



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

JUNE 2013

Music

Tyrell Lundman

Like the incomparable Charles Ives, Thomas Obediah Chisholm was in the insurance business. Known better today for his wealth of sacred poetry, most notably "Great is Thy Faithfulness," Chisholm was a pioneer in hymnody. His most famous text addresses God directly, as a father perhaps, or a protector and guide, certainly as a creator.

Most likely he chose to write "Thy" rather than "You," both for its sonorousness and its familiarity to readers of the then-common King James version of the Bible. Today we typically hear "Thy," "Thee," and "Thou" as churchy language maybe evoking specifically the 19th century Protestantism of which Chisholm was a part.

For most listeners, these old words sound elevated and distant – a kind of divine reverence – but that is far from the truth.

Many foreign languages include a familiar and formal "You" in everyday usage. For instance, in contemporary Spanish, "Usted" is used to refer to persons formally: teachers, business acquaintances, elders, and the like. "Tu" is used for the family or among friends, and in the church.

Though today both "Tu" and "Usted" are translated as "You," and taught this way in any Spanish or English class, "Tu," the familiar, more perfectly matches the abandoned English "Thou," while the formal "Usted" traditionally would have been paired with the more formal "You."

The King James Version expresses our relationship with God in the familiar. "Thou," to "Thee," and possessively "Thy." When Julian of Norwich wrote, "As truly as God is our Father, so truly God is our Mother," she was reflecting on the full parenthood of God. Not Sir, but Papa.

Happy Father's Day

Mission

Elder Mike Doehring, Chair

1) **Pentecost**– The Special PC(USA) Offering when we focus on how we minister to youth – all ages (church school, teenagers, college age and young adults) - Youth Ministries, Child Advocacy, Young Adult Volunteers. 40% of the offering will support the City of White Plains Mayor's Scholarship Fund for Summer Camp.

2) **Environmental Advocacy and Wangari Maathai** – We partnered with Church Street Elementary School in White Plains to help teach children about this special woman and her efforts to make a difference by planting thousands of trees in her native Kenya. The children learned how she empowered women and struggled against harassment and physical abuse – showing how a strong and committed spirit can indeed affect the world. We planted a tree and gave Church Street books about Wangari at a ceremony at the school. Pastor Jeff and I spoke briefly and the students sang special songs and all had an opportunity to touch the tree with their spirits.

3) **Kingsley House Strawberry Social** – A party with the folks at Kingsley House at the end of June – fun and good fellowship and great food. Sunday, June 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

4) **GREENING WPPC** – A committee has been formed under the leadership of Will Summers. Stay tuned – an exciting time.

5) **RED CROSS** – We are in talks with the Red Cross re using WPPC as an emergency location for folks displaced by fires, etc. Also WPPC is considering hosting Blood Drives once per month. Need to coordinate and talk with our nesting churches, Nursery School, Deacons, etc. regarding details.

Cont'd. page 2

Council Snippets

While at our most recent meeting the council needed to spend a lot of time dealing with needs of our church property (from rugs and roofs to oil tanks and pianos) those rather mundane aspects were more than offset by lots of encouraging and agreeable news.

We heard about the eight new children registered in the Church School, the strong registration for the fall for the Nursery School, and the four youth from our church under the able leadership of Lynn Dunn who are going Triennium. We heard also how the WPPC's mission is reaching out in ever widening circles, from the ESL (English as a Second Language) program here in our building and the upcoming Strawberry Festival right next door at Kinglsey House, to the Wangari Maathai tree planting at Church Street School, to supporting the White Plains Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, and to helping people and the environment in far-away Peru.

We realized how blessed we are in so many ways and not least of them is the gift of the volunteers and especially at this time of year we thank the Nifty Thirties who run the Tag Sale and all those who signed up to host Coffee Hour. We indeed blessed!

Peace to each one of you!
Deirdre Lewin
Clerk of Council

Mission

cont'd. from page 1

6) **PRAY** – For an end to violence of all types, most recently London. I wish I didn't have to put a new location each month. Remember we're all kin, we're all interdependent. And that's the basis of compassion, which was Jesus' ultimate teaching.

Remember – Mission is Possible!

visit us online!

at our website wppresby.org

E-mail: wppresby.church@optonline.net



Rev. Jeffery A. Geary, Pastor

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



facebook.com



twitter.com

Pastor Jeffery 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.

Congregational Life

Nancy Re, Chair

Picnic – June 9th

Church School Sunday and the Picnic are both being held on June 9th.

