



WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TIDINGS

JANUARY 2008

From the Interim Pastor's Study

Dear Members and Friends:

Now that Christmas is here—**Merry Christmas!**

From the excitement and activity of the Annual Christmas Tea and Bazaar and the next day's Advent Festival to the children's Christmas Pageant and the next Sunday's choral concert with the Long Island Brass to the soft candlelight of Christmas Eve and communion, Christmas in Westhampton has been a meaningful time. My family and I thank all of you for your many kindnesses both in this season and in the past year.

But the celebration is not yet complete! Jeannine and I would like to highlight two special events:

- First, the Presbytery of Long Island invites you to Jeannine's **Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament** for her ministry as Chaplain of the Protestant Campus Ministry at SUNY Stony Brook. Join the congregation and presbytery in our sanctuary Sunday, December 30th, at 4:00 pm. A Ham Supper will immediately follow the service.



Invitation to Heal and Restore Relationships

Session would like to offer members of WPC the opportunity to hold a mediated conversation to resolve differences with another member resulting from Trey's departure in July 2006.

One of the recommendations from the Alban Institute's November 2006 visit to WPC is for Session to provide, if needed, a facilitator to mediate conversations between members who desire healing and understanding in their relationship with other members. We have arrangements with Susan Nienaber of the Alban Institute—who led the small group discussions last fall—to be with us the weekend of February 1-3, 2008. Susan will hold an orientation meeting for participants prior to the scheduled conversation.

Attempts will be made to schedule your conversation, providing the partner in conversation is also willing. If you would like to be part of this ongoing process of healing, speak with Pastor Peter prior to January 21st.

- Second, Jeannine and I invite you to an **Open House at the Manse** on New Year's Day, January 1st, from 12:00 noon-3:00 pm. This will be a relaxed time to mingle together as a church family as we look forward to the New Year.

We hope you can be with us to celebrate at both events! January is the beginning of a New Year and with it the opportunity for a new day.

We see the new day emerging as we ordain and install church officers Sunday, January 14th. At the Annual Congregational meeting Sunday, January 28th, we review the recent past 2007 with expectations of moving forward in 2008. A Church Officer Training Retreat is planned Saturday, February 2nd for all Deacons, Elders and Trustees actively serving on the Boards. **Now is the time** to access where each Board is and set its direction for 2008 and beyond.

As we reflect on the old and gaze ahead to the new and our part in it, I share this mediation:

(Continued on page 9)

A NOTE FROM YOUR PEACEMAKING REPRESENTATIVE

A PRAYER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

O God, we come to you with open hands and open hearts.

We pray for peace and for all those that suffer violence and injustice in the midst of war and conflict.

We pray for the innocent, combatants, peacemakers, and religious and political leaders.

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem, the holy city of God and spiritual home to all the children of Abraham.

O God of mercy and compassion,

Embrace our Israeli and Palestinian brothers and sisters.

They have endured profound loss and sorrow.

They are fatigued by fear and anger.

Mend their broken hearts and failing spirits.

Ignite in them sparks of hope.

Comfort them and guide them onto the road of peace.

O God of peace and reconciliation,

Lift up the international leaders who search for peace.

They have talked before without success.

They face a difficult road and many obstacles.

(Continued on page 4)



Partnering Congregations Team

Saturday at the Center

Becoming a Contagious Christian

January 12, 2008

9:00 – 9:30 check-in and refreshments

9:30 - 12:30 workshop time

Presbytery Center, Commack, NY

\$5 per person / \$15 per church team of 4 or more

We are not all called to knock on doors or hand out pamphlets, but we are all called to reach out to the least and lost. Becoming a Contagious Christian is a program designed to help each individual discover his/her style, and how to communicate their faith in the style that fits them. The three hour program, led by the Rev. Dennis Carter, (Roslyn Presbyterian Church) uses discussion, video and role playing to help folks discover the gifts for outreach each of them already possess.

