



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
APRIL 2018

A Post from the Interim Pastor—Easter??!!...So What!!

I get this question a lot. Do you? How is it normally asked? Certainly not in this exact form. However, it's a perfectly good question, and is asked – even if not in so many words - every time we encounter someone who is discouraged or angry or resentful or sad.

But it is an excellent question – one which should be asked and the answer to which should be carefully examined and pondered. Not just immediately during or after Easter Sunday, but every day of the year. You've heard ministers say that every Sunday is Easter Sunday. An even more accurate statement is that every day is Easter Day.

Because once the Resurrection of Jesus Christ took place, it's not a one-time event from the historical past that happened on a hillside near Jerusalem. It's an ever-present reality that is right this moment taking place within you and within me.

Don't get me wrong. Of course, the Resurrection did occur historically one time many years ago in a tomb on Golgotha, overlooking the city of Jerusalem. It occurred as it is reported in all four of the gospels. However, once it occurred then and there, it changed things forever. Not just for those who witnessed it (No one actually "witnessed" the Resurrection, of course – what they witnessed was the empty tomb and the living and breathing Christ after he was definitely dead and buried.), but for every human being on the face of this planet.

Here's the tricky part. It doesn't matter whether or not you "believe" this or that about God, Christ, the Bible, Christianity or any religious notion. The simple fact is that just as God, at Christmas, is "born" into each and every one of us; so it is that at Easter, Christ – the living and breathing Word of God – dies and is born anew within each and every one of us.

Was God part of every human being BEFORE Jesus Christ? Of course. However, it was not possible for human beings to know that. This is why Easter changed everything. And still does, every single moment of every day.

It was not only the FACT of Jesus' bodily resurrection that is so important, but what it means for you and for me every single day of our lives. It means that we now know that human life – yours and mine – does not end with the death of our physical body. It means that the health of our physical body – and yes, even its suffering and pain – is not the whole story. It means that the journey we are on does not end when our body dies. This is cause for joy and a sense of well-being that cannot be taken away.

Whenever we experience this unbelievable and indescribable power of the Resurrection, we experience the Resurrection all over again. It's just like the very first time we came to the realization that God, in Christ, came that we might be free from sin and a sense of the dead end of life. The freedom we felt the first time we embraced God in Christ came from a death and a resurrection. We died to who we were before, and were raised in a brand new awareness, which changed our entire outlook on life.

When I was at New York Presbyterian Hospital in December of 2015, I underwent a stem cell transplant. I remember that the day after they gave me a powerful drug that killed all my stem cells and most of my blood cells, they gave me back five or six million of my stem cells they had harvested the week before. When this "transplant" was done the nurses all sang *Happy Birthday* to me because, they said, this was the first day of my new life.

I thanked them, and it did feel good to contemplate an entire new set of blood and plasma cells free from cancer. I didn't share with them that I considered every day of my life that I remember God's power of love and grace in my life as new life – death of a self without this awareness and new life, and resurrection, with it.

Easter!??? . . . So what!??? Well, almost everything that makes life eternally joyful.

We are well off in God, the Almighty, in God's holiness, always.

- Pastor John

***Prayer Concerns:**

Recent: Family of “Catherine Tureski”; Nancy Winters; John David; Carl Kupke (John Gillin’s grandfather); Ellen Pfaff (recovering from fall); Frank Jessup; Rev. Kate Jones-Calone; Pat Skates (friend of Karen Derryberry); Kay Kidde; John Campbell; Lily Burns; Jim Bachman, home; Pat Shima, Westchester Center in Yonkers; Daniel Levitt (husband of Jennean Jessup Levitt); Gene Hubbard, Home

Long Term: Vernon King, Grace Haddad, Doris Towers, Westhampton Care Center; Chelsey Collins, Southampton Care Center; Russell Deihl; Brad Carbone; Martin Tener

Attention Presbyterian Walkers/Hikers

Our next walk will be at Penny Pond Circular in Flanders on Saturday, April 14th at 9AM. This is a 2 and a half mile walk in woody hiking trails. It is an easy flat walk approximately 2 hours.

Rain will cancel.

Meet at the church parking lot no later than 8:20AM to car pool since parking is along Red Creek Road at the Paumanok Path entrance. For info contact Janet Hann 631-288-6884 or 631-871-7240.

Deacons Meal Ministry

To those who may not know, a meal ministry program is available by the deacon’s committee to anyone in our congregation who may be in need.

