

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

A Friendly Church; So When You Come — Bring a Friend

JUNE 2017



Inside This Issue:

Pastor Meg's Column	1,3
Church Officers	2
Large Print Notice.....	2
Prayer Corner.....	2
Notes From Session.....	3
Christian Education News	3
Stewardship-Budget News	4
Church Brunch on Vacation	4
Mission Team	5
Lenore Gertrude Bruno (Lee)	5
Spring Swing Square Dance	6
June Calendar	7
Mario's Pizzeria/Restaurant Fundraiser	8
Bell Ringer Deadline for July-August Issue.....	8

Pastoral Column:

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

Since January 2016, our congregation's Visioning Task Force has thoroughly examined our congregation from top to bottom, backwards and forwards. They prayed together. They spoke with and listened to church members, officers, and visitors. They remembered our history. They made lists of our strengths and challenges. They cast a tentative net into our future. All of their work was done under the supervision of the Presbytery of Long Island, to reevaluate our mission and ministry. After a pastoral change, significant members' deaths or moving away, and years of staying the course, Sweet Hollow needed to step back and consider who we were, who we are, and who God is calling us to become.

The Task Force is finally concluding its work. The Session and Presbytery received a draft of their final report. As we move forward and act on their findings, the Session will be our guide. Committees may be assigned a specific task as a result. Church members may be invited to follow-up conversations. Although there are challenges before us, there is no need to worry or fear the future. God has given Sweet Hollow many, many gifts. I am reminded of this section from our *Book of Order* (F-1.0301):

The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (1 Cor. 12:27-28):

The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.

The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.

The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.

The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

— continued on page 3

Prayer Corner

By Carol Keil

This month we lift up prayers of joy upon the graduation of the following young people and prayers for their success in the future:

Natasha Bacchus, graduating from Half Hollow Hills High School East to attend American University.

Kristen Conroy, graduating from Walt Whitman High School to attend SUNY Oneonta.

Anthony D'Angelo, graduating from Cold Spring Harbor High School to attend the University of New Hampshire.

Tristan Keil, graduated from Cornell College of Industrial and Labor Relations

Molly MacDonald, graduated from Sentinel High School in Missoula MT to attend Montana State University.

Kevin Manning, graduated from Culinary Institute of America.

Grace Segers, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Tufts University.

Anna Schiffmacher, graduated from Converse College.

Kailyn Schiffmacher, graduated from Ohio University.

Kiana Walter, graduating from Mountain View High School, Mountain View, CA to attend the University of Puget Sound.

Large print copies of the Sunday morning worship service program are now available. If you would like a copy, please speak to one of the ushers.

Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan, Pastor

Rachel Fogel, Choir Director

Barbara Zimmerman, Secretary

Tracy Dein, Treasurer

Elders:

Melissa Beyer
Barbara Blanthorn
Lynn Burke
Charlotte DeSanti
Tim Mason
Maureen Sansone
Brian Schiffmacher
Jim Sommermeyer
Emily Wagner

Deacons:

Jim Beyer
Jean Cavanaugh
Bill Chamberlain
Laura Fallon
Daniel Layer
Susan Manning
Barbara Martin
Frank Sansone
Dan Schiffmacher
Jason Wagner
Marc Young

Other Groups & Activities:

Book Discussion	Sukey Walter
Christian Education	Lynn Burke
Church Brunch	Bill Walter
Fellowship & Outreach	Maureen Sansone
House & Property	Brian Schiffmacher
Mission	Charlotte DeSanti
Personnel	Charlotte DeSanti
Prayer Circle	Carol Keil
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Sukey Walter
Stewardship	Jim Sommermeyer
Women For Women	Maureen Sansone
Worship	Melissa Beyer
Youth Group	Pastor Meg Flannagan
Bell Ringer Editor	Bill Chamberlain

Pastoral Column - *continued from page 1*

Instead of worrying about the future, we trust that Christ has given us “all the gifts necessary” to be Sweet Hollow. It is our job, then, to demonstrate these gifts within our congregation, the local community, and the world. It is our job to do so “even at the risk of losing [our] life.” This is not a part-time job or an occasional hobby. Being church together is an all-in, full speed ahead, 110% committed task which we pursue with joy!

Be challenged by and encouraged by these words. Find ways to use your gifts at Sweet Hollow. Help us see ways that we can use our collective gifts. Get involved. Keep us moving.

I look forward to seeing you in worship and other activities through the summer!

Notes From Session

by Lynn Burke

Our Spring Swing Square Dance was a great success making over \$2000 which will go to the Roof Fund. Many thanks to Mickey Rogers and Maureen Sansone for all their hard work to bring this event together. A lot of time and planning was needed to organize this dance. Thanks to everyone who worked together and volunteered to make it such a success.

