



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2008

A Note From the Interim Pastor's Study

Dear Members and Friends:

Summer went by much too fast! Already Jared is back in college and Jeannine and I are gathering school supplies for Lydia and Mark. My cousin Agi and her family from Hungary very much enjoyed her stay with us and the time on the beach jumping waves and collecting shells. With the warmth of summer still fresh within us, we turn to our church family here at WPC. Like many of you, I feel newly energized as we begin this fall.



Traditionally, fall is a time to welcome visitors seeking a church home and to invite them into our church family. Sometimes this is stimulated by a challenge called **“Each One Reach One!”** Here, all—from youth group members to long time members—are encouraged to invite a friend to worship or a pot-luck supper. We can all invite at least one person/family to be with us this fall and to introduce them to me and others at coffee hour.

I invite all who wish to learn more about WPC to my first **New Member Group**—a time to learn about our church family, its history, mission programs, Presbyterian and Reformed beliefs, and how we make decisions. My favorite thing to do as a pastor is to be a member of a New Member Group. Each group is as varied as its members and our discussions can go anywhere. If you would like to be a part of this group, please email me (pastor@westhamptonpresbyterian.org) or mention it to me on Sunday. I plan the first meeting the Week of September 21st on a day convenient to all.

You will remember last fall we began to implement the four goals guiding Session in the ***Process for Healing and Restoration***. They have helped focus our renewing and restoring relationships this past church year and helped to focus our energies, especially during our “home meetings” last fall. You may remember, Session said we would focus on the first three goals and then move into the fourth goal.

While the first three goals continue to guide, we turn attention to the fourth goal now: ***We will eventually develop a Mission Statement to clarify the congregation's purpose and call.*** Healing and restoration is still on our agenda! And now we turn to our **Mission Self-Study**, a part of the process that culminates with the congregation electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) that will then develop a Church Information Form (CIF) to share with prospective pastor candidates. This goal is the most exciting and challenging as we build a strong self identity as a church—our values and direction for the next five years—and as we prepare to welcome new pastoral leadership.

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MY WEEK AT THE 218th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Micah 6: 6-8 Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with your God.

Claire and I arrived in San Jose on June 20th. To our delight we had chosen our hotel accommodations well. The Marriott adjoined the McEvery Convention Center where the overwhelming majority of meetings were held. I could walk inside to reach all of my meetings, the Exhibit Hall and snack stations. I completed my registration only to find that there had been a breakdown in communication. Our reservations for the Covenant Network Dinner were not waiting for us and the Observer's Badge that Claire expected to obtain was not there.

Saturday morning I rose early and after breakfast attended classes to acquaint myself with my rental laptop and to train for the PC Biz, our in house computer program. I left home computer illiterate and came home an expert, sort of.

The first General Assembly (GA) meeting included a three part orientation. That evening we elected the Moderator for the 218th GA, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, a 39 year old pastor from a new church development in San Francisco.

Sunday morning began with the opening worship service. It was held in two locations with the moderator from the 217th GA, the Rev Joan Gray, preaching.

Her sermon was seen on a large screen by those who were not in the same church as she was. Later in the service she joined that group. It was a most beautiful, moving service. We were urged, when music or any other act of worship moved us, to respond with a spoken or silent "Amen" rather than applause. I then attended a meeting of The Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC). Then off to lunch where we, the Assembly Commissioners, had the opportunity to sit at tables with the ecumenical guests to learn more about churches in different parts of the world. In the days to come we spent long hours, usually from just after breakfast to late at night and had group meals (lunch and dinner) together. I'll tell you about the breaks in that routine and about the wonderful, daily worship services later. That evening my Church Orders and Ministry Committee met for our initial meeting to adopt an agenda.

Monday morning, Claire and I visited the Exhibit Hall, an inspiring representation of every layer of the organization of our national church.