TO REGISTER: Please phone the Presbytery office at
631-499-7171

Please make checks payable to "The Presbytery of Long Island"
and mail to:

Saturday at the Center - att: Marie Zupka-Ludder
42 Hauppauge Road
Commack, NY 11725

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU FROM THE GARDEN CLUB

You might not have noticed but many dead tree limbs and a few dead trees have been pruned and removed from the church and manse properties. On Saturday December 8, Tree Service was present cleaning up the trees on both properties. This service was volunteered and donated by Marcia Koziarz. Tree Service is owned by Marcia's son Dewey Rose. The grounds look beautiful and we are very grateful to Marcia and her son. Please keep Tree Service in mind if you are in need of tree trimming. You can contact Dewey at (516)384-8750.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service for Bernard Giere's father, Rudolf Giere, will be held on Sunday, January 6th, at 12:30 in the sanctuary. Afterwards, friends and family are invited to the Giere residence for refreshments.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar was a fabulous success. No effort is without the work of many individuals. I would first like to thank Marge Beckwith for her yearlong dedication to the bazaar workshop. They make all those pretty hand made items. She and Peg Childs made the beautiful tree centerpieces. Marge was my "crisis intervention go to" when a few problems cropped up. Lastly she headed up the kitchen crew who prepared all those platters of delicious cookies and sandwiches. Peg Childs prepared the posters again this year, as well as making objects for the bazaar. Thank you to the rest of the bazaar workshop for their contribution of their creative talents.

Thanks to Eloise Carter who again organized the wreath making party. The Mankers supplied the wreaths and the baby's breath. Ben Larson and his son Don provided us with the greens for the wreaths and arrangements. Thanks to Karen Andrews for providing some guidance with the arrangements for those of us who are a little creatively challenged. My first Christmas present and one of the best was seeing May Griffin come down those stairs and whip up two beautiful arrangements after her serious illness. That is truly a "Thanks be to God" phenomenon.

Jane Otis, Melanie Bass and Margretta Anderson decorated the tree. Jane and crew prepared the tea room to look so lovely. Jane managed to again create a new beautiful arrangement for the head table.

Ellie Brubaker and her crew saw a lot of happy customers walk out with lots of home baked goodies. The cookie walk was again a success and she is going to collect more cans for next year than this year. Thanks to all who baked for both the tea room and the baked goods as well as those who made sandwiches.

Karen Andrews and her crew presented another lovely looking Twice Nice display. Her items for sale flew out the door once again.

Cheryl VanTuyle and Lise Freilinghaus did a great job of pinch hitting for the children's room with their young assistants.

Thanks to my crew with the jewelry, Holly Hubbard and Elva Stanley, who have become pros in this department.

Thanks to my sister Jean Seyfert who helped with the newspaper publicity and managed to find homes for some of our old Twice Nice which wouldn't even sell in the rummage sale but we didn't have the heart to throw away.

We had a large crowd and all seemed to be enjoying themselves. I think that new sign in front added to our numbers. Thanks to all else who contributed whether assisting the setup or even coming and just buying.

Christine Haddad, chair

Yes. Plans for the 2008 Christmas Bazaar are well underway. Please save the red or green plastic Folgers Coffee cans for the "cookie walk". You may bring them to church to be stored.

PW CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Whenever Westhampton Presbyterian Women meet for lunch a basket is passed for the Least Coin collection. Grace Haddad counts the collection and each December a check is sent to Presbyterian Women (U.S.A.). \$66.30 was the total collected in 2007. Grants are then made by an international committee for special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, awareness building among women and relief throughout the world.

Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a very significant way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Fellowship of the Least Coin, an ecumenical prayer movement, was begun in 1956 by Shanti Solomon of India who believed that women anywhere could have a sense of being part of a worldwide family of faith as they prayed for peace and reconciliation and set aside the least coin of their country as a symbol of that prayer. As coins are gathered from around the world, they become a sign of our oneness in the common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE

Please join us at the manse on Monday, January 28th at 7 pm. We will conclude our study of the book of Jonah. It's a very short book and we urge you to read it in preparation for our discussion. Bring along your study guide. We'll use that as an aid for our insight into the meaning of God's lesson to us through Jonah. Everyone is welcome. Please join us!

MISSION MINISTRY

Our Maureen's Haven, Monday Night Homeless Program has been very successful to the present time. The Mission Ministry thanks all of the folks who have dedicated their time, and talent. However, we still have a few places to fill for February and March for sleepovers.

We need 3 women, one each for: February 18, March 17 and March 31.

We need 5 men, one each for: February 11, February 18, March 10, March 17, March 31.

Please check your calendar and help us complete our sign-up sheets for the season.

May the Lord bless you this coming New Year 2008.

A Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 21st, sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Riverhead. The celebration will begin at 8 am at the Hyatt Regency Wind Watch Hotel in Islandia, New York. Among the honorees that day will be Charles and Greta Hedberg from Beach Methodist Church. They are being honored for their commitment to Social Justice and the East End Homeless Maureen's Haven Program. The Mission Ministry has reserved a table for ten. If you would like to join us at no cost to you, please contact Creighton Berry at 288-2962. We will car pool to the event or use our bus if we have a driver.

Prayer - (Continued from page 2)

Inspire them to move from words to actions that fulfill a greater vision of peace.

Arouse in them a passion for righteousness.
Bless them and their work for peace.

O God of all creation,
Your people cry for peace.
May your promise of justice and enduring love
Breathe renewed Life
Into our commitment to a sustainable peace,
When two states—Israel and Palestine—are a reality,
Living side-by-side in security, harmony and peace.

THANK YOU

Hi to all,

This morning I was busy reading the mail that has accumulated over the 28 days that I was in the hospital, recovering from a bleeding aneurysm and operation to stop it. I was thinking of the food that was brought to the house for Don, and then for the two of us when I arrived home. There have been so many kindnesses shared, prayers said on our behalf, phone calls and notes written, that I am overwhelmed.....! How do I thank everyone..... so I have asked Nancy to put this Thank you note in the "Tidings."

(Continued next column)

THANK YOU . . .

To our many friends at the West-hampton Presbyterian Church, thank you. You are the best. Don and I have been through so much, but you all helped get us through it. What really made it all very special were the notes from all the different age groups. It wasn't just the old folks nourishing the old folks!! And it wasn't just the women writing notes!! Thanks to the men who took time to buy a card, write a note and mail it.

I was very touched Sunday following church, when people from the congregation and church choir came up to wish me well. Some of these folks were people who had never spoken to me before....! How fragile life is. We must make the most of every day. Be kind to one another and do be good!

If my mind would get back on track, I would be very happy. In the meantime, be helpful and when I am looking for the car keys, remind me that I didn't drive that day. Laughter is the best medicine, and I sure have plenty to laugh about everyday.

Thanks again for all the kindnesses shown to Don and I. We love you all. Life is good.

Love,
May and Don, too

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The Gift Card program is going to continue for the next year. The table will be in Fellowship Hall every Sunday staffed by a member of the Fund Raising Committee. The orders will be placed once a month on the last Sunday

(Continued on page 5)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor Peter will be the guest preacher this year at the annual ecumenical worship service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 21st, at 7:00 pm. The service will take place at St. Paul's AME Zion Church in Quogue.

An ecumenical choir combined from members of choirs of area churches will sing during the service. See Pastor Peter or Linda Howard if you would like to be part of this choir. Refreshments will be served following the service.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION JANUARY 6TH

Session is calling for a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 6, 2008 for the purpose of electing officers to fulfill existing vacancies. There are currently two elders and one deacon needed. If you have suggestions, please give them to Nancy Winters, chair of the Committee on Nominations.

CHURCH OFFICERS TO BE ORDAINED AND INSTALLED ON JANUARY 13TH

Session approved Sunday, January 13th, as the date to ordain and install Elders and Deacons and to in-

Gift Cards (Continued from page 4)

of the month. Pick up will be the following Sunday (the first Sunday of the new month). Future fund raising events will including a Spaghetti Dinner in February.

stall Trustees who were recently elected by the congregation to begin service in January. Elders, Deacons and Trustees will come forward at the appropriate times during worship on that day.

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE JANUARY 27TH

Session set the date of January 27, 2008 following worship for the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation at which time annual reports will be received. All annual reports of organizations, boards and church treasurers should be completed and sent to the church office by January 15th (or sooner), so they can be compiled and assembled.

The meeting is a time for us to reflect upon our work together this past year and to dream of ways in which we can better serve God and Jesus Christ in the New Year. Session will include in the report the budget for 2008; this is a change from previous years due to Session's desire to wait until the Stewardship response was better known in order for them to better plan.

CHURCH OFFICER TRAINING RETREAT IS FEBRUARY 2ND

The Church Officer Training Retreat will be held Saturday, February 2nd in Parish Hall. All Elders, Deacons, and Trustees are expected to attend as we begin the New Year with our newly elected church officers.

