



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARCH 2010

A Note From the Interim Pastor's Study

Dear Members and Friends,

The novelist and Presbyterian minister Frederick Buechner writes:

Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts you are either kidding yourself or asleep.

He continues, saying: "Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving."

Easter, the open tomb and the resurrection have probably raised more doubts than those, at first, of Thomas the Apostle. We know Jesus' comforting words to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Belief is—for all of us who must **accept** the word of the believing community—all that we have. We cannot go to the empty tomb or touch the scars as did Thomas. **But we can receive the gift of faith from God as we touch the scars of those who are crucified today and who pass their faith and hope on to us.**

Doubts force us to examine deeper the faith we own and to discover God as God reveals God's work and mission to us. Someone once said, "To believe, no explanation is necessary; to those who do not believe, no explanation would be sufficient." God gives us all that is necessary as we seek God's Word and endeavor to live it in our life.

Easter doubts probe us to move closer to the faith we have by demonstrating that our faith is just that: faith! And by our faith we live our lives!

It is with faith that our Nominating Committee came to the Session last week to request a call for a *Special Meeting of the Congregation* to elect a **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**. They have done their work and have selected their nomination of the PNC to seek our next installed pastor. With faith the Session has called the meeting for Sunday, February 28th, following worship. With faith we will elect a PNC and with faith they will search. Easter always means a refreshing newness to our individual life and our lives together as a faith community.

As always, in our shared Interim Ministry, please do not be hesitant or consider it unimportant to involve me in your concerns. While we continue to use this time to reflect, and deal with, issues of grief and endings and trust, congregational identity and expectations for the future as expressed in the Mission Vision Report, we now turn to the beginning of the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee. 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; and my email: pastor@westhamptonpresbyterian.org.

Faithfully yours in peace,

Peter Sulyok, Interim Pastor



The Journey through Lent to Holy Week—what do the Days Mean?

What is Holy Week?

Here at WPC Holy Week begins with **Passion/Palm Sunday** (March 28th) as we gather following the previous five Sundays in Lent to mark the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (riding on a donkey). **Palm Sunday**, or **Passion Sunday**, as its other name has it, is the Sunday we begin our re-living of the ‘passion’ of Jesus that continues through the ‘holy’ week. Passion Sunday is, therefore, an introduction to this week of an intense rehearsal of the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The term ‘Palm Sunday’ is misleading in that it refers to only one event of Holy Week. Our Passion/Palm Sunday worship is at 10:00 AM.

The events recorded for Holy Week are remembered as a means of personally experiencing the meaning of Christ’s death and resurrection. Scarlet is the traditional color for use during Holy Week, although the purple of Lent may be continued. Let’s explore some of the days we remember with special worship.

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, April 1st

Our tradition here at WPC is to celebrate The Lord’s Supper on **Maundy Thursday** (April 1st) in the Quogue Chapel at 7:00 PM. The last few years at WPC we have had a Tenebrae Service with the celebration of The Lord’s Supper. **Maundy Thursday** receives its name from the Latin word *mandatum* that means ‘commandment’ and points to the words of Jesus in the Upper Room at the Last Supper: “I give you a new com-

mandment: love one another.” Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet, his sharing of the meal as a sign and seal of his sharing his life, and his betrayal by Judas, all converge to fill this new commandment with profound meaning. Maundy Thursday ends with solemn remembrance of Christ’s betrayal and arrest.



Good Friday at the Foot of the Cross, April 2nd

Good Friday (April 2nd) we stand at the foot of the Cross to ponder the wondrous love of God in this death. It is an austere day; worship is spare. The most appropriate liturgical decoration is to have none at all! In a former congregation where I pastored, it was always the tradition of placing a ‘crown of thorns’ upon the Cross on The Lord’s Table to remind us of Christ’s suffering for us. Our Good Friday worship is ecumenical at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church where all of the clergy in the Westhampton Clergy Council share in brief meditations on “The Seven Last Words of Jesus.” The service begins at 12:00 noon and ends at 3:00 PM.

Holy Saturday for Prayer

Holy Saturday continues as a day of reflection and for self-reflective prayer. But with the coming of evening, we enter in the preparations for celebrating Easter Day. On this day we take the opportunity for decorating the sanctuary for the Easter

morning celebration. It is appropriate to reaffirm our baptism in the Lord.

The Resurrection of the Lord—Easter Day, April 4th

Easter is the oldest and the most important of all Christian celebrations. Because the resurrection took place on the First Day of the week—Sunday—that day become the Lord’s Day. Every Sunday is a celebration of the new life given by the Risen Lord.

At WPC we begin our **Easter Day** with an **Easter Sunrise Service** on the beach of the Swordfish Club on Dunn Road at 6:00 AM. For years, Hot Coffee and Hot Crossed Buns are provided by the generosity of members Meryle and John King. Sunrise will be promptly at 6:29 AM! **Easter Day** continues with two worship services in the sanctuary: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Celebrate the Resurrection with your church family!

