

# The Bell Ringer

## Of the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow

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

March 2017



### Inside This Issue:

Pastoral Column.....	1
Church Officers .....	2
Glenwood Landing Community Center.....	2
Join the Fun at Montreat..	2
Stewardship-Budget News	3
Summer Mission Trip.....	3
Prayer Corner.....	4
Women4Women.....	4
Church Brunch.....	4
Christian Education News	5
Ice Skating Party .....	5
Holmes Summer Camp.....	5
Mission Team .....	6
Visioning Task Force.....	6
March Calendar.....	7
Holy Week Schedule.....	8
Dinner Discussions.....	8
Book Discussion .....	8
Electronic Bellringers .....	8

### Pastoral Column:

by Pastor Meg Flannagan

One of Sweet Hollow's gifts is that of hospitality. Our congregation knows how to welcome a visitor into our church family and welcome one another into lasting friendships. It isn't always easy, though. The national political debate about immigration and refugee resettlement challenges our Christian practice of hospitality. Even the warmest congregations are challenged by visitors with particular needs and abilities. Who is truly welcome into our fold? And who would we prefer to find a church home elsewhere?

The season of Lent is an immersion into Christ's journey on earth. Weekly lectionary readings reintroduce us to the people Jesus knew. He welcomed friend and stranger, outcast and needy, rich and poor, healthy and sick. So should we. As we travel with him through Lent, be intentional about welcoming all people into our hearts and homes. Instead of foregoing chocolate or alcohol, let this Lenten discipline transform your being.

The following is one congregation's welcome statement that beautifully illustrates the width and breadth of Christian hospitality:

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excitable toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a warm welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery and those who are still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organized religion. We offer a welcome to those who think the Earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell or are here because Granny is visiting and wanted to come to church. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and YOU!

## Glenwood Landing Community Center

The new worshipping community at Glenwood Life Center is hosting a weekly Lenten retreat. Each Tuesday, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., they will focus on contemplative and creative practices that lead to a closer relationship with God. The time will include a simple supper. Art, music, writing, knitting, yoga, and discernment will be the focus practices. Discern God's voice and search within for the wellsprings of authentic joy, and the capacity to play and create within that joy.

**Tuesdays, February 28 - April 11**  
**6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Wear Comfortable Clothing**  
**Suggested Donation \$10/night**

## Join the fun at Montreat, NC

Each summer thousands of worship-loving Presbyterians gather in Montreat, North Carolina to sing, pray, and play together. Families, choirs, and congregations retreat for a week of spiritual enrichment.

Would you like to join the fun? June 18-23 or June 25-30. Activities are available for all ages. Sweet Hollow and Baldwin Presbyterian Church may send a group.

Please talk to Pastor Meg if you are interested.

## 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	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

## Stewardship - Budget News

by Jim Sommermeyer

**With God all things are possible** is our Stewardship theme this year. We must be positive and go forth boldly.

We will continue with faith testimonies throughout 2017. Please let me know if you would like to be the next one 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!

I've heard from a few folks that they are unsure as to what Stewardship means. I fully understand that and I honestly feel the same way. Who is a Steward? What responsibilities does a Steward have?

Simply put, we know that our offerings are intended to care for our church staff & facilities. That may seem like a lot, but it is far greater than that; we must include our congregation, our community, even our planet. That's a lot of responsibility but that's what God expects of us.

A couple of quotes from the Directory for Worship: "The offering of material goods in worship is a corporate act of self-dedication in response to God."

"As stewards of God's creation who hold the earth in trust, the people of God are called to use the Earth's resources responsibly without plundering, polluting or destroying."

I think the answers to our questions start to surface with these quotes. We may want to think the answer is the Church officers, the Session, the Elders; but the answer is that it's all of us. We are the stewards of the Church and of the planet. We are responsible.

This may be a bit overwhelming but we can start by focusing on a couple of things. Please stay up to date with your pledges and keep in mind that our Roof Repair Fundraising campaign will not stop until we have reached our stated goal. Let's continue our positive momentum with this highly successful fundraiser and replenish our reserve fund before the end of 2017.

