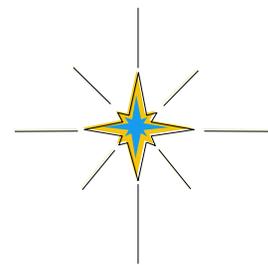


TIDINGS



WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2013

A December Word from Chuck Cary

I know that Christmas is coming whenever...

* I hear the choir rehearsing beautiful carols such as the John Rutter "Nativity Carol" which fills the church with God's Grace even in the context of rehearsal and interruptions;

* I witness the Adopt-a-Family program exceed the WPC commitments due to the generosity of WPC families eager to remember the poor;

* I watch the Christmas pageant (this year on the 15th) and see the drama of Christ's birth portrayed vividly by the children and youth of WPC.;

* I delight in the annual caroling mission we undertake, singing the Sacred music of the season for folks the remainder of the world is tempted to forget;

* I read the poems of sisters/brothers who are themselves moved by the mystery and power of Christ's birth;

* I see the crowds at the sanctuary and chapel lighting a candle because after all, it is far better to light the way than to curse the darkness;

Ô I feel the love of family, friends, and yes strangers, who in this Holy season care deeply because of the manner in which God cares for us;

* I welcome the Long Island Brass Guild to our sanctuary to accompany our choir and us in the inspired music of the season;

* I study the sacred texts like Luke 2 and marvel at the ways God blesses us, using people and circumstances which are revolutionary;

Christmas is coming yet again this month. For some of us the number of celebrations exceeds ninety, while others are barely into single digits. Christmas is coming and once more hope is re-kindled in places where despair has pretended to triumph. Watch for signs of Christmas in your world and most importantly, in your heart. Watch for Christmas and when you see it rejoice!

See you in church!

This Month in Worship

DECEMBER 1 **First Sunday of Advent**
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; Children's Church and Advent Festival following the Word for Children

DECEMBER 8 **Second Sunday of Advent**
Sacred Dancers

DECEMBER 15 **The Children's Christmas Pageant**

DECEMBER 22 **Choir Concert accompanied by the LI Brass Guild**

DECEMBER 24 **5pm Family Friendly Service of Carols, Readings, and Candle lighting—Sanctuary**
10pm Service of Carols, Communion, and Candle lighting—Quogue Chapel

DECEMBER 29 **10am A Worship Service Celebrating the New Hymnal's Christmas Songs**

WPC Youth Group

*"The season's upon us, it's that time of year
Brandy and eggnog, there's plenty of cheer
There's lights on the trees and there's wreaths to be hung
There's mischief and mayhem and songs to be sung-- "*

December brings the bustle of the Christmas Season and its no different for the Youth Group. Our month is filled with lots of exciting things. It kicks off helping Christian Education with their Advent Festival, a visit to Holmes for a retreat entitled "24 Hours in the Manager", Caroling for shut-ins and finally a little fun for us with a grab bag BINGO party!

Let's not forget the kick-off for our biggest project "Fill An Ark" for Heifer International. What do you buy the person who has everything? How about a goat, a llama, or a water buffalo? You can help the Youth Group "Fill an Ark" by sponsoring animals like these that can provide food and income for hungry families through Heifer International. Honor your friends & family by giving gifts in their name to people in need. Or make a donation in their name as we collect funds to raise an Ark of animals! We will have a table set up during coffee hour December 1st thru the 22nd. Please help us reach our ongoing goal of filling the Ark by "giving a gift that keeps on giving".

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend Youth Group... bring a friend... all are welcome! Make sure you're on our email list:

whpresbyterianyg@gmail.com or check the website:

westhamptonpresbyterian.org. Calendars, permission slips etc. are also located in the bins next to the Youth Bulletin Board in the Parrish hall.

Mission Ministry

Remember the people of the Philippines. Their plight is desperate and The Presbyterian Disaster Relief fund is available for you to help. Also, remember them in your prayers.

Thank you to all the CROP Walkers who raised \$1240 as of this writing, with another \$35 donated directly to CROP by our friends at Beach Methodist.

As we approach Christmas, remember its real meaning, and donate generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. This is the third of our special offerings for the year. It supports racial and ethnic education and leadership plus Assistance to the Presbyterian Pension fund for needy retired church workers whose pensions may not

support them properly.

I am getting close to finishing my time on Session and as chair of the Mission Ministry for our congregation. I have to say that it has been a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people over the past 3 years, but most of all the folks on our committee. Over the years, the participants have been: Randy Dayton, Linni Deihl, Maria Moore, Margery Qua, Pat Schultz, and Stu Wood. They have been hard working and dedicated to our Church's mission. I would also like to thank everyone in the congregation for giving us and the mission program so much support. And lastly, praise to Rev. Chuck Cary for his guiding hand.