On that Sunday the Church School children will lead us in Worship. Then we will move on to our Church picnic.

Congregational Life will supply hamburgers and hot dogs, coffee/tea and a cold drink. The congregation will supply all of the yummy side dishes and desserts. Please make sure to sign up and tell us what dish you will be bringing. If you can help set up or clean up, please let us know.

Once lunch is over come join the children, old and young on the front lawn for some fun. Sack races, water balloons, ball games, ring toss, horseshoes, bean bag toss and anything else we can think of. Or just have a seat and enjoy watching the activities.

Coffee Hour – summer schedule

During the summer we will have iced tea or lemonade and yummy treats (hosts choice) — you don't have to bake — fruit or store brought is just fine. The coffee hour will held under the trees by the Main North Broadway entrance to the sanctuary.

If you have never considered hosting a coffee hour, please consider it and sign up on the coffee hour sheet on the reach out table or leave a message with the office for Nancy Re. It is a great way to meet other members of the congregation.

We need volunteers from Sunday, June 16th on through the summer. Please check your calendar and sign up.

If you have any questions about fellowship events, volunteering around the church, or joining a group – please ask Nancy Re at 914-949-3340 or by email at nancyre@yahoo.com, Norma Smikle, Edna Shaw, Barbara Barnes or John Paradise. We are always looking for new team members and new ideas.

The Spring Tag Sale was held on Friday and Saturday, May 17-18 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thank you for all who worked on the sale especially to the Nifty Thirties who work year round reviewing and sorting donations, pricing and managing the Spring and Fall tag sales. Thank you to all who helped during the week of the sale, especially those who came to clean up We would like to thank the Boy Scout Troop for their awesome assistance in bringing all the merchandise upstairs to church house. Again thank you so much. Without the volunteers we wouldn't be able to have the tag sale. The Tag Sale brought in \$3,690.90

Nifty Thrifty team is always looking for new members – they meet in the sorting room off the choir room on the lower level on Monday and Friday mornings 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Sunday,
June 9



Who's Having A Birthday?

JUNE

- 2 Ena Burton
- 3 Anthony Villa
- 4 Rae Faith Robinson
- 4 Bernard Small
- 5 Gina Cerillo
- 6 Gail David
- 8 Kelly Gough
- 11 Christina Hughes
- 17 William Smith
- 18 Catherine Clarke
- 20 Amy Via
- 20 Wesley Nyambi
- 28 Beth Ann Mills
- 28 May Skoury
- 29 Marisa Mariani

Best Wishes from your church family



Coffee Hour Host / Hostess needed

Several volunteers are wanted to host a coffee hour after Sunday services. It's easy. Just bring a treat for 75 persons and 1/2 gal of milk. Coffee and tea are provided.

Set the table and fill the milk pitchers, clean up after.

You can share the hosting with another person if you wish.

Sign up for a specific date by speaking or emailing Nancy Re nancyre@yahoo.com or just call the office and we will be in touch with you to answer any questions you may have.

Christian Education

Lynn Dunn, Director

We will offer a multi-age Sunday morning Church School program for children throughout the summer (June 16 through September 1), and have a special weekday program planned for the end of June.

"Stories to Grow On" is the theme of a one-week Vacation Bible School, June 24-28. The parables of Jesus, stories that continually offer new insights into the meaning of the Kingdom of God, will be the basis for our Vacation Bible School this year at White Plains Presbyterian Church.

From 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., each afternoon during the week, children will gather to sing, hear stories and take part in art and other activities centered on the theme of the stories told by Jesus. The week concludes on Friday evening with families gathered for dinner and conversation. A family orientation will be held on Sunday, June 23, following worship.

The program will use the Godly Play curriculum, a Montessori approach to religious education and faith formation, that creates a community of learners who engage and respond to the materials in a holistic way using head, heart and imagination. Tuition is \$50 for this program.

YOUTH NEWS

Four teens from White Plains Presbyterian Church will attend the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University, July 16-20. Akeyla Sterling, Awa Nyambi, Sedinam Anyidoho and Elorm Anyidoho will be part of a Triennium delegation of 28 teens and six adult advisors from Hudson River Presbytery. I coordinated the delegation for the Presbytery and will also accompany the group.

Summer Christian Education Dates:

June 9 - Church School Sunday

July 16-20 - Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Purdue University, Indiana.

September 8 - Church School regular classes resume.