

The Bell Ringer

Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

JULY - AUGUST 2017



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Pastoral Column:

Pastor Meg Flannagan

The Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow is like the little engine that could, tackling BIG projects with a “we think we can” attitude. People in the larger community are starting to take notice. Several guests have commented on our activities, commending us for an increase in programs and enthusiasm. Presbyterian neighbors have also noticed our ambitious achievements. Here are some of the good things we’ve accomplished since last summer:

- We purchased a new roof for the central section of our buildings. Now we are near full repayment of our savings! Keep pushing to repay the remaining \$12,000+ before September.
- We organized two square dances. Many volunteers gave time, labor, and supplies to ensure success. The dances energized our congregation, entertained our extended community, and raised a significant amount for our roof fund.
- We led a confirmation class for four students. They worked diligently from September through April and officially joined our congregation in May.
- We hosted quarterly conversations at the Diner for adults. Regular attendees explored theology, faith, and life together. Participation has been consistent and enthusiastic. (Try the July series this month!)
- We hosted our second Easter Vigil during Holy Week. Neighboring Presbyterians joined the worship service and promised to return again next year.

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Prayer Corner

By Carol Keil

This summer we wish you TIME:
 Time to reach out to those who are lonely.
 Time to express your concern for those who
 are ill or bereaved.
 Time to relax long enough to hear the sounds
 of nature around you.
 Time to give thanks for the many blessings
 you have received.
 Time to reflect on your place in this world as a
 member or friend of The Presbyterian
 Church of Sweet Hollow and to join us
 with renewed faith that with God nothing
 is impossible!

Thanks to *faithandworship.com/*
prayers_summer.htm for this Summer Prayer:

Creator God,
 who breathed this world into being,
 who is discernible within
 the harmony of nature,
 the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
 the grandeur of a mountain range,
 the soaring eagle and humming bird,
 thank you for this world
 which you have created.
 Thank you for summer sun,
 which reminds us
 that your creative breath
 is still alive and active.
 Thank you for the warmth of our love,
 sustaining this world,
 your garden.

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)

- We increased the number of groups renting facility space, and thus increased our rental income. Two worshipping congregations now meet here, in addition to two daycares, and a number of support groups.
- We welcomed visitors and new members, and baptized five babies!

Well done, Sweet Hollow! I am proud of you (and proud of us). Take time this summer to refresh and regroup. While July and August have a slower pace, I look forward to seeing what adventures will be had in the coming months. More work is headed our way – thank goodness! New ideas, projects, and people are signs of the life God gives us.

Stewardship - Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

Summer is here! Although some things are slowing down, our expenses stay consistent. Please help us avoid our usual summer cash flow crunch by keeping your donations current. With the first half of the year drawing to a close, our positive momentum continues! Amazing things are happening at Sweet Hollow! Our Roof Repair Fundraising campaign will not stop until we have reached our stated goal. We have now reached \$24,039, approximately two-thirds of the way to our target of \$35,000. Let's continue our positive momentum and replenish our reserve fund before the end of 2017. If we reach the \$30,000 level this year, another \$1,000 match will kick in.

We are discussing possible themes for the upcoming Stewardship season. If you have an idea, please submit it for consideration. If you feel moved to give a Faith Testimony and have never done it before, the summer may be a perfect time for you to give it a try (and the Sanctuary has wonderful air conditioning!) 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. This is a great way to share our faith journey with our extended church family.

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 ten percent away in terms of yearly revenue from making both of these items a reality.

If you are wondering what is going on downstairs in the CEB, our Club Play Camp renters have moved into our classrooms for the summer. Thanks to God for the abundance he has given us! Joyful things are happening at Sweet Hollow! For a moving spiritual discussion and warm fellowship, please consider the upcoming Dinner and Discussion sessions at the Sweet Hollow Diner beginning on Wednesday, July 5.

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.

Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

Sunday School classes will start again on Sunday, September 10 which is also Homecoming Sunday when we will barbeque and mingle on the front lawn. Mark your calendars.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who taught Sunday School, were room shepherds, and helped in the Nursery all year long. We couldn't have our programs without all of you and it is really appreciated.

Dinner and discussion starts on Wednesday, July 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sweet Hollow Diner and continues every Wednesday during the month of July. Please join us!

Enjoy the summer!

Confirmation Class Service Project

by Pastor Meg



The 2017 Confirmation Class had an end-of-year service project and celebration in June. We did yardwork for the former Glenwood Landing Presbyterian Church (now a Presbyterian Community Center). Because the worshipping congregation disbanded, no regular volunteers care for their gardens. We weeded, trimmed, chopped, and shaped bushes around the entryway. By lunchtime, we accumulated a large pile of yard



waste bags.

Frank & Maureen Sansone escorted us to their former stomping grounds on Bayville's beachfront, where we enjoyed the local pizza and a walk on the beach. It was a great end to a great year!

News From The Pews

by Bill Walter

Lynne Judd returned to Long Island on Tuesday, June 20 to attend the retirement dinner party held at the Crest Hollow Country Club for James Kaden. Jim is retiring after serving 24 years on the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, 21 years of which Jim served as Chairman. During the years when Lynne & Larry's children, Caitlin, Lawrence, Aileen and Douglas were attending South Huntington schools, Lynne was very involved in the PTA, the school board and many school district activities; so she came back to join well over a hundred of us to thank Jim for his years of service.