## Summer Mission Trip

Sweet Hollow youth are invited to join other presbytery youth on a summer mission trip to the Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia. High Schoolers will go from July 30 to August 5. Middle Schoolers will go from August 6 to August 10.

For specific information, visit [www.broadstreetministry.org](http://www.broadstreetministry.org) and click on "Youth Initiative."

Fundraising help is available.

## Prayer Corner

by Carol Keil

We pray for all the children of our Sweet Hollow congregation, especially for the Remo family presenting their daughter Sophia Elizabeth for baptism on Sunday, March 19 and for the Hoban-Layer family who will present their son Elliot Daniel for baptism this month.

We pray for all our church officers, especially for these newly ordained and/or installed on Sunday, February 26:

### Deacons

Bill Chamberlain  
Barbara Martin  
Dan Schiffmacher  
Jason Wagner  
Marc Young

### Elders

Barbara Blanthorn  
Charlotte DeSanti  
Tim Mason  
Emily Wagner

The following is an excerpt from the *Prayer of Ordination*:

“In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give to your servants gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence.”

We pray for our nation and for those elected officials who represent us in local, state and national government.

We thank Pastor Meg for sharing the following prayer:

O Lord, our governor,

Your glory shines throughout the world.

We commend our nation to your merciful care,  
that we may live securely in peace  
and may be guided by your providence.

Give all in authority the wisdom and strength  
to know your will and to do it.

Help them to remember that they are called to serve the people  
as lovers of truth and justice;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Women for Women (W4W)

Women4Women meets Monday, March 6 at approximately 7:00 p.m., depending on which movie is chosen. We will be going to one of the Farmingdale movie theaters. Anyone interested, please contact Barbara Blanthorn at 516-508-6381.

## Church Brunch

The Church Brunch will meet Tuesday, March 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the church parlor for a program to be announced. Come at whatever time is convenient for you. Freshly brewed decaf coffee and delicious goodies will be served.

## Christian Education News

by Lynn Burke

The children will be starting their lessons on “Jesus’ Death and Resurrection” in March. We look forward to seeing the children in class.

Our Confirmation Class is continuing with their lessons on Sundays after worship along with some upcoming field trips.

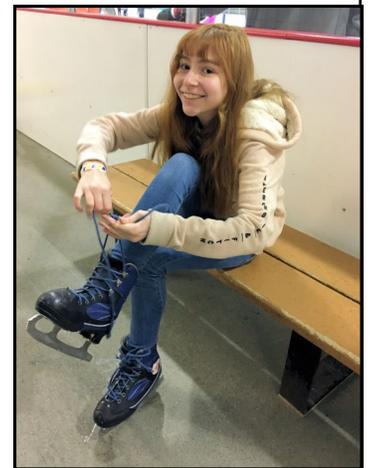
Our Annual Pancake Breakfast was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended and everyone who helped with cooking, serving and clean up. A good time was had by all.

As always, volunteers are needed for teaching Sunday School and in the Nursery. Room Shepherds are needed for the Nursery as well as Sunday School. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

The Dinner Discussions will start again on March 8, 15, 22 and 29. Topics will be drawn from The Shack. We’re planning another Family Activity Day. More information to come soon.

## Ice Skating Party

Brianna Conroy, Laura Fallon, Zariah Howard, Amanda Moder, and Rebecca Van Houten enjoyed the ice-skating party.



## Holmes Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Residential and Day Camp programs for children and youth entering first grade through those who have graduated from high school are available. To learn more, visit <[www.holmescamp.org/summer-camp](http://www.holmescamp.org/summer-camp)> or contact Natasha Taylor, Camp & Youth Programs Director at (845)878-6383.

## Mission Team

by Charlotte DeSanti

### Souper Bowl Challenge

Thank you, everyone, for donating to the Souper Bowl Challenge. As I write this, there is still another week to go. Sweet Hollow is currently in first place among eight other churches with a total of 4,535 food items! Thank you all so much! A very special thanks to Brian Schiffmacher and the kids at Cold Spring Harbor Junior High School for their donations to our church. They collected over 4,100 cans and boxes of that food total!! They also helped load and count all the food! The total collected so far from all nine churches is 11,135 donations! As Betty Gyory from Middle Island Church, who runs the challenge said, "MAN, THIS IS A SOUPERIOR GROUP EFFORT!!"