There were booths which held creative displays and those which dealt with the workings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Cokesbury bookstore presented an array of biblical literature. Our evening worship service was conducted by The Rev. Thomas Daniel, a pastor from Atlanta, who preached a sermon which drew many an "amen." He offered language that had been helpful to him in his walk with God: "Know Your Thin Places."

At Tuesday morning's worship service the Rev. Jim S. Kim preached on "walking humbly with your God" noting that, "Racism remains the mega – idolatry in the mega narrative of American history," and called for the Presbyterian Church (USA) to adopt the Belhar Confession which has roots in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. It was drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Church. That evening we missed the dinner with the Long Island Presbytery delegation. I had a committee meeting.

Wednesday morning I attended a wonderful, "Peace Fellowship Breakfast." Mubarak Awad, Director of Nonviolence International spoke on, "Following Jesus to a Just Peace in Israel – Palestine." One of his programs in Palestine worked towards getting boys who love to play with guns to trade them for soccer balls.

That same morning, as a member of the Long Island Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry, I attended a meeting with the staff of CPM colleagues from the national church. Committee meetings took

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Continued from page 2)

most of my time but that evening Claire and I were able to attend the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program Celebration Dinner which was held at the Old Trinity Cathedral. Banners from 50 churches and 2 presbyteries were hung around the dining hall. Included was our Long Island Presbytery Peace Banner that Linni Deihl had given me to take to the convention. We left before the worship service since I had to rush back to a committee meeting.

Thursday was a long working day for the commissioners and delegates. The business meetings were held from 9 am to 10 pm with lunch and dinner breaks. During my dinner break I met with the Covenant network group to review the Assembly business pertaining to our Agenda. Claire spent the day reading because the Exhibit Hall was closed down and the smoke from the fires in the area prohibited her walking out and visiting the museums, etc.

Friday morning was a personal joy for me. The Rev. Diane L. Givens – Moffat (my niece's sister – in – law) gave an inspirational, morning worship service sermon. Then off to the General Assembly business meetings from 9 am to 11 pm, stopping only for lunch and dinner breaks. At the morning session we elected the new Stated Clerk, the Rev. Gradye Parsons, and bade farewell to the talented, now former Stated Clerk, Clifton Kirkpatrick.

Concerning my work with the Church Orders and ministry Committee committee, I found strong opposing views concerning paragraph G-6-0106B in the Book of Order. It requires church officers “to live in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness.” I spoke to the committee motion to delete G-6:0106B replacing it with a new version and setting aside the 1978-1979 authoritative interpretations regarding ordained service of homosexual church members. I told about the stories which were recorded by former slaves regarding their experiences during slavery. When their owners put the Bible in their hands, they connected with the Old Testament stories and a crucified Christ and converted to Christianity. When they asked to be included as Christian brothers and sisters they were told the Bible said they were excluded. When they learned to read the Bible the owners said they needed to look at the law. Then the legal processes were put in place to exclude them. The motion passed in the affirmative. When the motion came to the floor of the General Assembly that body voted to send the proposed changes to the presbyteries for study and approval or disapproval. This means that every church in each presbytery will have a vote within their presbytery.

We attended worship services Saturday morning, our last day. I was exhausted. At noon we took car service to Oakland to spend a day with my niece. Then to Thousand Oaks where the air was clear, and the sun was visible. We spent a lovely week with family. I had purchased so many books at the Exhibit Hall that I had to mail them home.

This 218th General Assembly was exciting, educational, challenging and tiring, but it was the experience of a lifetime for me as a humble servant trying to “walk humbly with my God.” I repeat the theme of the conference:

Micah 6: 6-8 – Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with your God.

Elder Creighton Berry



Reminder
Where
When
Price

“Dinner on the Deck” Fund Raiser
The Otis’
Saturday, September 20, 6 pm
\$25.00

2008 Peacemaking Conference July 15-19 Chapman University Orange, CA

This conference was set against the backdrop of economic globalization, which has created new forms of poverty with extreme disparities between the rich and the poor. The annual income of the richest 1 percent of the world's population is equal to that of the poorest 57 percent with more than 24,000 people dying each day due to the effects of poverty and malnutrition.

