



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2019

From your Pastor, Rev. Vanessa Winters

One of the greatest gifts of moving somewhere new to you is that you're seeing everything around you for the first time. Though I have visited Westhampton before, I have never lived here and never had to go about the day to day activities of life here. Things like: walking my dogs, going grocery shopping, and finding activities for my son.

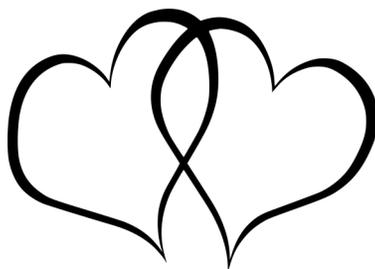
In getting to know most of you, it seems like most people have lived here for quite a long time or at least been coming to the area regularly for several years. So, I'm wondering when the last time might have been that you really stopped to take a look at your surroundings. I know that back in Maine this was something that I was guilty of completely ignoring. I rushed around in my day to day life and generally ignored the beauty and culture that surrounded me. It would take someone coming to visit us who would marvel that we could see the ocean from our house (in the winter), that lobster rolls were plentiful (and moderately priced), or that you could wander down to the dock and watch the lobstermen bring in their catch every day.

As I wander through Westhampton Beach and its surrounding towns, I have the pleasure of being that new guest who gets the opportunity to marvel-- at the many fresh and tasty delis that seem to be everywhere (with so many different types of pizza!), at the gorgeous sandy beaches with pounding surf, and at the breathtaking homes that line the streets.

This isn't just simply an admonition from the pastor about how ungrateful and ignorant people are about their surroundings, but more of a gentle urging to slow down, take a breath, and appreciate the beauty around you. This is something that I, myself, struggle with. And so, I offer you the gift of a newcomer. Next time you're out and about or perhaps even able to go out for a walk—put yourself in my shoes. Imagine what it would be like to be seeing this road or this village for the first time. Think about how you would describe or explain this place to a visiting friend or relative, the history and anecdotes you may have about this place. Treasure the memories that you hold about this place, perhaps even share them with someone else (your pastor is always up for a story!)

It can be difficult at this time of year when the outdoors is cold and windy and often damp. But it is also a time of less activity and quiet in this area. A time perfect for reflection. Take this time to wander and to wonder. I feel so privileged to be called to this very special part of our country and look forward to exploring it more every day. I wish you all the same wonder and amazement.

Blessings,
Pastor Vanessa



***Prayer Concerns:**

Recent: John Comba, Westhampton Care Center; Creighton Berry; Joyce Reaver, home; Brittany Howerton; Don Griffin, Westhampton Care Center; Alix McKenzie; George Burns, Stonybrook Hospital; Gale Seidler; Peggy Childs; David O'Shea; Barry McGrath (Karen Derryberry's brother-in-law); Jay Sears; Bob Baum; Lorraine Cheeseman, home; Jean Williams (friend of Vern Hackworth); Frank Jessup; Rev. Kate Jones-Calone; Kay Kidde; Jim Bachman; Rev. John Kloepfer

Long Term: Daniel Levitt (husband of Jennean Jessup Levitt), Hospice; Pat Shima, Westchester Center in Yonkers; Vernon King, Grace Haddad, Doris Towers, Westhampton Care Center; Chelsey Collins, Southampton Care Center; Russell Deihl; Brad Carbone; Gene Hubbard, Home



**Valentine's Day
"Sweet, Meet & Greet"**

Please join Pastor Vanessa, Chris and Wesley for a Valentine's Day "Sweet, Meet and Greet", at the Manse on February 14th, 2019, 6-8pm. Please stop by during that time for some dessert, coffee, and chocolate!

We Are Live!

Visit the church website to view Sunday worship services streaming live every Sunday.

www.westhamptonpresbyterian.org

Just click the  icon.

Per Capita

Please be sure to pick up your giving envelopes and include an offering of \$38.05 per church member for per capita contribution.

Church Family News

Psalm 116:15 *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*

January Deaths

We give our deepest sympathy to the family of Elizabeth Lauver who passed away on January 17, 2019. There will be an interment in the spring in the garden.

We give our deepest sympathy to Sarah Miles Williams and her entire extended family on the death of her father, Arthur Gnaedinger.

We give our deepest sympathy to Stephanie Miller and her entire extended family on the death of her grandmother, Jo Johnson.

We give our deepest sympathy to Jennifer Neubauer and her entire extended family on the death of her father, Brian Radigan.

We give our deepest sympathy to Sandy Surgan and her entire extended family on the death of her father, Beecher Halsey, Jr.