Next month I will have the final totals.

### Healthy Snacks for TRI CYA Children

Donations of healthy snacks for the children of TRI CYA will be collected during the end of March and the beginning of April. Please look for the Sharing Bags.

### Clothing Drive

The month of May is not all that far away! Thank goodness, although we can't complain too much. Winter has been fairly good to us this year. It's a good time to start going through your closets and drawers for clothing or linens for our Memorial Day Drive to help our Veterans.

Thank you, as always, for keeping our **Box of Giving** in the breezeway full. Hunger never ceases.

## Visioning Task Force

by Charlotte DeSanti

The Visioning Task Force (V.T.F.) continues to meet regularly. We are now proofreading our study and plan to present it to the session at the March meeting and then to the congregation. Our study will go to the Committee on Ministry at The Presbytery in April. We did have a congregation member join us at one of our meetings which was very helpful looking toward the future.

One of our biggest challenges moving forward at Sweet Hollow in this ever changing world is "participation." With that comes new ideas and different ways of doing things that appeal to all and bring more folks to church. The status quo, "as is," can't do it alone. We need you to be "part" of it ("everyone" — our young, old, youth, parents and millennials). If something speaks out to you; if you have an idea for fundraising, new ideas in the church, have the skill set to manage our website, would like to sing in the choir, help with Christian Education, the Nursery, or join one of the committees, this is what we "need."

Please consider where you can be of help. As we move forward in the New Year, if we all take just a little piece, it will make a big difference. Thank you, everyone!

# March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 6:00 Ash Wednesday Supper & Service at Baldwin P. C.	<b>2</b> Justin Zucker's Birthday	<b>3</b> Jessie Baechus' Birthday	<b>4</b> Emily Moder's, Joan Sommermeyer's & Hillary Zucker's Birthday
<b>5</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 Confirmation Allison Paalz's Birthday	<b>6</b> 7:00 Women4Women Fred DeSanti's Birthday	<b>7</b> 10:00 Prayer Circle 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 6:30 Supper & Discussion at Sweet Hollow Diner Frank Sansone's Birthday	<b>9</b> Chloe Keil's Birthday	<b>10</b> Liz VonBrook's Birthday	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 Confirmation	<b>13</b> Ben Greller's Birthday	<b>14</b> 10:00 Church Brunch 10:00 Prayer Circle 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 6:30 Supper & Discussion at Sweet Hollow Diner	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 Confirmation	<b>20</b> 7:30 Session	<b>21</b> 10:00 Prayer Circle 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Alice Wansor's Birthday	<b>22</b> 6:30 Supper & Discussion at Sweet Hollow Diner Denise Moder's Birthday	<b>23</b> 1:30 Book Discussion Alex Greller's Birthday	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 Confirmation 11:15 Deacon Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 Prayer Circle 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6:30 Supper & Discussion at Sweet Hollow Diner	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**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 April Issue  
March 27**

**Holy Week Schedule**

We will worship at the following times during this year's Holy Week:

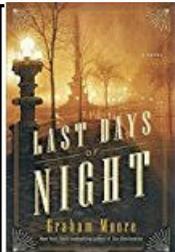
Maundy Thursday, April 13 (6:00 p.m.)

Holy Saturday, April 15 (6:30 p.m.)

Easter Sunday, April 16 (6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.).

**Dinner Discussions**

The Dinner Discussions will start again at 6:30 p.m. on March 8, 15, 22 and 29. Topics will be drawn from The Shack.



**Book Discussion**

by Sukey Walter

Our next book is The Last Days of Night by Graham Moore.

We will meet in the parlor on March 23 at 1:30 p.m.

Would you like to receive your Bell Ringer in color electronically thus saving us time and postage?  
Please contact the church office.