Each meal also comes with a visit from a friendly face of someone in our congregation.

Please let anyone on deacons know of someone who may need this service or if you would like to help make a meal and a visit, contact:

Vern Hackworth, Meal Ministry Coordinator:
Home (631)776-2218,
Cell (516)375-8891



The Trustee Sponsored Spring Cleanup Day is set for April 29th after worship. Help make the church sparkle and shine by donating an hour or so of your time! Light lunch provided.

Church Family News**Deaths**

March 4—Robert Barravechia

Upcoming Memorial Services

April 14th– Jane Post

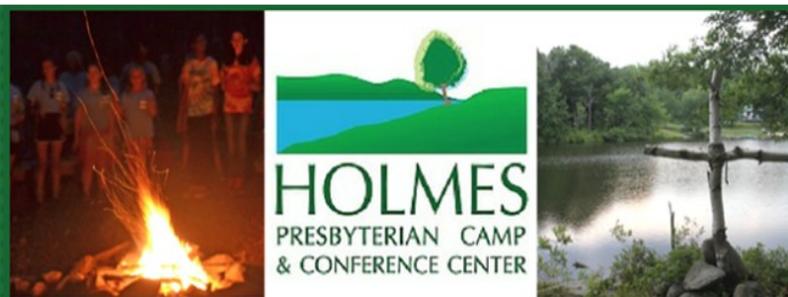
Sympathy

Our Deepest sympathy to Kathy and Robert Tureski and their family on the death of her sister in law Catherine Tureski.



Start bringing in donations for our Spring Rummage Sale. Accepting household goods, clothes, books, small furniture, you name it! As always, helping hands are much appreciated! Join the crew to help set up during that week. Always a fun time to be with friends! Contact the church office to volunteer!
Dates: Friday, April 20th, 9am-3pm
Saturday, April 21st, 9am-12:30pm Bag Sale!

**Ushers Needed
for May! Sign up on the
bulletin board! It’s a great
way to meet and greet
members, friends and
visitors!**



Below is something to share with your church in your bulletin this weekend. We will email a different blurb each Monday morning, which you can simply copy and paste into your format.

At Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, campers love spending time in Westminster Lake. During Aquatic Adventurers, middle school campers will spend time swimming, learning boating and canoeing skills, playing water games and other camp activities. Campers will also put their new canoeing skills to the test with a day trip exploring Lake Dutchess, on the edge of camp. For information on this, and all Holmes' programs, visit us online at www.HolmesCamp.org. If you have any questions, contact the Holmes office by email at Holmes@HolmesCamp.org or by phone [\(845\) 878-6383](tel:845-878-6383).

Thank you for supporting our ministry at Holmes by sharing this!



Endless fun at Holmes, throughout the year!

When your church comes to Holmes, there are lots of options to fill your time! We have trails that crisscross the site, archery, the Challenge Course (low and high ropes), Yarrow Hollow Farm, swimming, boating, games ranging from basketball to GaGa Ball to other fun group games, and of course campfires with s'mores!

Some of these activities require Holmes staff leadership and prior arrangements, but many you can do on your own!

To learn about these, and other activities at Holmes, contact us in the office at [845-878-6383](tel:845-878-6383) or at holmes@holmescamp.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Happy Easter! "We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining....they just shine." **Dwight Moody**
Let your light shine.

April will be a busy month for us as we prepare for Youth Sunday on the 29th and we are expecting a visit once again from the Lakota Native Americans from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, on April 21st & 22nd. Watch for more details in emails and Sunday bulletins.

We've had an informational meeting about REACH for this summer, still trying to recruit more kids... current 8th grader and high school kids, if interested please drop me an email at whpresbyterianyg@gmail.com. Or if you have a friend that would also like to go, we can plan another meeting to go over the program and details. Here is a link about REACH that might help invite your friend to a meeting. www.reachmissiontrips.org

I've received a lot of compliments about the youth participating during Sunday worships, from our Boy Scout & Girl Scout Sundays to actively ushering and being an acolyte. Thank you for embracing this.

I don't know about you, but I am so looking forward to spring. I love as the weather warms, the birds sing, the flowers and trees pop. Spring like Easter is a sign of renewal, hope and new life. It's an opportunity for us to look back and see what we can do to make it better.

HE IS RISEN!

~Kathy

Remembering Those Kodak® Moments

Put together and edited by Rev. Kloepfer from articles submitted from Cathy Holliday and Diane Perry.