Have a Joyous and blessed Christmas,
Dave LeBleu

Church Family News

New Members

We welcome the following new members who joined the church on November 17th: Russell Christian, Joey Cole, Brian Darnoski, Dawn A. Lowe, Ida Ann Rhodes, Sarah Miles Williams, and Alvin Wintermyer. Rejoice!

New Youth Coordinator

We welcome Kathy Tureski as the new youth coordinator. A faithful member of WPC, and member of the East Quogue School Board, Kathy and husband Robert have two sons, Robert at Vassar College, and Christian, at Salve Regina College in Rhode Island.



Adopt a Family

The Adopt a Family program is so important to many members of our community. There are families that cannot afford to buy gifts and share in the traditions we all celebrate. Several churches participate, but the person you choose will only get the gifts you give so please open your hearts this season and shop and give generously to someone who may not have any other packages to open at Christmas. If you have any questions please contact: Deborah Busking: 325-1404. The Minute for Mission was given on November 24th. Sheets are available from Deborah Busking.

PW NEWS

As promised the PW group was treated to a luncheon on Nov. 13th with a main course chicken salad prepared by Claire Berry and a dreamy cheese-cake dessert provided by Betty Donahue. At a time when so much misery and loss had occurred in the Philippines, I felt grateful and fortunate for the generosity and kindness we were treated so generously to at this delicious lunch. We truly thank you, Claire and Betty.

Topics covered in this meeting included an historical presentation of the PW as a group by Eleanor Hoyt, updates from some of the children who benefit from the Child Fund Int'l. Birthday Offerings sponsored by the PW, and a financial report from the PW Treasurer, Gale Seidler.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Bazaar & Tea, not only as a way to enjoy a little early holiday shopping and refreshments, but also to contribute to the debit side of our account books! Plans are well underway for the sale with committees working to prepare the bazaar sales offerings, refreshments (which are always served free of charge), and the baked goods which will be set up and displayed for sale to buyers.

Don't forget the upcoming wreath-making session on Tuesday, December 3rd, and the Christmas Bazaar & Tea which will be held on Saturday, December 7th. For those bakers who would like to make a contribution to the Bake Sale and Cookie Walk please bring your baked goods to the Parish Hall anytime after 10:00 am on the 7th.

The PW will next meet for their own Tea and Dessert party on Wednesday, December 11th at 1:00 pm. Jingle Bells, peace and love all....

JWS

"Empowering Women of Developing Nations: A Seminar at the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations"

Thirty peacemakers from Westhampton Presbyterian Church, Setauket Presbyterian Church, and the First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown gathered at the Presbyterian Mission to the United Nations across the street from the United Nations in New York City on November 11, 2013 to learn. Mark Koenig, Director of the PC (USA) Mission Agency's ministry to the UN had prepared a seminar on the topic of empowering women in developing nations. The outing, organized by Linni Deihl of Westhampton and Joan Marino of Setauket, was specifically tailored to their congregations' interest in women's rights.

Invited speakers addressed the issues of women's cultural and economic roles in developing countries. One presenter, Cindy Correll, companionship facilitator for the mission outreach group "Joining Hands against Hunger," was on the ground in Haiti. She joined our seminar via Skype. She shared her observations about the extraordinary work of women in Haiti who provide for their families and are often the sole adult in most households, raising and educating their children on their own. Men face high levels of unemployment and women are invisibly employed in agricultural and traditional domestic work. "It would take a mountain to move a Haitian woman," Ms. Correll told us, referring to the strength and resilience of the women there.

Lynnaia Main, the co-chair of Ecumenical Women, a group of Christian ministry leaders to the UN, and Mark Koenig described the UN's "Millennium goals" which include improving women's lives in the developing nations by 2015. These goals focus on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, implementation of universal primary education for children, and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, among several other targets. In furtherance of the UN's goal of alleviating the abuses of women and providing a gender specific agency for global support of women, the UN governing council established UN Women in 2010.

UN Women has a local presence in countries around the world providing a global perspective. The agency focuses on ways to create transformative change in the areas of expanding women's political leadership opportunities, ending violence against women, and enhancing women's economic empowerment.

UN Women's vision is a world in which societies are free of gender based discrimination, where women and men have equal opportunities, where women and girls are empowered to lead the change they want to see, and where women's rights are upheld in all efforts to further development, human rights, peace and security. UN

(Continued on page 4)

Poinsettia Order Form

Red poinsettia plants may be ordered to adorn the sanctuary on Christmas Eve at a cost of \$18 per plant. The deadline for orders is 12/16. Please make your checks payable to Westhampton Presbyterian Church (memo: Christmas Flower Fund). Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary or left for Deacon delivery.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of plants: ___ @ \$18 per plant

Total: \$ _____

My plant(s) is given:

- In loving memory of
- In honor of



By _____

Plant(s) will be: *(please check one)*

Picked up by me after the 5pm service ____

Left for Deacon delivery ____

The Long Island Brass Christmas Concert



On Sunday, December 22nd the LI Brass Guild will join with our choir in presenting a Christmas Concert during the 10am service of worship. Contributions may be made in someone's memory or honor to help offset the cost for the Brass Guild .

