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.

Essays will be accepted through the end of March.

The award will be based on merit and need.



Please place your essay in
Doris Greenfield's folder by the office.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 3 immediately after the service is our Annual Meeting to be held in the Church Sanctuary immediately after the service for the following purposes:

Election of Officers, Elders, Deacons and Nominating Committee.

- To elect the Ruling Elders as Trustees
- To present the 2013 budget as approved by council
- To approve the terms of call for the Rev. Jeffrey Geary
- To accept the end of the year 2012 Financial Report
- To elect auditors for 2013
- To receive the report of the audit committee

Photo Shoot

Photographer
Kim Ackbarali
will be taking
pictures for a
new photo



directory **one last time** on Transfiguration Sunday, February 10, immediately following worship. If you have not yet had a photo taken, please plan to stay for the Mardi Gras lunch during which you can also have your picture taken.

Mission

Elder Mike Doehring, Chair

We are indeed blessed! At least I feel I am – hopefully you do also! Most of us have a roof over our heads, heat and electricity in our houses, etc.

What are your expectations for the rest of this year? Perhaps a better economy – a more civil society – increased presence of the grace of Jesus Christ in the world and good health? And you can add your own thoughts and expectations.

About Hurricane Sandy

1) A by-product of my high school reunion last October is that I learned that most of our former classmates are now connected electronically. (I think that's a good thing).

I grew up in Massapequa, LI which was hit hard by “Superstorm” Sandy. One of the reunion organizers sent some photos of the devastation at his home. It took several months till early January that the work on his house was almost finished. He also sent a plea to help one of our classmates who was disabled by an earlier spinal cord injury. She lost everything — her wheel chair, oxygen tanks, other medical equipment and supplies as it is a huge expense to replace all of this equipment. At this time she is also worried about permanent housing since she is living in a hotel room and is worried about it because FEMA is pushing to end the temporary housing.

Sure this was a request for financial help but it's also a request to share our blessings and prayers with others not so fortunate.

2) Speaking of helping others, speak with Rev. Sarah Henkel when you get a chance about how we at WPPC are helping the Guerra family from Stony Point as they rebound from Sandy. Sarah and Norma Smikle have met with the family and just before Christmas Sarah and Ruth Doehring went with Elba to buy a new refrigerator and bed.

One Great Hour of Sharing

3) This past year (2012) seemed busy with natural disasters, and we pray that this new year will be “quiet” as many folks are still recovering from the 2012 disasters. But just in case Mother nature does not cooperate, the One Great Hour of Sharing programs of PC (USA) will be able to respond quickly as they did with Hurricane Sandy.

OGHS currently supports three 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. Perhaps we can again send Presbyterian Disaster Kits to PC(USA) to help those in need.

Contributions for this Special PC(USA) Offering will be received on Sunday, March 3 with announcements on February 17 and 24. Offering envelopes will be in the worship bulletins.

Future Events

4) **Easter** – the rebirth of the earth and our faith. The miracle is that we still believe some 2000 years later and we still believe in rebirth of nature and our blessings! Think about it in the coming weeks.

5) **Earth Day 2013** – Monday, April 22. Last year we celebrated the life and visions of Dr. Wangari Maathai by planting a tree in her memory. We also planted trees at George Washington

Coffee Hour



We all enjoy going to the church house and having a cup of coffee/tea with a treat such as cookies, cake and so on. It need not be elaborate but we need some volunteers to bring enough treats for about 75 people and 1/2 gallon of milk. The setup is easy. Just set the table, fill the milk pitchers, and clean up. You can be the sole host or share the hosting with another person. Every week another person or persons do the setup. Therefore we need several hosts/hostesses to sign up.



Coffee Hour Host / Hostess needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as host and/or hostess for coffee hour immediately after Sunday services.

Coffee and tea are provided. A treat for about 75 people and 1/2 gal of milk is all that is needed. Then

set the table and fill the milk pitchers located in the kitchen closet, and a bit of cleanup.

You can sign up for a specific date by speaking or emailing Beryl Small bus2ski@aol.com or Nancy Re nancyre@yahoo.com or just let the office know and one of us will be in touch with you to answer any questions.



Music
Tyrell Lundman, Music Director

This is my favorite time of year to program music. The bright cool light inspires me and the season is alive with symbols. Epiphany is as magical as Christmas, and indeed in the eastern tradition, the two holidays form together a more complete understanding of the continuation of incarnation. But alas, we move quickly this year into yet another season of great importance.

Lent is a busy time at WPPC, and this year the Lenten education series will feature a music section. I am focusing on hymnody, looking at the history of congregational singing, the differences between hymns and psalms in the tradition, and will be giving some practical lessons in music literacy with the aimed at improving the fun you have singing in church. This is only one of the exciting options this year, so I know you will find something that speaks to you.

Saturday, February 16, check out Declassified, at the Purchase Performing Arts Center. This is a newly formed group of musicians brought up through Carnegie Hall's Academy and Weill Institute. They are playing an interesting program with two unfamiliar composers, Kevin Volans and Harles Wuorinen, in addition to some solid chamber repertory by Steve Reich and Dvorak. More details can be found on the Arts Westchester website. Here is a link to the page: <https://www.artswestchester.org/things-to-do/event/the-declassified-2/>

We will miss Peggy in the choir as she moves to Florida.

Blessings,
Ty

Spring Activity Schedule

- February 3 - Souper Bowl of Caring Collection for local hunger projects
- February 3 and 17 - 5:30-7:15 p.m. - Youth Meeting
- February 3 - Annual Meeting
- February 10 - Transfiguration Sunday
Please wear something red
- February 10 - Mardi Gras Brunch
- February 13 - Ash Wednesday Services - 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.
- February 17, 24 and March 1, 10 and 17 - Third annual Lenten Arts Program, "Art and Soul" for youth (sixth grade and up) and for adults.
- Palm Sunday, March 24
- Maundy Thursday, March 28, Service 8:00 p.m.
- Good Friday, March 29
- Easter Sunday, Sunrise Services - 6:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday, 10:00 a.m. March 31
- Emmaus Sunday - April 7



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

of the Hudson River Presbytery

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT
at Stony Point Center - Auditorium
Wednesday - February 13, 2013
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Our Retreat Leader will be Rev. Lori Knight-Whitehouse

ART JOURNALING: Spiritual Work & Play

Ever had prayer time when words just wouldn't come? There is good news: you can pray in pictures, in collage, using paints, rubber stamps and ink or materials and media you bring along. COME with an open heart and a creative mind for a time of being young in spirit.

Plan to bring a sandwich. Beverage, fruit & cookies will be provided.
Requested: Call or e-mail to RSVP Faye Bishop (845) 256-5599

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE for WPPC STAFF **(The Church Office will be closed during these holidays)**

2013

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|---|-------------------|
| President's Day | February 18, 2013 |
| Good Friday - ½ day - Office closes at 12 Noon | March 29, 2013 |
| Memorial Day | May 27, 2013 |
| Independence Day | July 4, 2013 |
| Labor Day | September 2, 2013 |
| Columbus Day | October 14, 2013 |
| Thanksgiving Day | November 28, 2013 |
| Thanksgiving Friday | November 29, 2013 |
| Christmas Eve/Office will close at 12 Noon | December 24, 2013 |
| Christmas Day | December 25, 2013 |
| New Year's Eve/office closes at 12 Noon | December 31, 2013 |
| New Year's Day | January 1, 2014 |