This will be an opportunity for all the officers to gather together. We will meet jointly for general church officer training as it relates to all three boards; then, after a brief break, the boards will meet

separately for more specific examination of their work. There will be an opportunity for the leaders of each Board to reflect on their year's work and offer orientation to their new members.

The event will begin with a light breakfast and coffee at 8:45 am. The opening program will begin promptly at 9:00 am. The varied and challenging program will continue in various segments until the closing 12:00 noon lunch. Please arrive early and stay late!

FALL HOME MEETINGS SHARED IN WRAP-UP

The second "Coffee with the Session" had the focus of discussion the "Home Meeting Wrap-Up." It was held Sunday, December 9, 2007 in the large Conference Room of the West Wing. Members of the Session Task Force on Home Meetings made the presentation.

Valerie O'Brien welcomed the 38 attendees, distributed materials and offered the opening prayer. Chair of the Task Force Nancy Winters offered the general background of the home meetings and Sessions purpose for the meetings, which was primarily to listen to the congregation members get a sense of where the church is in Session's "Process for Healing and Restoration" and to listen to feedback on the four goals and their initial implementation.

Nancy Winters then shared some statistics from the Home Meetings and shared her insights into their usefulness. The Session held 14 Home Meetings between October 3rd and November 17th. All in all, 110 people attended the meetings, (including Elders and Pastor Pe-

(Continued on page 6)

Home Meetings *(Continued from page 5)*

ter). There were 69 individuals who attended overall and 53 “Gifts, Skills and Interests” forms were completed. Nancy also expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the Session for all who attended and for the gracious hosts who opened their homes and presented the delicious desserts.

While not as many people took advantage of the opportunity to attend as Session had hoped, the response to the meetings by all who attended as well as the “multiplier effect” of people passing on to others their experience is believed to have made the Home Meetings well worthwhile.

Pastor Peter then made a presentation reviewing on newsprint the four goals of the “Process for Healing and Restoration.” He distributed a two-page handout of ideas the Session heard from listening process, offered general comments on progress made in the goals as well as pointing to a number of suggestions from the Home Meetings that are already in the works. He indicated also the congregation’s next steps in the interim ministry as the way is prepared to welcome the next pastor.

Following the presentation there was ample time for discussion, questions and reflection by those gathered. Gloria Johnson offered some final remarks and then adjourned the “Coffee with the Session” with prayer.

EPIPHANY—THE “FORGOTTEN” FESTIVAL

January 6th is the Epiphany of the Lord.

What is Epiphany? It is a major festival, similar to Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Yet, in spite of this, most churches ignore the day because it usually falls on a weekday. This year it occurs on Sunday.

The name—“Epiphany”—means “manifestation.” The light manifests itself in darkness. God reveals God’s self in Jesus. The glory of God is seen in Jesus. In the course of history Epiphany was known by other names: Feast of the Manifestation, Feast of Lights, Feast of the Appearing of Christ, Feast of the Three Kings, and the Twelfth Day.

This year the season of Epiphany will extend four Sundays leading up to Lent. Our pulpit will show the colors of Epiphany. The color used in the paraments denotes the mood and meaning of the season. White is used for the Epiphany of the Lord (January 6), the Baptism of the Lord (January 13), and the Transfiguration of the Lord (February 3) because it is a time of celebration. Green is used on the other Sundays as the color of growth. During Epiphany we are to grow into a fuller realization of the nature of Christ as the Son of God. Join with your church family Sunday after Sunday as we grow together in God’s revealing God’s glory in Jesus.

JEANNINE FRENZEL ORDINATION DECEMBER 30TH

Jeannine Frenzel will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Long Island during a service of worship Sunday, December 30th at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary of Westhampton Presbyterian Church.

Jeannine is currently serving as Chaplain for the Protestant Campus Ministry at SUNY Stony Brook.

All are invited by the Presbytery of Long Island to the ordination service. At press time, Gale Spaulding and Jane Otis are organizing a congregational Ham Dinner (with Brian Wagner’s “macaroni and cheese”) to follow the service in celebration. Everyone is invited.