If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection plate or return it to the church office.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ for the LI Brass Concert. I dedicate this offering (check one)

_____ in honor of _____ in memory of

From

(Continued from page 3) UN WOMEN

Women works with other program-focused agencies and relief efforts to bring about changes in the relationships between women and men in families, communities, societies and countries. It does this by providing counsel, data points to provide support for implementing programs in specific areas for specific peoples, and witnessing back to the UN governing council on progress and problems in the lives of women in developing countries around the world.

Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Chief of the UN Women’s Civil Society Section told our group with great eloquence and persuasion about the need for cooperation among governments, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, faith communities and philanthropists to achieve the goals of liberating women from poverty and abuse. UN Women works to support these constituencies as a change agent to improve the lives of women around the world. Although UN Women is not a faith-based group, Ms. Banerjee, having spent her entire career working towards gender equality in countries around the world, made it clear that because all faith groups promote the dignity of the human being, they can serve as powerful allies in the effort to alleviate the abuse of women in developing countries worldwide. For more information, please visit:

www.unwomen.org

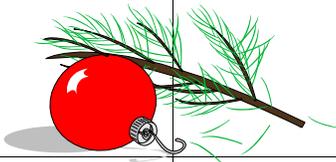
We thank Rev. Mark Koenig for helping us organize this seminar, our spirited bus driver and pastor for Westhampton, Rev. Chuck Cary, and Rev. Mary Speers from Setauket and Rev. Ellen Clark Clémot from Smithtown for their participation. Most of all, we thank the many congregants who took the time to attend this event. All thirty participants showed their passionate support and commitment to the cause of promoting justice, physical and legal protections, and economic and educational opportunities for women and girls in developing countries.

– Linni Deihl, Your Peacemaking Representative



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>1st Sunday of Advent Communion 11:30am Advent Festival</i>	2	3 <i>6pm Wreath Making Party</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>PW Christmas Bazaar and Tea</i>
8	9	10 <i>6pm Open House for Officers 7pm Deacons Session & Trustees</i>	11 <i>1pm PW Christmas Tea and Dessert</i>	12	13 <i>Holiday Cocktail Party at Shane/Pizzarello's</i>	14
15 <i>Tidings Deadline 10am Children's Pageant 4pm Caroling Party</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>Christmas Joy Offering Choir Concert / LI Brass Santa Brunch</i>	23	24 Christmas Eve <i>Office Closed 5pm Sanctuary 10pm Chapel/Communion</i>	25 Christmas Day <i>Office Closed</i> 	26	27	28
29	30	31	<p>WEEKLY: Adult Study: Sunday 8:30am; Worship: Sunday 10am Sanctuary Choir: Sunday 9:30 and 11:15am Jr. Choir: Tuesday 5:45pm (seasonal) AA: Sunday 12 and 7:30pm, Wednesday 7pm, Saturday 10am Nicotine Anonymous: Wednesday 6pm Maureen's Haven: 1st & 3rd Mon. Nov.-Mar.</p>			

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Your issue of the December Tidings

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
 AND ANNIVERSARIES**

1	Bud Kavan	28	Susan and Irv Lipp
2	Betsy Rowe	28	Marie Yervasi
3	Lisa Jornitz	28	Anne and Christian Charles
6	Kristin Miller	29	Billy Finn
6	Gabriella and Mario Ortiz	29	Tom DeMayo
7	Cindy Drayton and Jim Rowbotham		
8	Valerie O'Brien		
8	Cynthia Perry		
8	Tracy and Gary Martin		
12	Bonnie Wootten		
12	Bob Neibanck		
14	John Hoch		
15	Pat Schultz		
16	Jeff Munn		
16	Robert Staniford		
18	Janet and Rich Schneider		
19	Michael Miller		
19	Gabriella Yervasi		
20	Dorette Jornitz		
21	Amy Mosher		
24	Chris Haddad		

**DECEMBER DATES
 TO REMEMBER**

Tuesday, Dec. 3
 6pm Wreath Making
 Party

Saturday, Dec. 7
 1:30pm Christmas Tea
 & Bazaar

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 1pm PW Christmas Tea

Friday, December 13
 Holiday Cocktail Party at
 Shane/Pizzarello's home

Sunday, Dec. 22
 11am Santa Bruch

Friday, Jan. 10
 Annual Reports due!

Perfect Attendance!



OUR "SHINING STARS"
 FOR OCTOBER WHO
 ACHIEVED PERFECT
 ATTENDANCE IN
 SUNDAY SCHOOL:

- Cameron Hipp (Pre-K)
- Gavin Bailey (1st Gr.)
- Brian Danowski (1st Gr.)
- Ryan Zollweg (1st Gr.)
- Miriam Neubauer (2nd Gr.)
- Griffin Neubauer (4th Gr.)

Way to Go!!