The California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser was another success. Session designated \$300 of the funds raised to go to Project Hope. Thanks to Bill Walter for organizing and to everyone who came to eat.

Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

The children will be finishing the lesson “Saul on the Road to Damascus” through June 11 which is the last Sunday School class until the fall.

Congratulations to our Confirmation students: Brianna Conroy, Courtney Schmitt, Rebecca Van Houten and Jake Von Brook who were confirmed on Sunday, May 7. We look forward to seeing them at worship and working together with all of them.



Our Annual Strawberry Shortcake on the front lawn will take place on Sunday, June 11 immediately following worship. Please join us.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who taught Sunday School, were room shepherds, and helped in the Nursery. We couldn't have our programs without all of you and it is really appreciated. A special Thank You to Carol Keil for planning all our wonderful Sunday School and Nursery programs.

Enjoy the summer!

Carol Keil, Bob Earthy and Frank Sansone at the check-out table at the Sunday School Plant Sale.

Stewardship - Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

With God all things are possible is our Stewardship theme this year.

The Budget committee met on May 21 and began to discuss possible themes for the upcoming Stewardship season. I want to thank the new members of the Stewardship – Budget committee for their support; I am truly overwhelmed by the people who have volunteered to help. I would be remiss if I did not also thank the veteran, steadfast members of the committee for their support for many, many years. Our next meeting will be held on June 18. Joyful things are happening at Sweet Hollow!

We were blessed on May 21 to receive the moving and heartfelt Faith Testimony of Laura Fallon. Thank you, Laura, for sharing your story with us! We will continue with faith testimonies throughout 2017. If her summer schedule permits, April Fallon will be next! Please let me know if you would like to explore your faith journey with our congregation. We wouldn't be the "Little Church with the Big Heart" without you and your time, talents, and treasures supporting all the good work we do!

Our Roof Repair Fundraising campaign will not stop until we have reached our stated goal. We have now reached \$22,734, approximately two-thirds of the way to our target of \$35,000 and we have triggered a second challenge match of \$1,000. Let's continue our positive momentum and replenish our reserve fund before the end of 2017. When we reach the \$30,000 level, another \$1,000 match will kick in.

Please keep in mind that each member on our rolls should pay a Per Capita Apportionment of \$34.45. If you have 3 family members, your total will be \$103.35. This money supports the work and mission of the Presbytery of Long Island, along with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Sweet Hollow must make up the difference if a member does not contribute their share. This may not seem like much but since we have 120 members, our obligation to the Presbytery is over \$4,000. So far we have received a little over \$1,300 in donations towards Per Capita.

Longer term, we must resume funding our major maintenance budget bucket and begin funding the Emily Kotting endowment. This may seem daunting but we are actually just 10% away in terms of yearly revenue from making both of these items a reality.

We continue to see positive momentum on the budget front. Since summer is rapidly approaching, please consider paying your donation in advance of your vacation. This will help us greatly with our cash flow and give us the ability to pay our debts on time. Our members are contributing generously and our rental income is up with the addition of our new tenants. Speaking of new tenants, please join me in welcoming the newest, Sunnyside Daycare! Thanks to God for the abundance he has given us.

May gave us the Confirmation of our four wonderful and amazing young people, along with two more fundraisers, our second exciting Square Dance and our annual Sunday School Plant Sale at Otto Keil Florists. Please continue to support our efforts during June with the every Tuesday fundraiser at Mario's Pizzeria. Joyful things are happening at Sweet Hollow!

We have much to do and I know we can do it together if we trust in our faith and pray to God to show us the way.

The Church Brunch Is On Vacation

by Bill Walter

The Church Brunch is taking a summer vacation. We will be away during the months of June through September and will return for our first fall meeting on the second Tuesday in October, October 10. So enjoy your summer and put the second Tuesdays in October, November and December on your calendar.

Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti

Dear Congregation,

June 11 is our upcoming Project H.O.P.E. Sunday Supper at St. Hugh of Lincoln Roman Catholic Church **AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!** This is a wonderful opportunity for community service, Project H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat), for just a "few plus" hours of your afternoon.

Here's how you can help:

-For Set Up: We ask that you please arrive at 1:15 p.m.

-To help serve the food, to help plate the food and to assist in the kitchen, please arrive promptly at 2:15 p.m.

All participants are asked to help with cleanup which will be completed by approximately 5:30 p.m.

Since this Sunday Supper is BBQ style, Sweet Hollow is asked to provide desserts only (cookies, brownies, coffee cakes, layer cakes etc.). Please bring desserts to church on Sunday, June 11.