We give our deepest sympathy to Kristina Carter and fiancé Micah on the passing of his mother, Diane Bennett.



Youth Group

Happy New Year! “ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3: 5-6

Welcome Rev. Vanessa Winters! We can't wait to get to know you better and work along side of you in the ministry at Westhampton Presbyterian Church.

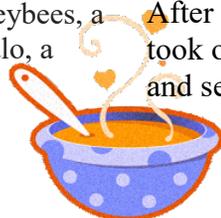
The kids are back and planning all types of activities for the New Year. First up is YG's annual campaign for the hungry, with our Souper Bowl of Caring soup sale.

Souper Bowl of Caring is a gift from God. It was started by a Presbyterian Youth Group in Columbia, SC in 1990. It is the mission of this group to use the energy of the “Super Bowl” to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need. Here at Westhampton Presbyterian Church our youth group will gather to make soups to sell to the congregation on February 3rd, Super Bowl Sunday and our “ Souper Bowl”. We will use the funds collected to purchase grocery cards from our church to give to the local food pantry over at Immaculate Conception. In addition, we will be collecting food items, and monetary donations to the cause. Since its conception, youth from across the nation have contributed more than \$100 million (achieved in 2014) to food pantries. Last years Super Bowl collected \$8,174,990. Thanking you in advance for supporting our Souper Bowl of Caring event!

Coming up in February we will recognize local scouts both Boy Scouts USA and Girl Scouts USA at our February 10th worship service. I believe the girls will be having a booth sale, or cookie orders can be taken during coffee hour. Cookies this year will be \$5 a box.

Lastly, thank you for your Heifer donations in 2018. We purchased the following animals: A family farm care package, a llama, irrigation pumps, flocks of geese, flocks of chicks, flocks of ducks, honeybees, a trio of rabbits, a pig, an alpaca, a water buffalo, a goat and a community animal health worker.

God's Peace....Kathy



Time and Talents -- a Possibility

A couple of weeks ago, Stu Wood gave a minute for mission during worship entitled **Per Capita/Time and Talents**. I personally thoroughly enjoy Stu's messages to the church. He is engaging, insightful, and upbeat. He encourages and invites the listener to participate. During the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee, under his leadership, he kept the congregation informed. His enthusiasm was not quelled when things seemed to go very wrong last June. His faith and his trust in God's leadership, supported by the prayers of the church, kept him and his colleagues focused on their task of seeking the right person, the person God was calling to Westhampton Presbyterian Church. When I see Stu's name in the bulletin, I perk up, because I know I will want to hear what he has to say.

He did not disappoint me that morning either. He spoke of how he had found that getting involved is a wonderful way to get to know other people, and also greatly builds the church community. He recognized two new congregants who were sharing their time; Krissy and Guy Napolitano were ushering that morning. He also recognized long-time member Marge Beckwith for one of her talents and gifts to the church, her great bundt cake being served at the coffee hour.

Later that morning while speaking with my friend Lynne Jones, we thought of another opportunity for someone, or even two or three. Well over ten years ago, Bob and Eleanor Hoyt brought to our church a fundraiser that they had helped with in their former church -- the sale of grocery cards. The cards are purchased by the church at 95% of their face value. Individuals then purchase them at face value and use them in the local grocery store of their choice. (currently Best Market, Stop n Shop, and King Kullen) Everyone buys groceries; taking the time to buy a card at Lynne's table during coffee hour automatically gives the church 5% of your grocery purchase as you use the card.

After Bob and Eleanor stepped down, Nancy Winters took over this volunteer position of ordering the cards and selling them during coffee hour. She had help for

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(Continued from page 3)

a few years from Pat Shima. When Pat was no longer able to continue, Nancy's daughter Jenny helped her. Then Jenny had her "blessed event" - pregnancy and the birth of Charlotte. Lynne Jones stepped in. Nancy too retired and passed the hat, but no one noticed that Lynne continued on alone.

Lynne proceeded to carry the ball by herself. She enjoys the task and so enjoys chatting with people, getting to know them, and helping them. (That is one reason that she is such a good Deacon.) Slow to complain, she accepted the fact that she would be late to choir rehearsal every Sunday, and that she was needed to be in attendance every possible week to fulfill this service. But she admitted to me that she wouldn't mind stepping down. Whether someone reading this wishes to pick up the ball and continue her work, or if you might like simply to help her out in part, she would appreciate hearing from you. It truly goes more smoothly when two work together, and Lynne would love to share this ministry.