Our keynote speakers helped us to explore the convergence of economic, political, cultural and military systems that both force and facilitate the flow of wealth and power from vulnerable persons, communities and countries to the more powerful.

Some of the presenters were: **Bruce Reyes-Chow**, the newly elected moderator of the 218th General Assembly; Preacher **Mark Lomax**, of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary and founding pastor of First Afrikan Church in Georgia; **Anuradha Mittal**, an expert on trade, development, human rights and agriculture; **Roberto Jordan**, President of the Reformed Church in Argentina and one of the drafters of the AC-CRA Confession; **Lisa Schirch**, Professor of Peace building at Eastern Mennonite University; and **Kurt Esslinger** of McCormick Seminary and Hanshin University.

I attended afternoon workshops on Immigration, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Sudan. I found myself a bit overwhelmed by stories of the "greed of big American companies" stripping the natural resources of third world countries and powerful dictators living in luxury while their people starved. Thanks to Randy and Ericka Wood, who work in Africa, and my daughter Jessica, I was shown another side to globalization and its discontents and can better understand the situation from more than just one perspective and how we as Christians can do our part.

Our Long Island Presbytery Peacemaking banner was chosen out of 58 to be featured in the "Peace Notes." Thank you to the Peace, Hunger and Justice Workgroup of Long Island Presbytery and Westhampton Presbyterian Church Mission Committee and Presbyterian Women for enabling me to partake of this experience.

Linni Deihl,
Peacemaking Representative,
Peace, Hunger, Justice
Workgroup—Presbytery of LI

A Bright Spot

During the Summer Treasure sale on Saturday July, 19th, I was standing in the middle of Parish Hall during a slow moment, catching a breeze wafting in from the front door, when a man approached me. He appeared to be in his 40's, with a friendly demeanor and a purposeful look in his eyes.

He asked me if we still had people sleeping over in that

very spot, the Parish Hall. I asked if he meant Maureen's Haven, and he said yes. I explained that we still provide a night's sleep every Monday night during the fall and winter, and he smiled and said, "I know. I used to come here but I don't have to, now." His face lit up as he told me how it took faith and hard work, but he found a job and can now afford his own place.

"That's wonderful," I said.

"I don't know what I would have done if it weren't for all the nights I spent here and the wonderful meals you provided," he said.

I thanked him, and congratulated him, and we had a long chat after that. He wanted to know all about our church. I told him about the youth group's Reach project, and he said it was a testimony to us and our faith, just as supporting the homeless is a testimony of our faith.

It made me feel good to see the fruits of our mission come to fruition; that this man waltzed in to have a look around, and I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time so I could accept his thanks on behalf of our church.

I caught a little miracle that day, but it really belongs to all of us.

Sarajane Giere

Thank You

Thank you to the Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk, the 4-H Staff, and the Farm Staff and friends for the generous gift to our Youth Group in honor of Pat Hubbard.

Presbyterian Women

Can it be that we will meet again in less than 2 weeks to begin the PW Fall season? Just a "few" weeks ago we gathered at Villa Paul for the May luncheon. Special thanks to May Griffin for unique table center pieces of Impatiens. Each guest could take home a plant from the center piece as a reminder of good food, fellowship and inspiration. We welcomed guest speaker Rev. Ellen Marquardt, Interim Executive Presbyter. Our own Pastor Peter deserves a round of applause for transporting and setting up the new church audio system so that no one could be heard to say "I can not hear the speaker."

The Spring rummage sale is behind us. It is time to plan for the Fall sale. The dates will be announced as soon as the chairperson / persons have stepped forward. Our treasury can use the monies earned to continue to support the mission projects at home (our own WPC) and areas defined in our annual church report. None of our proceeds are spent on ourselves. Let's aim for the last week in September. In this way we may have leftovers to contribute to the scrap metal drive on October 4th.