SESSION ACTIONS FROM THE NOVEMBER 13TH MEETING

At the November 13th meeting of Session, the following actions were taken:

- Session accepted, with regret, the resignation of Elder Julies Diers and charged the Committee on Nominations with finding a candidate for presentation to the congregation;
- Send a Letter of Transfer for Alice Schultze to Horizon Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Arizona, accepting her request to remain as a “friend” of the congregation;
- Elected Gloria Johnson as Commissioner to the Presbytery of Long Island November 17th at West Islip;
- Gordon Hubbard presented information regarding the purchase of a power point projector and a portable public address system. The church has benefited from the generosity of Gordon as well as Youth Ministry Coordinator Pat Hubbard for making available these items over the years. Session voted to allocate \$2000.00 for

(Continued on page 7)

the purchase of these two items from the Plainver Estate funds.

- At the next meeting the Session will discuss the Home Meetings and plan for the Coffee with the Session meeting on December 9th when we report to the congregation those items expressed at the home meetings;
- Received a report from the Mission Ministry that they had some trouble with the DVD/VCR while trying to show a film to our homeless guests. The ministry spent money from their budget to purchase a new DVD/VCR and discovered the major problem is with the television set. They will try to obtain a new set;
- Elder Margretta Anderson reported that 98 pledges had been returned for a total of \$135,000. While there are still pledges to be returned, she expressed encouragement for the Responses received thus far.

SESSION ACTIONS FROM THE DECEMBER 4TH MEETING

The Session and the Board of Deacons met jointly at this meeting for their annual shared meeting as required by the *Book of Order*. It was an opportunity to reflect on the ministry of the congregation and their role in that work. Both boards met separately following the hour-long joint meeting.

The Session took the following actions:

- Session accepted, with regret, the resignation of Deacon Kathy Tilley and charged the Committee on Nominations with finding a

candidate to present to the congregation;

- Session removed from the rolls, pursuant to her request, the name of Lynn Sperry who no longer has a house in the area;
- Session reviewed the Learning/Serving Covenant of Elder Gloria Johnson for the spring semester and voted to approve it. The covenant will now be forwarded onto New Brunswick Theological Seminary for approval by the Dean of the Seminary;
- The Task Force on Home Meetings reported to the Session. [This report was shared with the congregation at the "Coffee with the Session" on Sunday, December 9th.];
- Elders Gloria Johnson, Diane Perry, and Creighton Berry provided a report of the November 17th meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island held at West Islip. One of the most important reports was from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry who presented Jeannine Frenzel to the presbytery. Jeannine was examined by the commissioners and was approved for ordination as Minister of the Word and Sacrament;
- Session approved the use of the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 30, 2007 at 4:00 pm for the Service of Ordination for Jeannine;
- Approved the practice to have all worship bulletins in large print;
- Approved for rosebuds to

be placed on the communion table to recognize births and adoptions when requested by a member or friend;

- Approved that the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the following Sundays in 2008: January 6, February 3, March 20, May 11, May 18 (Confirmation), July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 23, and December 24 (at the 11:00 pm Quogue Chapel service);
- The Finance Ministry presented the proposed 2008 budget with the understanding that after the pledges are all in the budget may be revised for presentation at the meeting of the congregation/corporation in January;
- Session approved a change in terms of call for Pastor Sulyok from February 1, 2008 to January 1, 2008.

ACOLYTES RESUME ROLE DURING WORSHIP

The Worship Ministry brought to Session a plan to resume the use of acolytes during at the beginning and end of worship each Sunday, beginning Sunday, December 14, 2007 with the schedule as follows:

- 1st Sunday – Session
- 2nd Sunday – Deacons
- 3rd Sunday – Trustees
- 4th Sunday – Youth
- 5th Sunday – Choir

Each board or group will be responsible for the selection of two acolytes for their respective Sundays.

OFFERING ENVELOPE TIPS. . .

When you prepare your offering envelope for church on Sunday, please write your envelope number on your check (and on the envelope if you are not using a pre-printed one). Moistening the envelope will seal it – it is not necessary to use tape! If you have missed a Sunday or two, you may put several week's worth of offerings in one envelope, and write just one check. Thanks for your help!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As "Tidings" goes to press, we have received a total of 129 pledges or gifts totaling \$161,500 toward our goal of \$200,000. Thanks to all who have donated or pledged so generously. Over the past few years we usually average about 160-170 pledges or gifts. It is the hope of the Stewardship Committee that others will come forward and support this year's budget. As you can see by attending our weekly worship services and church activities, or reading our monthly newsletter and visiting our website, our church is moving forward in a very positive way under Peter's leadership. He energy is boundless as he continues to find ways to reunite our congregation.