At WPC Easter Day is the beginning of a season of celebration that lasts until Pentecost—it is called “The Great Fifty Days.” During Easter we remember our deliverance from the bondage of sin and death and the freedom of new life in Christ. And we also look ahead, anticipating the coming of God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the church at Pentecost. It is a time of great joy and celebration! The liturgical color for Easter is white, and gold may also be used, both colors suggesting the new light of the Easter dawn.

A Note from the Deacons

The flowers on the alter at Sunday services, both in the Sanctuary and the Chapel, are donated by individuals. These flowers bring beauty and joy to the service. They may be dedicated the memory of a loved one at the request of the donor.

After the service, the donor may take the flowers or give them to the Deacons. The Deacons will bring them to a member or friend of the Church who is shut-in or ill with the following note: "These flowers have been in the Westhampton Presbyterian Church. They have heard the hymns that have been sung, the prayers that have been offered, and the sermon that has been preached. Now they come to you, and in their silent way, are telling you of God's love and healing power, and the wish of the members of this church that you that you be blessed with faith, hope, health, and happiness."

If you would like to donate flowers, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the anteroom. In the summer you are welcome to sign-up and bring your own fresh-cut flowers to the Chapel service, just specify on the sign-up sheet please.

It All Depends

Age is relative. It depends upon what kind of age we mean. In a progressive school a child when asked how old he was reputedly replied, "Well, the latest personal survey shows my anatomical age as seven, my psychological age as twelve, my physiological age as six, and my moral age as four. I presume, however, you refer to my chronological age, which is eight.

Age does not depend upon accumulated birthdays, but upon the elasticity of our spirit and the vigor of our mind. Age is a quality of mind. If we have left our dreams behind and hope is cold, and we have ceased to look ahead, and our ambition's fires are dead, then we are old. But if from life we take the best, and if in life we keep the jest, and still hold love, then no matter how the years go by, not matter how the birthdays fly, we are not old.

From Quiet Thoughts by Paul S. McElroy

Peace in God,
Kimberly Murawski

HOLY WEEK (Continued from page 2)

Which Holy Week Service Should I Attend?

This is not a proper question to ask. It is not a question of "which one?" Rather, ask, "How can I miss one?" The resurrection is most meaningful when we have participated in our salvation history from the crucifixion to the resurrection.



Attend the Palm Sunday Fund-Raising Brunch

There will be a Palm Sunday Brunch sponsored by the Fund-Raising Team. Immediately following worship we will have the opportunity to go to Parish Hall for a delicious brunch! See you there!

Learning Forgiveness is Lenten Study

This year's Lenten Adult Discussion Group is *Learning Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* and is held at 8:30 AM in the Founders' Room. "Repentance is at the heart of our Lenten journey. Can we learn to forgive with open hearts?" Consider the various aspects of forgiveness, perhaps more central to Christianity than to any other religion.

Christians differ widely in their interpretations of how forgiveness should be practiced. Some urge forgiveness as a Christian duty under all circumstances, while others argue that certain conditions must be met before forgiveness can be meaningful or effective. How do we sort through such competing claims and interpretations? And how do we get past some of our emotional barriers to real forgiveness? These are the kinds of the questions we will explore together in this study of a theme particularly well-suited to the season of Lent, but fit for any season of our lives. Here is the Adult Group line-up:

- **3/7: Spiritual Discussions with Valerie O'Brien:** Join the first Sunday of the month conversation!
- **3/14 Session Four:** Reconciling divine judgment with divine love as we explore the deeper spirit of repentance.
- **3/21 Session Five:** Forgiving others is imperative—not optional. What

(Continued on page 4)

Presbyterian Women News

It takes the weather to bring Presbyterian Women to a screeching halt. Rarely has it happened in the past. This month it, SNOW, or the threat, persuaded us to postpone, then cancel the Luncheon meeting. We will meet March 10th at noon to pick up where we left off.

Letters were mailed to members and friends requesting recipes and support for our cookbook. The response is beginning to come in. A gentle reminder to return your contributions as soon as possible. The due date is April 1st.

There are few words to be added to those offered in celebration of the life of Ellie Brubaker at the Memorial Service February 14, 2010. We have said farewell but Ellie will be with us in spirit for a long time. There will be Ellie's room at rummage sale. There will be Ellie's cookie walk. These and more are memories to treasure and share.

Christmas Will Never Be the Same without Her Gingerbread Boys

She brought love and Christian ethics to our youngest. She brought smiles and fun and original crafts and creative projects. She made an indelible print in our "growing up to God". She was a model of love. She taught us how to be the best of ourselves. Her sense of humor, her warm and engaging spirit, her dedication to teaching Sunday School.....all will be so very missed.