At last counting the Summer Treasure Sale showed net receipts of \$1793.00 plus or minus a few cents. "Hats off" to an outstanding response to requests for help, before, during and after the sale. The bake-sale table reflected generous donations. The always popular Twice-nice, linens and jewelry were drawing cards. There is always an open mind and listening ear for sug-

gestions for future sales. We really need something NEW to attract more visitors to our sales. Any ideas?

The Christmas Bazaar Workshop will meet again, after a summer recess, Tuesday, September 9th at 10 AM. More willing hands are needed. There are no special talents required other than a desire to join a group of dedicated, friendly ladies looking forward to sharing fellowship and enthusiasm.

Our sympathy is with the family and many friends of David Raynor who left us July 7, 2008. He was a helping hand to PW on many occasions during his years as Sexton here at WPC.

It has become routine for us to gather monthly for luncheon/business meetings. On alternating months we enjoy Covered Dish one month, followed by Soup and Sandwich the next month. Our Fall covered dish luncheon will be held September 10 at noon.

Our circle leaders are prepared to introduce us to an enlivening study of Luke. Please plan to attend, September 22; 7 PM. The meeting place will be announced in the church bulletin.

All Women Welcomed!

The ever-widening Elizabeth Circle will have its first meeting at the home of Marilyn Wood on September 22nd. at 7 P.M.

Our 2008-2009 Horizons Bible Study is entitled "Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor." Our study tells us that "...Within

Luke's world 'the poor' are understood as 'the marginal,' as those excluded from social and religious intercourse because of any number or combination of factors, such as those related to gender, age, economic destitution, physical malady, or religious impurity." Simply put, Luke was concerned with the least, the last, and the lost! If you've never attended an Elizabeth Circle Bible Study, now's the time! Please join us as we all learn together how this gospel relates to our own lives and how it is good news for us. Our meetings always begin with dessert! Do come!

Scholarship Recipients

The Memorial Scholarship Committee met Sunday, July 24 and Scholarships were awarded to the following students:

Christina Barravechia
 Kristina Carter
 Chelsey Carter
 Cassandra Dayton
 Kyle Hubbard
 Heather Lohneiss
 Kristen Lohneiss
 Coleen McKennett
 Asyssa Klepper
 Amber Schultz
 Kelsey O'Brien
 Victoria Fochtman
 Margaret Baird
 James Spencer Baird
 Cynthia Diers
 Karen M. Diers
 James T. Sobeck
 Johnathan Pacholk
 Heather Wootten*
 Hunter Wootten*

**Added by approval of the Session at the August 12th meeting.*

SCRAP METAL DRIVE Fund Raiser

The fundraising committee is planning a scrap metal drive for October 4th. Save all your old appliances, bicycles, BBQ, computers, hardware, etc. - any metal that you want to dispose of. We will have a dumpster in the parking lot that Saturday. All you have to do is bring your scrap metal to the church and throw it in the dumpster. If you have large metal items, contact the church office and we will have someone pick them up at your house. The scrap metal will be sold for recycling and the church will receive 50% of the proceeds. There are no expenses to the church. Save your scrap metal!

PASTOR'S PAGE (Continued from page 1)

So that we don't lose the first three goals, here they are:

- *We want all members and visitors to be comfortable coming to church.*
- *We want to increase fellowship/mission activities to connect and reconnect people.*
- *We want to meet the faith-based/spiritual needs of the congregation and church officers, especially through enhanced adult education.*

These continue at the forefront of our Session ministries as they continue to seek renewal in our church life.

As always, in our shared Interim Ministry, please do not be hesitant or consider it unimportant to involve me in your concerns. We continue to reflect, and deal with, issues of grief and endings, trust, congregational identity, and expectations for the future. 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

Wellness Brief: The Gift of Hearing

One of the greatest gifts we have been given is our sense of hearing. We can hear the sound of birds chirping, waves crashing on the shore, music, our grandchildren's first words, So much of this however is lost to us if we have a hearing loss.