Also requested are food basket items — apples, bananas, oranges, granola bars and pre-packaged/individually wrapped pretzels, cookies, crackers, baked goods, etc..

These items will be dropped off at Hospice House in East Northport after the Sunday Supper.

Leftovers from dinner will be brought to the Brentwood Homeless Shelter near the Commack Cosco after the Sunday Supper as well.

Volunteers are needed for both deliveries.

We only do this once a year and we need many hands. Sign up sheets are out after coffee hour. You can also call Maureen Sansone at 631-385-1855 or send an email to msansone@optonline.net. Thank you and please help.

This past Sunday, 24 bags of clothing for our Veterans were blessed! They will be picked up during the week by United Veterans Beacon House. To all of you who donated, thank you so very much!

LENORE GERTRUDE BRUNO (LEE)

August 21, 1924 - May 10, 2017

by Bill Walter

Lee entered the Church Triumphant on May 10 at the age of 92 in Reno, Nevada. She was buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Reno with her husband, Emil Bruno.

Both Lee and Emil joined the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow in November 1962 and became very active members. Emil was a deacon first, served three terms as an elder and was the Church Treasurer for many years. Lee was a deacon in the class of 1977.

Their four children attended Sunday School and were confirmed at Sweet Hollow: Thomas in 1966, Robert in 1968, Carolyn in 1972 and Donald in 1974.

Lee and Emil lived in Melville from the mid-1950's to the mid-1980's when they moved to North Carolina for 20 years and then to Reno to be near Thomas. The other 3 children have also moved west - Carolyn to Texas, Robert to Colorado and Donald to Washington. Lee worked for the Half Hollow Hills School District for many years after her children were grown.

When Emil entered the Church Triumphant on February 17, 2016, he was 93 and they had been married for 72 years. They have 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

SPRING SWING SQUARE DANCE

by Maureen Sansone

Our **"Spring Swing Square Dance,"** held on Saturday, March 13, was a rousing success! Although it was a very rainy night, that didn't deter approximately 70 attendees from enjoying a night filled with dancing, music, raffles and laughter.

We are so grateful to Mickey Rogers, who conceptualized, planned and organized this wonderful event. Mickey's talents as a Caller enabled attendees of all skill levels and abilities to participate in and enjoy a wide variety of dance sets.

Thanks to Mickey's efforts and the efforts of many church members and their families and friends, \$2,300 was raised for our roof repair project! Each and every one of our generous volunteers played a vital role in the success of this fundraiser — by assisting with planning; organizing; pre-sales and sales on the night of the event of admission tickets, 50/50 and Gift Basket Raffle tickets; setting up lights for the outdoor food area; coordinating and working in the food area; decorating; setting up for the event; donating gift baskets, soda, baked goods, and packaged salty snacks; picking up food donations and prizes; babysitting and cleaning up.



June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Steven Moder's Birthday	2 D.J. Kramm's Birthday Joey Moder's Birthday	3
4 10:00 Worship 9:30 Deacon Meeting Beth Pereira's Birthday	5 Charlotte & Fred DeSanti's Anniversary	6 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	7 10:00 Prayer Circle	8	9	10
11 10:00 Worship Strawberry Shortcake Brunch 11:15 Meeting for those interested in joining church Project H.O.P.E. (see schedule elsewhere in this issue) Carol & Dan Schiffmacher's Anniversary	12	13 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	14 10:00 Prayer Circle	15	16	17
18 10:00 Worship	19 7:30 Session meeting Jake VonBrook's Birthday	20 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00 Prayer Circle Michael DeSanti's Birthday	22 Evan Pereira's Birthday	23	24 Nikita Phipps' Birthday
25 10:00 Worship Joe Moder's Birthday	26	27 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	28 10:00 Prayer Circle	29	30 Dominique D'Amore's Birthday	

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

*95 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747*

Phone: 631-367-9249



We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE
For July-August Issue
June 25, 2017**

Mario's Pizzeria/Restaurant Fundraiser

by Maureen Sansone

Mario's, located at 1-17 Schwab Road in Melville (corner of Schwab Rd. & Route 110) has generously agreed to hold a fundraiser for The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow every Tuesday during the month of June. On June 6, 13, 20, and 27, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 9 p.m., simply present the Mario's Community Fundraiser Event Flyer, show it on your smartphone, or tell your server you're supporting the cause, to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to our church. This is valid for dine-in, take out, pick up or delivery!

Flyers are available as follows:

- .On the church website: www.sweethollowpresby.org
- .On the church Facebook page
- .On the back table in the Sanctuary following worship each Sunday through June 25
- .On the display with tear-offs in the breezeway

Please tell your extended family, your neighbors, and your friends, to assist in this fundraising activity!