



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2013

A May Word from Chuck Cary

Do you know anything about the personal faith of fellow church members? Do you have a sense of what others believe and have you ever heard officers, for example, give testimony to the activity of God in their lives?

When I was on the faculty at McCormick Seminary, students regularly asked these questions of their teachers. They appreciated the abundance of intellectual gifts and teaching abilities, but they yearned for more insight into what these same professors believed. One year I arranged a program designed to have my colleagues share their faith. Rooms were at a premium, but I did manage to secure a small basement classroom for the first session with the dean of the faculty, David Esterline. About eight or nine showed up over the noon hour with brown bag lunch in hand (as part of the incentive I had offered to pick up the tab for the speaker's sandwich!) David's humility and faith amidst some very stiff challenges nearly "blew us away". He shared aspects of his biography that were sensitive and embarrassing. He told of his struggles as well as his triumphs through divorce and remarriage. I will never forget the depth of the students' attention nor the reverence they showed not only to David himself but to God above. At certain points there was a stillness in the room that revealed how God was surely in that place. Next up was Luis Rivera, and after him came Deborah Mullen. Meanwhile we had outgrown the room, witnessing over thirty people in attendance. The final sessions were in the only space that could accommodate...the student lounge! The fruits of this faith-sharing exercise were many. Most of all, these sessions prompted students to become more open and honest about the specifics of their own faith in God. While this program happened over thirteen years ago, I can still hear the conversation as though it was yesterday.

In the days ahead I suggest similar faith sharing here at W.P.C. I will invite officers in particular to put pen to paper and offer glimpses into their own spiritual lives via the newsletter. I am suggesting this practice not because I believe we are spiritually lacking or somehow deficient. I do so because I believe such conversation gives us greater appreciation for the presence of God in one another, and promises to draw us closer together as a church. Indeed, we sometimes keep our blessings a secret, and forget about the life of the Faith within.

Elder Vern Hackworth now chairs the "Church and Spiritual Life" committee of session. The name has

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THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

- May 5** **Confirmation Sunday**
 Members of the 2013 Class Recognized for their
 Christian Discipleship
 Sermon: "From Faith Given to Faith Owned"
 Members of Prior Classes Recognized in Worship
- May 12** **Mother's Day Celebration**
 Sermon: "The Conscience of a Midwife"
 Exodus 1:15-22
- May 19** **Youth Sunday**
 Members of the Youth Group leading worship
- May 26** **Memorial Sunday**
 Recognition of those who have died in Christ in
 the year past
 Service concludes in the Memorial Garden

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been changed to represent a broader emphasis. Not only does he give oversight to special events like the June 9th church picnic, but will enable the kind of Faith-sharing mentioned above. Vern quipped as we originally discussed the idea that it reminds him of his Southern Baptist heritage! As I laughed, the thought occurred to me that no church has a monopoly on a practice so fundamental to our life as Christians. While we Presbyterians pride ourselves in doing things decently and in order, we ought never to let such gifts become a caricature and preclude the sharing of what we believe.

What about your belief in God? When was the last time you offered a personal reflection on the Faith which has sustained you? How did it feel when you heard the honest testimony of another? We have everything to gain and nothing to lose in such a practice. Whatever activity contributes to a deeper and more loving faith is a win-win in my estimation. A win-win indeed! See you in Church!

Mission Ministry

The Mission team has continued to bring representatives of mission partners from the area to do minutes for mission. We hope to have several more in the coming weeks. So far mission funds have gone to Brighter Tomorrows, Stony Point Center, Maureen's Haven, and PCUSA missionaries Tim and Gloria Wheeler.

Funds for Eastern Farm Workers, Luyano Presbyterian Church in Cuba, and Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center will likely go out during May.

We are trying to make our mission focus as personal as we can, so find out how you can participate. Speaking of which, it is not too late to sign up to join our Adult Work Camp, June 23-28. As stated before, the food is good, the work is rewarding, and the camaraderie is great. The cost is \$300 and most of that is to purchase materials to be used by following groups.

Be on the lookout for this year's Bread for the World Offering of Letters, an easy way to reach out to our government officials about necessary hunger alleviation.

Peace to you all.
 Dave Le Bleu



Join Us for the
May Treks N Tours
to the
**Bayard Cutting
Arboretum**
Thursday, May 23

Sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Meet at the church at 9:30. We will travel on the church bus and have lunch

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School at Westhampton Presbyterian Church is being held evenings from Sunday, July 28th through Thursday, August 1st. This year's program is "Everywhere Fun Fair" and takes children to a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair. Children will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's love can be found everywhere, including their own neighbor-

hoods. *Fun Fair* promises to excite with interactive Bible storytelling, global games, rockin' music, super science, cool crafts, and more! Registration begins in May. Stay tuned for more...

Sunday School

Do you love to watch and listen to our children each Sunday as they interact during the Children's Message? Do you love the Lord and wonder what you can do to serve

Him and our church? *We need Sunday School teachers!!* No experience needed, just the aforementioned love! And your commitment does not have to be for every Sunday so please consider sharing a teaching position for the next church school year. Contact Ellen Campbell at 728-7119 or ecampbell18@optonline.net for more information or to just talk about the possibility of working with us in Sunday School.