A gradual loss of hearing can cause tremendous changes to our quality of life. Often times we don't even realize our hearing has diminished until our family members start complaining about it. They will notice that we're not hearing them long before we would be even aware there's a problem.

That's why having our hearing checked on a regular basis is so important to our overall health. Sometimes it's just a matter of having our ears cleaned out. Other times, the simple aging process can cause a decline in our hearing abilities. If that's the case, and if it's time for hearing aids, embrace the opportunity to see what amazing technological advances there are in hearing healthcare! Life can be so much more rewarding and fulfilling if we can hear what's going on around us – to hear those sounds that we once enjoyed but unfortunately took for granted.

Contact an audiologist to find out how to get your hearing checked – it will be one of the best decisions you could make for yourself and for your loved ones!

WPC will sponsor a *Hearing Seminar and Hearing Testing* soon by Barbara A. Prestano, Au.D. is Director of Audiology at Peconic Ear, Nose, Throat & Facial Plastic Surgery, Aquebogue, Southampton. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for information!

**Mark your
calendar for
Fall Food and
Fellowship!**



The Fundraising Committee has planned three pancake breakfasts:
October 12th
November 16th
and
December 14th
from 8:30 to Noon.
Bring your appetite!

Visit A World of Prayers in Remsenburg

WPC's very own **Creighton Berry** is exhibiting "A World of Prayers" **Watercolors by Creighton Berry**, at the Remsenburg Academy, 120 South Country Road in Remsenburg. An Opening Reception will be held August 23rd, 2:00-6:00 pm. Creighton describes the exhibition as, "A record of my travels around the world with prayers and also without." Creighton will be in the Gallery from: 2-6:00 pm on the following days:

Fridays: August 22, 29 and September 5

Saturdays: August 23, 30 and September 6

Sundays: August 24, 31 and September 7

Monday: September 1

50% of the proceeds will be donated to **Maureen's Haven Homeless Program**.

Linda Howard and John Kloepfer Engaged

Congratulations to Linda Howard and John Kloepfer on their recent engagement! Linda we all know as our Organist and Music Director here at WPC and John is a pastor in the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse. We celebrate with them on this joyful occasion!

Births and Baptisms

Valentina Joelle Wood

was baptized on Sunday, July 27th. Valentina is the daughter of Ericka Briceno and Randy Wood and was born on June 7th, 2008. Marilyn and Stu Wood are the proud grandparents.

Logan Jessup was born June 24th to parents Stacey and Cooper Jessup, III. SuzAnne and Frank Jessup are the proud grandparents.

Deaths

Memorial Services were conducted for David E. Raynor (March 10, 1943-July 7, 2008) on Thursday, July 10th; for Virginia Arlene Thompson (May 29, 1936-January 1, 2008) on July 26th; and for David Blair Ressler (November 28, 1918-August 10, 2008) on August 15th. Our prayers are with the families and friends.

East End Presbyterian Parish to Meet

The East End Presbyterian Parish will meet at Southampton Presbyterian Church on Thursday, September 18, from 10:00am—12:00 pm. They will be planning the winter educational series and thinking creatively about their future work together. Join in!

WPC Web Page Supports Members Businesses

If you are a WPC member or friend, and would like to have your business or professional service listed so our members and friends can support you and your work, we invite you to submit your name and business

contact information/web page to our church office. See the businesses already listed at www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org.

Opportunity to Do "Hand's-On" Mission

The Eastern Farm Workers each year plan a "Back to School Campaign" to help out with lower income family budgets. They are seeking volunteers to assist with this campaign as well as other compassionate work that they do in advocacy throughout the year. WPC has offered financial help to this group over the years; now they invite us to do "hands on" mission with them. Luz Figueroa says, "People often feel so isolated in poverty," says Luz Figueroa. "They feel 'this is only happening to me' or 'this is my fault.' We can assist them and their children." Help is needed with a huge mailing soon to go out, bagging food, assisting in going door to door in low income neighborhoods. Eastern Farm Workers provides benefits, emergency food and clothing. Volunteers are needed. Training is provided. Call Luz Figueroa at 286-8004 for more information.