If you have not pledged as yet, or wish to make a donation toward

the 2008 budget, please mail it to the church as soon as possible so that programs and mission giving will not have to be reduced.

WPC MEMBERS ELECTED TO SERVE ON PRESBYTERY COMMITTEES

The following members and clergy from Westhampton Presbyterian Church were elected to serve on various Presbytery of Long Island Committees: Committee on Ministry: Peter Sulyok; Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Creighton Berry; Committee on Representation: Glorya Johnson; Permanent Judicial Commission: Diane Perry; and, Sexual Misconduct Response Team: Jeannine Frenzel.

Our congratulations to them and best wishes as they serve.

PASTOR PETER AND FAMILY HOST NEW YEAR'S OPEN HOUSE

The congregation is invited to begin the New Year with the Frenzel-Sulyoks in the Manse on New Year's Day, January 1st, from 12:00 noon-3:00 pm. After the busy holidays, take a moment to mingle with friends, Pastor Peter and his family and enjoy some refreshment as we step into 2008!

AUDIT AND FINANCE MINISTRY TO MEET

The Audit Committee and Finance Ministry are scheduled to meet on Saturday, January 5, 2008. The Audit Committee will meet first from 9:00-10:30 am followed by the Finance Ministry 10:30-12:00 noon.

The Audit Committee will conduct their yearly audit of the church financial records to report at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27th. The Financial Ministry will review the results of the Stewardship Drive 2008 and make adjustments accordingly to the budget for Session's consideration at it's January 8th meeting.

The finalized budget for 2008 will be made available to the congregation following the Session meeting and will be distributed in the Annual Report. Initial work by the Finance Ministry has the budget remaining similar to year 2007 with anticipated increases where necessary and with a 3% raise for staff.

YOUTH AND PARENT CONFIRMATION SUPPER PLANNED

All Eight Graders and older youth are invited to be part of the Confirmation Class 2008. Interested youth and their parents are invited to a Confirmation Class Supper, January 6, 2008, from 5:30-8:00 pm in Bailey Hall.

This will be an opportunity to learn about the confirmation process at Westhampton Presbyterian Church this year and to fix dates on the calendar.

EEPP TO MEET AT WPC—YIPES!

The East End Presbyterian Pastors (EEPP) will meet at Westhampton Presbyterian Church on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 10:00 am. With only two installed pastors in the eleven churches on the East End the group is in a process of accessing its mission and identity.

REMINDER . . .

THE DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS IS JANUARY 15th!

From the Interim Pastor's Study (Continued from page 1)

This is the beginning of a New Day!
 God has given me this day to use as I will.
 I can waste it or grow in its light
 And be of service to others.
 But what I do with this day is important
 Because I have exchanged a day of my life for it.
 When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever;
 I hope I will not regret the price I paid for it.

When opportunity knocks for us to serve God and build God's church, let us not knock the opportunity. With this New Year come new possibilities to rebuild and enhance the mission here at WPC. Much of the responsibility lies with Session leadership; however, Session can only lead where there are eager followers. Make a New Year's "commitment" to serve on a "Session Ministry"—the committees that grow our congregation! We are all in the mission together; we move forward when we move forward together.

Jeannine, my family and I wish you a Happy New Year!

Remember, our Interim Ministry is the time to reflect, and deal with, issues of grief, endings, trust, congregational identity, expectations for the future, and new beginnings. I invite you to contact me with any issues or concerns. I am in the office Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am-12:00 noon. Drop by or arrange with Nancy a more convenient time: 288-2576; my email: pastor@westhamptonpresbyterian.org.

Faithfully yours in peace,

Peter Sulyok
 Interim Pastor

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL MEETS SUN- DAYS @ 8:30 AM

Each week an Adult Sunday Church School class is offered Sundays at 8:30 am. Come out and join the discussion!

- Sunday, January 6: Join Valerie O'Brien's **Spiritual Conversations on "The Parables."** Each First Sunday a new parable is explored. Meet in the kitchen.
- Sunday, January 13: Now is the time to make **"New Year's Resolutions."** Is there anything inherently

religious about the ways we celebrate New Year's? Should there be? Let's reflect together on the past and coming year!