Dedication of Choir Chairs

Choir chairs are going fast! There are only 2 more to dedicate—please contact Nancy in the church office to make arrangements.



Presbyterian Women's News

The PW group held their regular soup and salad meeting on Wednesday, April 10th. Preparations were underway for the Spring Rummage Sale, which was held on Friday, April 19th and Saturday, April 20th. The Eastern Farm Worker's Organization also benefited from the donation of needed items which remained after the close of the sale on Saturday. The Spring Sale was a great success and thanks go to not only the many hands that helped to put the sale items together, but to all of those who made donations for the Rummage Sale.

On May 8th at 12 noon, the PW group will hold their annual "ladies who lunch" luncheon, this year to be held at the Cooperage Inn on Sound Avenue in Calverton. PW groups from the Southampton, Center Moriches, East Moriches, Remsenberg and Yaphank churches will be invited to join us for the luncheon. We are fortunate that rather than asking a guest speaker to the luncheon this year, Eleanor Hoyt was asked and will give the devotional at the luncheon. Eleanor's devotionals always show the pride she takes in her detailed research, and the enjoyable and sometimes emotional way in which she tells her stories. The cost per person for the lunch at the Cooperage Inn will be \$30.00, which includes gratuity.

In June the PW regularly scheduled luncheon features the Strawberry Shortcake Festival. There will be a summer hiatus of the meetings after June until September.

One last note is to give you a reminder that the Summer Treasure Sale will be held in July. And there will, as always, be some true treasures to be discovered at that time. Look for future notices about the sale and then mark your calendars to come and take part in this wonderful event.

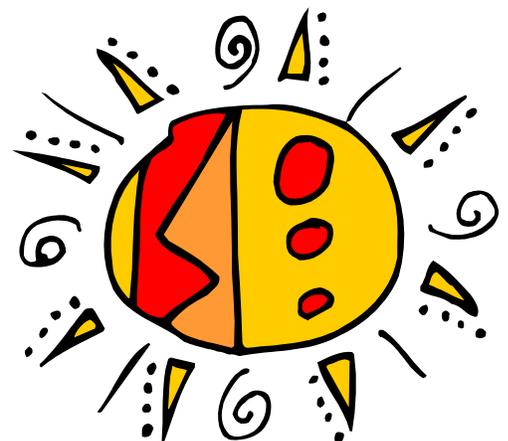
From the Deacons

Ushers

Please volunteer to help usher - it's a great way to meet other members of the church and one of the easiest ways to support the church there is. If you have never ushered before, ask to be paired with someone that has done it and can explain what to do.

Basically you will greet people and hand out bulletins as they enter the church. Get a number for the attendance during the service and then help serve coffee and tea after the service.

If in church, you can sign up on the list that is on the bulletin board as you enter the Parish Hall. You can also let any of the deacons know or ask Nancy in the church office to let the deacons know you would like to usher.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WEEKLY: Adult Study: Sunday 9am 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 Christmas Bazaar Workshop: Tuesday 9:30am</p>			1	2 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	3	4
5 <i>Confirmation</i>	6	7 <i>7pm Deacons</i>	8 <i>12 noon PW Spring Luncheon (Cooperage Restaurant)</i>	9	10	11
12 <i>Mother's Day</i>	13	14 <i>7pm Session</i>	15 <i>Tidings Deadline</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>Pentecost Communion Youth Sunday</i>	20	21 <i>7pm Trustees</i>	22	23 <i>Treks 'N Tours— Bayard Cutting Arboretum</i>	24	25
26 <i>Memorial Sunday Sunday School Suspended</i>	27 <i>Memorial Day - Office Closed</i> 	28	29	30	31	

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Your issue of the May Tidings

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to:

1	Griffin Neubauer	9	Gene Hubbard	25	Bob Baum
1	Jay Sears	9	Cheryl Stevens	26	Cara Oslager
1	Tony Thompson	10	Nancy Miller	27	Alex Williams
1	Madison Mosher	12	Bob Tureski	27	Dwight Surgan
2	Chloe Mosher	14	Cameron Hipp	27	Brooks Surgan
3	C.J. Andrews	15	Dan Pearson	29	Alice Schultze
3	Jean Seyfert	16	Griffin Wagner	29	Elizabeth and Lou Pizzarello
4	Bob Fox	16	Joey Nemeth	29	Chuck and Diane Cheslock
4	Marcia Koziarz	17	Terri and Fred Bauer	29	Lenny Rempe
4	Allison Conway Carey	17	Kathy Dayton	29	Bernie Giere
5	Susan Rogers and Harold Williams	19	Toni Stevens	31	Dave Derryberry
6	Barbara Rempe	20	Claire and Creighton Berry	31	Marian Raynor
7	Emilee Downs	21	Laura Schultz	31	Anjele Kalfayan
7	Barbara Danowski	21	Stacey and Cooper Jessup		
7	Verna and Ken Merkel	22	Kathy and Randy Dayton		
8	Gini and Bryan Wagner	23	Elizabeth Pizzarello		
8	Colleen McKennett	24	Miriam Neubauer		
8	Chrissy Barravechia	25	Kathy Frevert		
		25	Henry Gardiner		