The Church's Role in Addressing Poverty

"What Can Congregations Do to Address Poverty? Is the theme of the Long Island Council of Churches Annual Convocation to be held on Saturday, September 27th, from 9:00am—12:30 pm at First Baptist Church in Riverhead. All are invited.

Presbytery 2009 Budget Faces Deficit

The Presbytery of Long Island faces a \$54,000 budget deficit in its 2009 budget and has sent a letter to all congregations to prayerfully consider what action the Presbytery might do in the coming months. Let us prayerfully reflect on the resources provided through our presbytery work and mission as we consider our role in that important work.

Presbytery Visioning Retreat Planned for Saturday, September 20th

The Presbytery of Long Island invites you to a Visioning Retreat to be held Saturday, September 20, from 9:30 am—4:00 pm at Old First Presbyterian Church in Huntington. Be part of those who are seeking God's vision for our life and ministry together as Presbyterians on Long Island. Contact the Church Office if you would like to car-pool to this event.

September Ushers

Sept. 3: Tom and Jane Otis,
Claire and Creighton Berry

Sept. 14: Kyle and Nancy
Miller, Bob Kavan, Pat Shima

Sept. 21: Brady Munn, Tom
Rogers, Jason and Jenny Ketner

Sept. 28: Bob Kavan, Bud
Kavan, Pat Shima, _____

If you are interested in ushering, or taking the open spot on Sept. 28th, any of the deacons can put you on the schedule.

New Church Officers Elected; To be Ordained/Installed September 7th

A special meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of WPC met between the Quogue Chapel and Quogue Sanctuary Services of worship Sunday, August 17th and, following a report of the Nominating Committee, elected the following youth to serve a one year term:

- **Julia Christ**, as an Advisory Trustee to the Board of Trustees;
- **Joanna DeLeon**, as an Elder with the Session;
- **Sara Lohneiss**, as a Deacon with the Board of Deacons.

In addition, **Betsy Fox** was nominated and elected to complete an unexpired term in the Class of 2009 on the Board of Deacons. We welcome these new leaders to their service to the congregation. When you see them, congratulate them! They will be ordained and installed, respectively, on Sunday, September 7th, 2008.

Report from the Clerk of Session for June and August Meetings

The Session at its June 24th and August 12th meetings took the following actions:

- Accept with the deepest of regret the resignation of Patricia Hubbard as Youth Ministry Coordinator effective January 31, 2009;
- The Christian Education Ministry recommended that the Session endorse the "We Believe" curriculum to be implemented in the Fall, 2008;
- Mission Yearbooks (3 adult, 2 children) would be paid this year from the Session Fund;
- Finance Ministry reported back to the session with regard to several items earlier referred to them;
 - Recommended that the funds distributed to the Westhampton Presbyterian Church by the Presbyterian Foundation, representing the remaining beneficial interest of the Mr. & Mrs. Edward T. Otis, Jr. annuity, be deposited into the Memorial and Endowment Funds in the Otis named account;
 - Recommended that the bequest received from the estate of Alan W. Peters be deposited into the Memorial & Endowment Funds in a newly named account for Mr. Peters;
 - Recommended that, once final plans are made, there be

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REPORT FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION (Continued from page 8)

