



# TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
APRIL 2016

## A Word from Chuck Cary for April 2016

In February I gave notice to the session that I would be turning 66 in November and intended to retire at the close of January 2017. I did so well in advance so that the church as well as yours truly could prepare and help insure a smooth transition. Several of you who are not recipients of the church wide email did not get this message. Others who are recipients, but did not happen to open it also did not hear. This “Tidings” article will, I trust be helpful in getting all of us on the same page. The time has come for me to shift gears (not to put the transmission in Park). With God’s help, we have achieved what I believe were our mandates when I returned to you in 2010. I am thankful for the revitalized worship life and stronger stewardship results. There is an overall climate of stability here which blesses us in multiple ways.

What will I be doing with myself and my time? Following a period of settling into a new home, I will continue to serve by becoming adjunct faculty at McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Indeed, I will be teaching a class in comparative church polities next January. I will also be looking for similar opportunities at Theological Schools here in the Northeast. Millie will continue her work as a Clinical Research Associate, and we will both exercise more often. Nothing would make me happier than to wean myself off of the blood pressure medication by becoming more fit. I will also continue some committee work, perhaps serve an interim position or two, and occasionally fill pulpits when other pastors are away.

An interim pastor will be on board with you beginning in February. Be sure to give him or her your undivided loyalty. It honors what I believe is forever true. Pastors come and pastors go, but the church of Jesus Christ lives on forever. At the end of the day, it’s less about the personalities and styles of the pastor, and more about the church’s mission and ministry.

I also pledge to respect the boundaries. What does that mean? It means that after being away entirely for a reasonable amount of time, I will be involved in the life of the church only at the invitation and guidance of the next pastor. Your next leader deserves the chance to establish his/her own leadership through unfettered relationships with all. He/she directs any and all funerals, weddings, etc. You can help the church and your next pastor by not referring to how I did things. Instead, ask your next pastor how he/she likes to do things. It’s about the future. It’s not about the past, with the exception of being unwilling to repeat past mistakes.

The death of Gordon Werner, our beloved former Funeral Director left me shaken in the fall of 2014. He was a couple years younger than me, and just beginning a well-deserved retirement. This community servant on whom all of us depended, died following a bowling party with his family. I grieved not only for his loss to this community. I grieved because he and Bernadette were unable to enjoy a season of renewal, cherishing together their grandchildren and burgeoning family.

I have issued a challenge of making this year our best yet. With God’s help and your cooperation we will do that and more. Keep current in your financial support. Worship each and every Sunday. Continue to be the best possible church as we prepare to say farewell and welcome! See you in church!

## THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

- April 3**      **Second Sunday of Easter**  
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Rev. Cary welcomes former student Rev. Aqueelah Collier Ligonde to share worship leadership
- April 10**     **Third Sunday of Easter**  
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Jeanne Baum
- April 17**     **Youth Sunday**  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Children and Youth lead worship
- April 24**     **Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35  
Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

### SPRING CLEANUP DAY

The Trustee Sponsored Spring Cleanup Day is set for May 1 after worship. Help brighten the facility and grounds by remaining for an hour or so of church chores.  
Light lunch provided.



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## CONFLICT, FORGIVENESS and RECONCILIATION

By Martine Combaluzier Louis

Reverend Chuck Cary led a five week workshop on a Bible study of conflict, forgiveness and reconciliation. In addition to the biblical excerpts, other works were mentioned such as *The Sunflower* by Eli Weisenthal and *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Henri Nouwen.

Conflict was the topic of our first session, the naming of the issue, the management, the reaching out to the people on the other side, the broken trust, and the fact that the Church has experienced growth through its own disputes. The participants named some of the personal disagreements that they experienced in their families or in the work environment. The question posed was: how to resolve a conflict. Understanding where people come from and what they have endured.

From conflict we moved rapidly to forgiveness. How to forgive personal offenses. Two participants experienced the death of their child at the hand of a drunk driver. They explained that they were able to forgive the man who killed their son because he was genuinely repentant. The question arose: perhaps we can forgive intellectually, but can we forgive with the heart? In the case of the parable of the lost son, Luke 15:1-

## Church Family News

We rejoiced with: Brian Danowski and Mary Moran upon their marriage Friday, February 26 in the sanctuary.

We expressed Christian sympathy to: Lynne Jones and family upon the death of her mother, Nancy Cuthbert; Nancy Jennings and family upon the death of her husband Richard on February 28; The family of Ben Larson upon his death March 7; The family of Richard Liggon, former sexton of WHPC upon his death on March 18.

3; 11B-32, the father can forgive his wayward son because of the love he carries for him in his heart. But in the case of the Jewish man in the concentration camp who is asked by a dying young Nazi offender to forgive him, the prisoner does not know what to do and leaves the young Nazi to die. Forgiven or unforgiven? Eli Weisenthal felt tormented by his silence. He perceived that he had let the young officer down. The question: was it his responsibility to forgive the murders of his fellow prisoners? Perhaps yes and perhaps no. Eli Weisenthal was confronted by a raw situation. A member of the group mentioned that forgiveness happens in steps. It is possible but doubtful that with time and distance, Eli Weisenthal would have found it in his heart to forgive the Nazi man. Our group discussed that in cases of genocide and willful persecu-

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tions of others, forgiveness may not be possible. However, since we were studying those cases under the aegis of the Church, it seems to me that the answer lies in God's universe. Only prayer of all denominations and repentance could lead to a path of forgiveness. If, as Christians, we carry Christ within ourselves, we have the power to forgive. But as mere humans, in a case like this, can we? Luke said, 17:3 "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him." Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Putting aside the monstrous cases of genocide and sexual abuse of children when sometimes it is too difficult to forgive, forgiveness can be refreshing to the soul through prayer. Reverend Cary said that the demons of Adolf Hitler, and other dictators and persecutors cannot be driven away by anything but prayer.