Christmas will never be the same without her Gingerbread boys.

Ellie, thank you for touching my life. I am blessed to have known you. My daughter, Jesse was honored to be asked by you in middle and high school to assist you in your Sunday School class, to continue to learn from you, to be with you, to be influenced by you.

We will never forget you, your lessons, your friendship, and your love for "Bubba". I am so happy to have memories of all those Crop Walks with "Bubba" and "Panda Bear" trotting alongside us.

I am missing you and thinking of you
Eleanor Brubaker.

--Linni Deihl

LENTEN STUDY (Continued from page 3)

if we can't forgive? Or we're simply not ready to forgive?

- **3/24 Session Six:** Is forgiveness possible without repentance—what of Jesus' willingness to forgive on the cross?

Class handouts are available in the Church Office each week and may be read prior to class. Deepen the meaning of Lent this year and prepare for the new life Easter offers! All are welcome.

PW Thank You

We recently introduced more Cookbook recipes at the third "tasting" during coffee hour. We hope the samples have whet your appetite and prompted you to purchase a cookbook at publication.

Births

Tabitha Joanne Heath was born on Saturday, January 23rd in New York City to parents Christin J. Niebanck and Brandon Heath. Tabitha weighed in at 6 pounds, 8 ounces. Congratulations to the new parents and grandparents Micki and Bob Niebanck.

Deaths

A Memorial Service was held Sunday, February 14th to celebrate the life and witness to the resurrection of Eleanor "Ellie" Brubaker, following her death on Saturday, February 6th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Brubaker family and all whom Ellie touched in her life and witness.

A Memorial Service was held Ash Wednesday, February 17th to celebrate the life and witness to the resurrection of Mary A. Childs Nagle, following her death on January 31st in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Alec and family and all whom Mary A. touched in her life and witness.

? ? ?
Ads Boosters Recipes
 The deadline is nearing.
 Your Ad! Your Booster! Your Recipe!
Seafood—Pasta—Rice
 -The Cookbook Committee

Session Actions from the February Meeting, Feb 16th

At its February 16, 2010 meeting the WPC Session took the following actions:

Clerk of Session:

- Received the “Church Record for 2009” and voted to spread it upon the minutes of the session;
- Received letters from members Betty Lauver and Todd and Aida Nielson;

Youth Ministry:

- Approved the REACH Mission Work Trip to Warrenton, Virginia on July 2, 2010 to July 9, 2010 for 15 (Three adults and twelve youth) and approved the placement of REACH donation envelopes in the pews;
- Approved the Youth Auction to be held on April 23rd, 2010 with the proceeds of this fundraising event to benefit the REACH Mission Work Trip;
- Approved the Youth Group to host a 30-Hour Famine Event: April 17 to April 18, with the youth collecting donations of food and cash to benefit the local food pantry and the Haiti Relief Fund;
- Approved a Youth Retreat to be held at Holmes: April 30 to May 2, 2010.

From the Mission Ministry:

- Approved the 2010 Minute for Mission schedule as distributed to the elders;
- Approved Blanket Appeal Sunday and Pentecost offerings;

From the Nominations Committee:

- Approved a request to call a Special Meeting of the Congregation following the service of worship on Sunday, January 28, 2010 for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee;

From Personnel:

- Approved disbursement of the salary of the Youth Ministry coordinators as follows: \$5,000 to be transferred to the Youth Mission Fund (supporting the REACH trip) and \$1,000.00 to Youth Fellowship Fund for general youth fellowship activities.

In Other Business, the Session voted to designate with a bronze plaque the Pre-K Church School Classroom as the “Eleanor ‘Ellie’ Brubaker Classroom” as a special way of honoring Ellie for her 56-year ministry with WPC children.



World Day of Prayer, March 5th

All are invited to a special World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service on Friday, March 5th, at 12:00 noon at Beach United Methodist Church. This year's worship is being orchestrated by our own Rosemary Cline. Thanks to Rosemary for her time and care in planning the worship service.



Reflections on January 25 Homeless Ministry

By Linni Deihl

It rained all day—hard driving rain. I was soaked each time I went out but I could go home and dry off in a warm place.

The “homeless” folk came into our church on Monday night bedraggled and wet and tired. Their clothes were soaking. They needed dry socks and pants and warmth and our caring. “Grace” abounded in the loving greeting by our volunteers, the simple but beautiful table, the delicious food, the bounty of toiletries—gifts from a high school student's travels, and the family of 36 souls who dined together.

I was moved by one of the men who said a prayer for the people of Haiti before we ate. He had so little but he still was thinking of others even less fortunate.

Thank you to Kay Kidde and Lisa Finn and Denis Yuen, to Nancy Winters and Cathy Marino, To Linda and Hayley Schoeck and Stanley Shorer, and to Kyle Miller and Kayla for providing this warm and welcoming and needed experience.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

How your gifts can help

Jesus said, "Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep." (John 21:16-27)

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.