- a letter composed and sent to the congregation explaining the work to be done at the Quogue Chapel to make it handicapped accessible and soliciting donations to the Quogue Chapel Fund to help defray the expense;
- Further the Ministry recommended that the expense of the landscaping and construction and any other accompanying work to be done at the Quogue Chapel as planned by the Board of Trustees to make the chapel handicapped accessible be paid for from the Quogue Chapel Fund;
 - Recommended that the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer be authorized to transfer any funds from the Memorial & Endowment Funds (pro-rated across the non-restricted accounts) as is necessary, under the oversight of the Finance Ministry, so as to enable the church to meet any and all budgeted operating expenses during the 2008 calendar year;
 - A donation from Bonnit Brown Brophy be deposited into the General Fund Account for the work of the church at home;
- Decision was made to dispense \$1000.00 to the St. Paul's AME Zion Church from the Swope-Craig Fund;
 - Called a meeting of the congregation/corporation for Sunday, August 17, 2008 between the Services of Worship at the Quogue Chapel and the Sanctuary on Quogue. The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the report of the Nominating Committee. The Session received a report from the Nominating Committee at the August meeting that they have a full slate to present for youth officers and a candidate to fill an existing vacancy on the Board of Deacons. The Session also approved the date of September 7, 2008 (Reunion Sunday) during the Service of Worship for the purpose of ordaining and installing our newly elected officers;
 - Voted to approve the requests to baptize Valentina Joelle Wood daughter of Randy Wood and Ericka Briceno on Sunday, July 27, 2008 and Malachi Ferucci, son of Lisa Ferucci, when the way be clear;
 - Voted to authorize the expenditure of \$80.00 to cover the cost of the Bagel Breakfast on August 17th;
 - Met with Glorya Johnson and, after examining her, voted to again endorse her as an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Long Island. Elder Nancy Winters was chosen as Glorya's liaison to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the presbytery.
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Adult Sunday Church School

Sunday, September 7th

“What Happened at the 2008 General Assembly?”

As much as anything, the legacy of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be determined by Presbyterians across the country—deciding close to home whether this is a time for changing the denomination’s ordination standards or not. In its biggest headline-making move, the assembly voted by a close margin—54 percent to 46 percent—to recommend that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) change its constitution to remove the requirement that those being ordained practice fidelity within marriage or chastity if they are single, which could open the door to ordaining sexually-active homosexual persons.

That recommendation will be sent to the PC(USA)’s 173 presbyteries for a vote over the next year. The close vote on the proposed constitutional change reflects how divided the PC(USA) remains on the question of the ordination of homosexuals; some commissioners left San Jose disheartened, others ecstatic. But the tenacity of this issue in grabbing attention—popping up over and over for the last thirty years—belies the breadth of this assembly’s concern for a troubled world. The war in Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, global warming, immigration, homelessness, mental illness, gun violence—all of this, and much more, drew the commissioners’ attention. So did internal concerns of the church, particularly the election of new leadership, including a new Stated Clerk, and a proposal to revise the PC(USA)’s Form of Government to give congregations and presbyteries more flexibility in approaching mission.

Sunday, September 14th:

“What Else Happened at the 2008 General Assembly?”

Immediately after the conclusion of the June 2008 Presbyterian General Assembly, *The Thoughtful Christian* released an In the News study of the major decisions of the Assembly on the ordination of gays and lesbians and on the proposal for a new form of government. (See above.) But the PC(USA) is anything but a one-issue denomination. Across the country, Presbyterians remain passionate about concerns ranging from global warming to evangelism to immigration – and the 218th General Assembly in San Jose considered hundreds of items of business. This study takes a closer look at some of the other issues the assembly raised for Presbyterians to consider.

Sundays, September 21st and 28th:

“Listening for God”

God called Abram. God called Moses. God called Deborah. God called Samuel. God called Ruth. God called Isaiah. God called Elizabeth. God called Mary. God called Simon and the other disciples. God called Saul. God called Ananias. God called Lydia.

One of the most persistent things God does across the Bible is call people. We can be sure that God is probably going to call us too. How can we be alert, learn all we can about how it happened, and happens?

In this two-session study, we will examine God’s call, first through several biblical stories and then through our experience now. We’re not focusing on the call to be pastors. God’s call is much broader than that. We’re talking about God’s call to each of us to do whatever God has in mind in the situations we occupy.