Forgiveness is an attempt to make peace towards reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 states that the concept of reconciliation started with Jesus Christ himself. "All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us."

Someone asked: what is reconciliation? Reconciliation reaches back to a form of equality. The trust that has been broken during the conflict needs

### Helping Hands for Chelsey

Our church will join area churches and local schools in our support for Chelsey Carter Collins. A special offering is being received to help her family as she battles serious illness. Use the memo line of your check to designate it for "Helping Hands".



## PW Spring Rummage Sale



The Spring Rummage sale is on our calendar for April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Clean, useable items may be dropped off in the upstairs hallway of the west wing, between 9am - 12 noon after Easter Sunday. Help in setting up the sale items during the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> or in helping out during the sale days will be greatly appreciated. Sale days are Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm, and Saturday (the \$5.00 / bag sale) from 9:00am - 12:30pm.

to be returned. Love, repentance, generosity, understanding of the other, and respect help in making peace towards reconciliation. In his book, *Embodying Forgiveness, A Theological Analysis*, Jones states that "Unconditional forgiveness leaves the heart empty of self-seeking. When we forgive and reconcile, we humble ourselves, we are generous. We do not consider ourselves better than the other. If we accept that each of us carries Christ within the self, we become the ambassadors of God."

Reverend Cary reminded us that there is no linear resolution. My understanding of his statement is that we can reconcile without resolving the conflicts, and we can resolve the conflicts without reconciliation. In my mind, it is forgiveness that permits the reconciliation. Jones again, "A Christian account of forgiveness ought not simply or even primarily be focused on the absolution of guilt, rather, it ought to be focused on the reconciliation of brokenness, the restoration of communion with God, with one another, and with the whole creation."

To me, this workshop was a reminder of how important it is to think, act, and love as a Christian, in all humility and with a permanent deference to God. While in such a short time we could not investigate all the issues presented, and could not come to a resolution, the presentation of such topics was an inspiration to continue pondering over the quality of our communication with one another.

Thank you Reverend Cary for a most interesting workshop.

## Youth Ministry

A round of applause to the cast and crew of **Pirates of Penzance**—an outstanding performance from all!

The youth group is preparing for Youth Sunday, on April 17<sup>th</sup>. They have chosen a theme of “Water” and are busy putting together the service. As of this writing, there will be a mission project connected to this service, but one has not been chosen yet. Notes went out to the Sunday School classes on Palm Sunday to see who would be available to participate. If you (your child) did not receive the letter and will be here and want to participate, please email me @ [whpresbyterianyg@gmail.com](mailto:whpresbyterianyg@gmail.com) .

Also, in the works is a REACH trip to Gettysburg, PA. As of now we have four committed High School youth! We depart on June 25<sup>th</sup> and return July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

As always we do our best to find time to meet and plan activities and mission projects, which is always a challenge in the Springtime!

Upcoming events:

Helping the Presbyterian Women set up for their rummage sale. (4/10)

Bike Rally May 21<sup>st</sup> (host the rest area for Ride to Montauk)

The Youth Group had a great time boiling the eggs and helping with the Lenten Festival hope you enjoy some of the photos! Happy Spring... Kathy

## Time for Easter Eggs!



# APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>WEEKLY:</b> <b>Adult Study:</b> Sunday 11:15am; <b>Worship:</b> Sunday 10am Sanctuary <b>Choir:</b> Sunday 9:30 and 11:15am <b>Chapel Choir:</b> 1st and 3rd Thursdays 7-8pm <b>AA:</b> Sunday 12 and 7:30pm, Wednesday 7pm, Saturday 10am					1	2 9am-4 pm Hospice Youth Training (conf. rm. & kitchen)
3 Communion	4 8:30am - 3pm Garden Club	5 7pm Deacons	6 12pm Staff	7	8	9
10 Begin set up for Rummage	11	12 5:30pm Music & Workship 6:30pm Session	13 9:15am Mission 12 noon PW Luncheon	14	15 Rummage Sale	16 Rummage Sale
17 Youth Sunday	18	19 Presbytery Meeting: Southold 7pm Trustees	20 Tidings Deadline	21	22 11am WH Bridge Club	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 11am WH Bridge Club	30

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*Your issue of the April Tidings*

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

	20	Wendy Hornick
	21	Siri Howard
	22	Marge Beckwith
1	25	Robbie Doyle
1	26	Tom Moore
6	26	Brady Munn
8	26	Sean Dayton
8	26	Dick Lutz
10	26	Lynne Jones
10	27	Andrew Lynch
11	28	Marvin Raynor
13	29	Elizabeth Moore
14	30	Dorette and Maik Jornitz
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**John Comba's Birthday Celebration**

The church and community rejoiced with John Comba and family upon his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (3-18-1916). The coffee hour on Palm Sunday, March 20th was held in his honor.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the celebration possible and to all who contributed to the John Comba Birthday Fund, an honorary fund in the WPC Endowment whose proceeds will support the operation expenses of Westhampton Presbyterian Church. \$8,395 was raised.

***Correction to the Directory:***

*Bruce and Margery Qua and Victoria Kingwell are church members. They were listed under "Friends".*