Everyone loves photographs. Who doesn't want to coo at baby pictures? (especially those of your own special angel) Weddings, baptisms, graduations, holidays, and other special events that bring the family together remain in our hearts and minds, but the memories are more precious when looking at those snapshots. We remember the Kodak® commercials on television. Family scenes are often used on greeting cards.

Over the years, our church has been the recipient of donated photographs from many people. I (Diane Perry) remember photograph albums in the library. [I admit, I do not know for sure where they are now. Perhaps our librarian Marcia Koziarz could tell us.] Christine Haddad has given several bunches of her father's photographs to the church historian, Diane Perry.

Our church is currently blessed to benefit from member Cathy Holliday's love of taking photos. Not only does she love to take them, but she finds joy in giving copies to anyone who expresses an interest. She organizes her church pictures into four categories. The first is **Individuals & Families**. Please feel free to email your pictures with names and dates to Cathy at chickfarmer2005@yahoo.com.

Her second category is **Sunday School**. This collection can be found on the hallway walls in the West Wing of our church. 29 years ago, we began taking group photographs of our children on what was called Rally Day, the first day of Classes in September. Cathy has put copies of these photographs into her book, and numbered each child. Aha! That is the drawback with many of the photos donated to the church.

And let's face it, it is a problem for many family photos too. People rarely write names on the backs of their snapshots, and we often have trouble identifying those in the pictures. Please help by adding the name of anyone you know beside their number. This book will be available during Coffee hour and in the office during the week. So please stop by, enjoy the pictures, add some names, and even test your memory.

Cathy's third category is **Directory Pictures**. There are four sets of these, dating back to 1990, as we've had four Church Pictorial Directories since then. Cathy has scanned them, so they can also be shared.

Cathy's last category is **The Church Triumphant**. These members are fondly remembered and added chronologically, with the year of their passing.

Cathy has put a lot of time and effort into this project, so please chat with her about it, and you will probably hear of other ideas to expand her efforts to help save our history through photographs.

Please see the bulletin board in the Parish Hall to see pictures and read an article on how the pictures are organized.



Notes from the Choir Loft

"He who sings prays twice."
ST. AUGUSTINE

Thank you to the choirs for the beautiful singing throughout Lent and Holy Week, culminating on Easter Sunday with the joyous celebration of the Resurrection. We are all grateful for the participation of the Long Island Brass Guild, made possible through the generous support of members of the congregation.

The senior choir is working on several new anthems, which they will be singing in the upcoming weeks. I visited the Niebancks in Florida several weeks ago and sat in on one of their choir rehearsals. I particularly liked one of the anthems they were working on and decided to order it for our choir. Another new anthem is a choral arrangement of the song recorded by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli, "The Prayer", which I think the congregation will enjoy.

This past month I played the organ for a funeral at the Center Moriches Presbyterian church (their organist was away at a choral convention). I was so impressed by the congregational singing of the hymns! So I'm going to challenge each of you to sing out more gustily! Don't worry about how you sound, God won't mind. I believe you will find great joy in singing your heart out. You will be praying twice!

Can Love be Equated with Taxes?

In spring, a young man's fancy turns to love.

We of a certain age may well remember this as being an oft-quoted saying, yet most likely we do not know its source. Of course in this 21st century, we could Google it, or using an old-school method, we could check "Ibid," which is my family's name for the book "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations." But I am digressing.

Let me instead offer a paraphrase: *In April an adult's fancy turns to taxes.* The word fancy in this sentence may grate, but it is true. In the USA, April turns our thoughts and attention to income taxes. This particular year our thoughts very likely bleed into worries, worries about next year and the effect of the new changes in the tax code. Fortunately, one beneficial charitable deduction has not changed.

Those over 70½ must take the Required Minimum Distribution from their IRAs. The IRA-to-charity break is a great tool to help lower your taxes. The IRS allows you to make a distribution from your traditional IRA directly to a charitable organization (such as your church) and not report it as taxable income. Yes, you do not pay income taxes on a charitable distribution from an IRA!

The distribution must be made directly to the charity. The maximum amount permitted is \$100,000 (each year). Not only is that a sizable break in your tax burden, but each spouse in a marriage, if aged 70½, may make a distribution from her/his individual retirement account to that maximum, thus lowering the couple's adjusted gross income up to a full \$200,000.