What do my gifts to the Presbyterian One Great Hour of Sharing offering do?

Our projects

Within the PC(USA), programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing have evolved over the last half-century along with our understanding of how best to stand with people in their suffering and offer an authentic witness to God's healing love.

Like our ecumenical partners, we focused our early efforts on those in acute need as a result of wars or natural disasters. Through the programs that have become Presbyterian Disaster Assistance we saw the importance of swift response with local grassroots partners who can get help quickly to the people who need it most; we also learned that staying with people as they begin to rebuild their lives is an important witness to God's faithfulness.

For both those people and those experiencing chronic poverty, hunger or oppression, we learned that development ministries are an important component of our response and that to be done effectively, they must be carried out as a partnership with the people in need, not imposed from the outside. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People were both created in the early 1970s to work in such partnerships with communities of people in need.

Today each of these programs receives approximately one-third of the offering, except for about four percent that is used, currently through Presbyterian Hunger Program, to address homelessness and affordable housing. All three programs help people address the results of past injustice or misfortune by looking to the future with hope and creativity. Together they witness to the love that Jesus Christ has shared with all and that he asks us to share with one another.

Allocation of gifts

After deducting administrative costs (up to 5 percent) and the costs of creating and distributing promotional materials (roughly 5 percent), the remaining undesignated gifts are divided among three programs as follows:

Presbyterian Hunger Program (36 percent)

For ministries working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in local communities, in the nation and throughout the world, as well as ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32 percent)

For disaster response and ministries with refugees. Learn more about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Self-Development of People (32 percent)

For partnerships with groups of people who are oppressed by poverty or social systems, who want to take charge of their own lives, have organized to do something about their own condition, and have decided what they need to do to produce long-term benefits for themselves.

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:45pm Pilates (Library)	2 7pm Deacons	3	4	5 World Day of Prayer	6
7 8:30am Spir- itual Discussion	8	9 7pm Session	10	11 9:30am-1pm (3 sessions) Kidnastics in Parish Hall (WH Library)	12	13
14 8:30am Adult Study Daylight Sav- ings Time Be- gins	15 Tidings Dead- line 9am-4pm Census Bureau training session all week	16 12noon PW Lunch 7pm Trustees	17	18 9:30am-1pm (3 sessions) Kidnastics in Parish Hall (WH Library)	19	20 First Day of Spring
21 8:30am Adult Study	22 7pm Elizabeth Circle	23 Presbytery Meeting— Baldwin	24	25 9:30am-1pm (3 sessions) Kidnastics in Parish Hall (WH Library)	26	27 Fiesta Day 12noon-6pm (WH Library)
28 8:30am Adult Study Passion/Palm Sunday Communion	29 Maureen's Haven Ends	30	31			

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 90 MEETING HOUSE ROAD
 WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NY 11978

BULK RATE
 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #98
 WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NY 11978

St. PATRICK'S DAY

Phone: 631-288-2576

Fax: 631-288-6011

email:

admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org

We're on the web:

www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org

Your issue of the March Tidings

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to:

		19	Stephanie and Ed Shea
		21	Betsy Fox
		21	Bill Buhl
1	Tova Keblish	22	Kimet Speed
1	Jenny Czachur	23	Pam Chance Herzing
3	Peggy Yuen	23	Phil Sutton
4	Peter R. Seidler	24	Casey Pitcher
7	Meg Baird	24	Reagan Schindler
9	Kristina Carter	25	Anne McAnelly
9	Carol Nemeth	27	Jeannine Frenzel
11	Brad Ravenhall	27	Gerard Bishop
12	Jennifer Ketner	29	Jane Post
12	Kelly Martin	30	Donna Goebel and Korey Williams
12	Parker Yuen		
13	Bunker Seyfert	31	Bill Manker
14	Joan Hubbard	31	Spencer Baird
14	Kathy Tureski	31	Aram Terchunian
15	Christian Oakland		
15	Ben Larson		
15	Adam Shea		
16	Jane Brown		
16	Quinn Pitcher		
16	Daniel Staniford		
17	Pat Andrews		
17	Tom Zaloga		
18	John Comba		

Presbytery Meetings

Thanks to Hanne Manker for being our delegate to the January meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island and Creighton and Claire Berry and Glorya Johnson for attending and representing their respective committees. The next meeting of Presbytery will be Tuesday, March 23rd in Baldwin. Anyone wish to attend and see the work of Presbytery first hand?

List Your Business on the WPC Web Page

All members and friends of WPC are invited to list their business or professional service on the church web page. On the WPC home page, scroll down and click on: "Support WPC Member Business" or, insert the following: <http://www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org/WPC/MemberBusinesses.htm>