Lynne and Larry are now living in Florida for 8 months of the year and 4 summer months in Virginia to help Caitlin with her 3 children, Jack is 6, Cade 5 and Tess will be 3 months on June 30. Lynne reports that Larry is now tearing out and remodeling a bathroom in their Florida home. You can see in their family photo with Lynne on the left and Larry on the right that both Lynne and Larry look very much the same as when they were in Melville serving as very active Sweet Hollow members.



Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti

As we all look forward to the summer months ahead, just a few reminders:

Sharing bags for the children of Tri CYA will be out in August. We will be collecting healthy snacks and school supplies.



This year, Frank Sansone has graciously stepped in for me to run the Pumpkin Patch. The pumpkins are scheduled for delivery on Friday, September 29 after 4 p.m. If there are any delays on the road, the pumpkins will arrive Saturday, September 30. Please keep these dates open. We all love the Pumpkin Patch and it's a great fundraiser for our church, but it does take "ALL of us" to keep it running. Unloading the pumpkins, putting out signs, volunteering to sell, baking, counting, open and closing the patch and cleaning up. MANY hands make LIGHT work. Please see the Mission Team in September to see where you can help out. Thank you everyone.

The basket for food donations to the Huntington Community Food Council will be in the breezeway all summer.

Happy Summer, All, and enjoy time spent with family and friends.

Pumpkin Patch 2017

by Frank Sansone

Our biggest fundraiser, the Pumpkin Patch, kicks off with the one and only delivery on **Saturday, September 30 at 8:00 a.m.** This will require us to unpack the truck and place the pumpkins on pallets in the field. The first day of sales for the Pumpkin Patch will be that Saturday, too, running every day through October.

The money which the Pumpkin Patch generates is vital for the church; but over the years the Patch has also become a vehicle which connects us to our Long Island and Melville community. Many people annually look forward to purchasing from us. Some visitors to the Pumpkin Patch have felt so welcomed by our volunteers that they come to service; some of those visitors are now members.



Please volunteer to help unload the pumpkins, and spend time selling pumpkins too. We need to staff the weekend shifts first. The weekend shifts, are **11-1, 1-3 and 3-5:30**. There are five weekends this year, so we need just **60 people to volunteer**. I would like to have those shifts covered by the end of August. Please e-mail your available weekend time to sansfra87@gmail.com. There will also be sign-up sheets available in the Sanctuary.

Thank you to Charlotte DeSanti for her great leadership with the Pumpkin Patch over the last seven years.

Project Hope—June 11



July 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:00 Worship Anthony D' Angelo IV's Birthday	3	4 Fred Chacalos' Birthday	5 10:00 Prayer Circle 6:30 Dinner & Discussion Emily Wagner's Birthday	6 Andy Fogel's Birthday	7	8
9 10:00 Worship Rose O'Connor's & Winfred Stagl's Birthday	10 Melissa Beyer's Birthday	11	12 10:00 Prayer Circle 6:30 Dinner & Discussion	13	14	15
16 10:00 Worship Lloyd Phipps' Birthday	17 Brian Bacchus' Birthday	18 Maureen Sansone's Birthday	19 10:00 Prayer Circle 6:30 Dinner & Discussion	20 Melissa & James Beyer's Anniversary	21 Amanda Moder's Birthday	22 Ross Martin's Birthday
23 10:00 Worship	24 Madeline Beyer's & Charlotte DeSanti's Birthday	25 Dan Schifnacher's Birthday	26 10:00 Prayer Circle 6:30 Dinner & Discussion	27 Lexie Jay Zucker's Birthday	28 Barbara Blanthorn's Birthday	29 Slas Miller's Birthday
30 10:00 Worship	31					

August 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 10:00 Prayer Circle	3 Teddy Tanksley's Birthday	4 Caitlin Mason's Birthday	5
6 10:00 Worship	7 Emily & Jason Wagner's Anniversary Carol Schiffmacher's Birthday	8 Sharon & Donald Krans' Anniversary	9 10:00 Prayer Circle	10	11	12
13 10:00 Worship	14 Tim & Carol Mason's Anniversary	15 Ray Moder's Birthday	16 10:00 Prayer Circle	17	18	19
20 10:00 Worship 11:00 Mission Statement Discussion	21 7:30 pm Session Meeting	22 Tim Mason's & Mildred Schmitt's Birthday	23 10:00 Prayer Circle	24	25 Robbie Reiser's & Mickey Roger's Birthday	26 Denise & Ray Moder's Anniversary
27 10:00 Worship	28	29	30 10:00 Prayer Circle	31		

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SWEET HOLLOW**

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We're on the Web!

www.sweethollowpresby.org

**BELL RINGER DEADLINE
For September Issue
August 20**

Dinner at the Diner

Dinner and discussion will take place Wednesdays — July 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sweet Hollow Diner. This is a time to ask questions and consider what we (and you!) really believe.

Visioning Task Force Workshops

Now that the Visioning Task Force has written its report, our congregation is ready to move forward. On the third Sundays of August, September, and October, we will gather immediately after worship to discuss specific topics related to the Task Force's report. Join us for these workshops: August 20 – Our Mission Statement; September 17 – Volunteers and church officers; and October 22 – Church Committees. One evening workshop will be offered later in the fall for those who missed the Sunday morning conversations. Hope to see you there!

Children's Choir

SAVE THE DATE! All elementary and preschool children are invited to Children's Choir rehearsals at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, September 10, 17, and 24. We will sing in worship on Sunday, October 1.

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. See you then!