To reap the tax benefits, the total of your distributions (shown on Form 1099-R) is entered on line 15a of Form 1040 (line 11a on Form 1040A). But on line 15b (line 11b on Form 1040A) enter the balance after subtracting the charitable distribution. To explain the difference in these numbers, write in "QCD" next to line 15b. By the way, the number on line 15b can be \$0; in other words, your entire RMD can be transferred directly to a charity.

So as you contemplate your 2018 and future returns, remember this. You may annually transfer funds from your traditional IRA to a charity and not pay taxes on that amount. Of course, if you are lucky enough to be able to itemize your deductions next year, don't "double dip." This IRA-to-charity gift does not get reported with your itemized deductions on Schedule A.

Submitted at the request of the Council by the Bookkeeper, Diane F. Perry

PW Spring News

Nor'easter I, Nor'easter II, Nor'easter III. Should we postpone our March luncheon meeting? One glance at the long range weather forecast hinted at Nor'easter IV next week! Five snowbirds met for a casual kitchen table luncheon Wednesday, March 14 beginning with shrimp cocktail, mouth watering mac & cheese, reuben casserole, fresh spinach salad and raspberry crunch cake with whipped cream. Delicious and fun to be together.

We missed Rev. John and Linda. There was no Treasurer's Report to be read. Gale left a message to be read. Betty Lauver's daughter, Andrea, asked all of us who remember Betty to send a card or letter to her at: Elizabeth Lauver, c/o Andrea Wilson, 1648 Book Rd., Lancaster, PA 17602. Betty continues to call WPC her home church. Let us continue to remember her as one of us, always.

Posters for the Spring Rummage Sale will be ready and in the church office Sunday, March 18th. Donations for the sale, April 20th and 21st will be accepted weekday mornings between 9:00 am and noon. See the church bulletins.

The April luncheon/business meeting will be Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at noon. You are invited to bring a sandwich to enjoy with a salad, beverage and dessert compliments of the committee.

We had no comments on a dining—out menu for our May meeting. We discussed and decided for Wednesday, May 9, 2018, we will dine in-house at 90 Meeting House Rd., with a "catered" buffet hot and cold luncheon. The menu to be announced at the April meeting. The cost per person will be affordable, no tax, no tips, no travel.

This may be a step back in time, when we filled the Parish Hall for the "May Breakfast" (if I remember correctly). It was always a special day. Let's make it special this spring.

Happy Easter to all near and far!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1	Sean Jones	19	Sara Lohneiss
1	Dave LeBleu	20	Wendy Hornick
6	Mary Beth Lundborg	21	Siri Howard
8	Linda Perritt	22	Marge Beckwith
8	Cindy Schneider	25	Robbie Doyle
10	Matthew Sulzinski	26	Tom Moore
10	Joyce Reaver	26	Brady Munn
11	Brian Danowski	26	Sean Dayton
13	Amee Mazurkiewicz	26	Dick Lutz
14	Beecher Halsey	26	Lynne Jones
14	Jack Shiu	27	Andrew Lynch
15	Karen Andrews	29	Elizabeth Moore
15	Heather Martin	30	Dorette and Maik Jornitz
16	Eloise Carter		
16	Karen and Dave Derryberry		
17	Meryle King		
17	Christina Ravenhall		
18	Randi DeMayo		
19	Hanne Manker		

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service at Swordfish Beach Club 9am sanctuary 10am Easter Egg Hunt 11am sanctuary w/ LI Brass	2	3 7pm Deacons	4	5 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	6 12pm Bridge	7
8 2nd Sunday of Easter Communion	9 8am-4pm WH Garden Club	10 5:15pm M&W 6pm Session	11 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff 12pm PW "Sandwich & Salad" Luncheon 5:45pm Jr. Choir	12 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	13 12pm Bridge	14 11am Memorial Service for Jane Post at WPC
15 3rd Sunday of Easter Spring Rummage Set up	16	17 7pm Trustees	18	19 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	20 12pm Bridge (Bailey Hall) 9am-3pm Spring Rummage Sale	21 9am-12:30pm Spring Rummage Bag Sale
22 4th Sunday of Easter	23	24	25 5:45pm Jr. Choir	26 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	27 12pm Bridge	28
29 5th Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday Spring Clean Up Day!	30				AA: Sat. 10am –Bailey Hall Sun. 12pm-Conf. Rm. Sun. 6pm– Bailey Hall Wed. 7:30pm– Bailey Hall Boy Scouts meet each	Tues. 6pm

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Your issue of the April Tidings