- Sunday, January 20: The second half of the class on **"Creationism, Evolution and Intelligent Design: What's a Christian to Believe?"** will be held Sunday, January 13th. If possible, pick up the reading handout in the church office prior to the group meeting.
- Sunday, January 27: **Caring for People with Alzheimer's:** How do persons caring for those with Alz-

heimer's disease care for themselves? How can congregations support those persons responsible for the care of persons with Alzheimer's disease? Join the discussion! Participants will be encouraged to support those in the congregation who have this role, and caregivers will be encouraged to seek and accept the congregation's support.

These classes are open to all! Come to one or all of them. Except for "Spiritual Conversations," which meets in the kitchen, they will meet in the Founder's Room of the Failing Wing.

NOT IN MY CHURCH DISCUSSION PLANNED

The video *Not in My Church* will be shown Thursday, January 17th in Parish Hall 7:00-8:30 pm. *Not in My Church* is a docudrama to help people deal with the problem of clergy misconduct involved involving sexual abuse in the ministerial relationship.

It is the story of one church faced with a betrayal of trust by its minister...a story that could happen in *any* church. While helpful for all congregation members, this video is recommended for church officers and members who work with youth and in the Sunday Church School.

Pastor Peter will present the video and lead a discussion following its showing. The video is 45 minutes long.

JANUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>NEW YEAR'S DAY - Office Closed</i>	2	3 <i>7pm Book Review</i>	4	5 <i>9am Audit 10:30am Finance Committee</i>
6 <i>Communion Sunday 8:30am Spiritual Conversations Youth New Year's Breakfast 12:30pm Memo- rial Service for Rudolf Giere 4pm & 7pm MS & HS Bible Study</i>	7	8 <i>7pm Session, Deacons</i>	9 <i>12noon PW Luncheon</i>	10	11	12
13 <i>Youth fund- raiser: French Toast Breakfast (Youth arrive at 7am)</i>	14	15 <i>7pm Trustees Tidings and Annual Reports Deadline</i>	16	17 <i>EEPP at WPC</i>	18 <i>Youth Ski Trip</i>	19
20	21 <i>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – Celebrated - Office Closed Youth return from ski trip</i>	22	23 <i>6pm Winterfest (Southold)</i>	24	25	26 <i>9:30am M&E meeting</i>
27 <i>Annual Meeting Youth Pot Luck Supper</i>	28 <i>7pm Elizabeth Circle at the Manse</i>	29	30 <i>6pm Winterfest (WPC)</i>	31		
WEEKLY: Sunday Worship 10 am Sanctuary Choir: Sunday 9:30 and 11:15am Jr. Choir: Tuesday 5:15pm (seasonal) AA: Sunday 12 and 7:30pm, Wednesday 7pm, Saturday 10am Christmas Bazaar Workshop: Tuesday 10am Stretch and Tone: Thursday 9:30am						

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 90 MEETING HOUSE ROAD
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www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org



Your issue of the January Tidings

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Susan and Joseph Shenker
- 2 Paul Pfaff
- 4 Briana Oakland
- 6 Diane Perry
- 6 Nancy Hamma-Clavin
- 7 Jared Jessup
- 9 Mackenzie Schindler
- 11 Adele Becker
- 11 Ralph Hubbard
- 12 Jessie Deihl
- 13 Karen Neubauer
- 14 Seamus Naughton
- 15 Bob Busking
- 15 Derik Herzing
- 15 Claire Berry
- 15 Suzanne Jessup
- 16 Sarah Shenker
- 18 Steve Ravenhall
- 18 Vytas Nielsen
- 20 Gordon Hubbard
- 21 Mark Klepper
- 22 Jennifer Collins



- 23 Jenna Klepper
- 23 Brian Mosher
- 23 Bob Schindler
- 24 Jenn Greiner
- 25 Karen Diers
- 25 Cynthia Diers
- 26 Eric Wootten
- 31 Ralph Downs
- 31 Sophie Rouhandeh

YOUTH JANUARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Youth and their families are encouraged to check the WPC Web Page under "Youth Group" for the latest up-to-date information on Youth Groups, Mission Trips, and all activities: www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org.

FIRST THURSDAY BOOK REVIEW

The First Thursday Book Review Group will meet January 3rd at the Manse. Check the WPC Web page under "Daily Notices" and the Sunday Bulletin Notes for information on this month's reading: www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org.