Sunday, October 4th:

“Spiritual Conversations”

Spiritual Conversations on the Parables continues with the leadership of Valerie O’Brien. Each First Sunday of the Month, Valerie and the group around the “kitchen table” tackle Jesus’ parables. Join in the discussion!



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 <i>LABOR DAY— Office Closed</i>	2 <i>7pm Deacons</i>	3	4 <i>7pm CE Meeting 7:30pm WHB Nursery School Meet- ing</i>	5	6
7 <i>8:30am Adult Church School Communion, Reunion Sunday: Return to one ser- vice of worship, Christian Ed. Teachers' Commissioning Trip to Vanderbilt Musm.</i>	8 <i>2pm WH Garden Club</i>	9 <i>7pm Session</i>	10 <i>12noon PW Luncheon</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>8:30am Adult Church School 11am Mission Meeting 6pm Youth Ministry Fam- ily Pot Luck Supper</i>	15 <i>Tidings Deadline</i>	16 <i>7pm Trustees</i>	17	18 <i>10am-12noon East End Pres- byterian Par- ish</i>	19	20 <i>9am M & E meeting 9:30-4 Presbtery Visioning Retreat 6PM Fundrais- ing Dinner at the Oits home</i>
21 <i>8:30am Adult Church School</i>	22 <i>7pm Elizabeth Circle</i>	23	24	25	26	27 <i>9am-12:30pm LICC Convo- cation on Pov- erty in River- head</i>
28 <i>8:30am Adult Church School Set-up for Fall Rummage Sale</i>	29	30		<p>WEEKLY: Sunday Worship: 10am Choir: Sunday 9:30 and 11:15am Jr. Choir: Tuesday 5:15pm (seasonal) AA: Sunday 12 and 7:30pm, Wednesday 7pm, Saturday 10am Nicotine Anonymous: Wednesday 6pm Christmas Bazaar Workshop: Tuesday 10am Maureen's Haven: 5pm Monday (Nov.-Mar.)</p>		

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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 WESTHAMPTON BEACH, NY 11978

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Your issue of the September Tidings

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Chris and Steve Ravenhall | 11 Jane Busking | 23 Bryan Wagner |
| 1 Ralph Neubauer | 11 Jennifer Golding | 24 Nancy and Harry Miller |
| 1 Karen and Ralph Neubauer | 11 Grant Babis | 24 Nicki and Bob Schindler |
| 1 Robertas Nielsen | 13 Doris Towers | 26 Holly Hubbard |
| 1 Jessie Fox | 13 Vern Hackworth | 27 John Sprague |
| 2 Rev. Ann Van Cleef | 14 Kristin Lohneiss | 29 Bobby Fox Jr. |
| 2 Sarajane and Bernie Giere | 15 Creighton Berry | 30 Jeff Speer |
| 3 Tracy Martin | 15 Nancy and Wes Winters | |
| 4 Donna Goebel | 15 Hanne and Bill Manker | |
| 4 Fred Bauer | 15 Marie Osburg | |
| 5 Jessica Howard | 17 Bonnie and Eric Wootten | |
| 5 Kathy Johnson | 17 Mabel Anderson | |
| 5 Jane Otis | 18 Pat Shima | |
| 5 Marian and Marvin Raynor | 18 Jordan Shenker | |
| 6 Jim Bachman | 18 Gary Martin | |
| 6 Jessica Howard and Seamus Naughton | 18 Mark Jones | |
| 7 Jared Frenzel Sulyok | 18 Todd Nielsen | |
| 9 Susan Shenker | 19 Kimet Speed and Mike Hipp | |
| 9 Blake Busking | 20 Jessica Czachur | |
| | 21 Karen and Chris Andrews | |
| | 22 Stuart Wood | |
| | 22 Mike Hipp | |
| | 22 May Griffin | |
| | 22 Jim Czachur Jr. | |



On September 5th, 1942
 Marian and Marvin Raynor
 were married in the Parsonage
 of the
 Westhampton Presbyterian
 Church.