By the way, Stu, have you considered writing another article for *Tidings*?

Diane F. Perry

Did You Know You Have Your Own Deacon?

The Deacons of our church each have a list of about 20 church members and families that we refer to as a Vineyard. When we have such events as the Church Picnic or the Harvest Dinner, the Deacons mail out reminders of these events to those listed on our respective Vineyard. If you do not know who *your* Deacon is, please reach out to anyone on the Deacons and we will help connect you. Please feel free to reach out to your Deacon if you have any questions or special concerns. We all hold our church members and friends in our hearts each day and want to bring joy and comfort to anyone in need. God bless!



****OFFICER TRAINING****

****OFFICERS: Please check your email and be sure to pre-register by calling 486-4350 or email: charlaine@prcli.org.**

Clerk, Deacon, Elder & Treasurer Training Registration begins at 9:00 with continental breakfast, worship & training 9:30 am to noon.

Saturday February 9, 2018 Presbytery of Long Island, 42 Hauppauge Rd., Commack, NY
Pre-registration is required; Call 631-486-4350 or e-mail charlaine@prcli.org

Think Spring Treasure Sale!

It is difficult to think of spring when you look out your window and it is grey and cold. On the other hand, summer in the Hamptons is so short and a very busy time for most here at Westhampton Presbyterian. As a result, the Presbyterian Women had a difficult time finding volunteers for their annual summer Treasure Sale in July. We decided to move the Treasure Sale to the spring in place of a rummage sale. The date for it this year is Saturday, May 18th.

We will be looking for donations of **clean, unused or very gently used items** appropriate for the spring/summer for this fund raising activity. This is not a rummage sale! In the past we have sold jewelry, linens. Twice Nice items like dishes, furniture, books, art work and baked goods. We have had a children's section with games and toys. Keep this event in mind and if you have anything to contribute, bring it to the church at the end of April and into May before the sale. If you have furniture that needs some attention, i.e. paint let Cheryl Van Tuyle or Christine Haddad know in advance so we can give it some TLC.

Volunteers and new ideas are welcome. See Christine Haddad. There will be more information coming in the future.

Presbyterian Women

Jan. 9, 2019 began a new year for Presbyterian Women in more than one way. We welcomed Rev. Vanessa Winters. Introductions were made around the luncheon table. Pastor Vanessa offered grace before and after we were served. As dessert was served we sang Happy Birthday to Marge Ridgway and Claire Berry, one candle, many blessings to you on your day and always.

The Treasurer's report added to a bright beginning for 2019. Please refer to it in the 2018 Annual Report. Gale Seidler deserves a Thank You from all P.W. for maintaining thorough financial records. Our mission pledges have been met. The outlook for honoring them in 2019 is bright.

We have prepared the calendar, as follows for 2019-subject to change:

- Feb. 13: 12pm Entre, salad, dessert & beverage mtg.
- March 13: 12pm Theme luncheon—TBA
- April 10: 12pm Luncheon/Business mtg.
- May 2019: 12pm "Ladies Who Dine Out" - 78 Foster in Hampton Bays (More info to come)
- May 18: 10am-2pm Spring Treasure Sale
- June 12: 1:00pm Strawberry Shortcake
- September 11: Luncheon mtg.
- September 22: Fall Rummage Setup Begins
- September 27: 9am-3pm Fall Rummage Sale
- September 28: 9am-12pm Fall Bag Sale
- October 9: Covered dish, dessert, beverage
- November 13: Sandwich, soup, dessert, beverage
- December 3: 6pm Christmas Wreath & Pizza Party
- December 7: 1-3:30pm Christmas Bazaar & Tea
- December 11: 1pm Christmas Dessert Tea (no luncheon)

Last fall we received a donation of \$100. In the past we have used similar gifts to purchase something as a reminder of the donor. The most recent being the coffee urn in the kitchen, the "gift" from Ben Larson. We voted to replace the small urn, no longer useable, with an updated one to be used at coffee hour expressly for tea. Thank you Alix McKenzie.

The possibility of lessening the use of non-recyclable plastics was discussed. It is apparent right in our trash baskets. Do we recycle? Not enough. The ban of Styro-foam was mentioned as a first step toward a solution.

A letter was addressed to session requesting their consideration was unanimously approved.

News recently received, too late for our meeting, told of Betty Lauver's death. Betty was always ready to lend a hand with any and all P.W. activities. She moved from this area to Pennsylvania to be nearer to family. You can find a picture of the Lauver Family in an early photo directory in the church library. We send our sympathy to her daughters and families. God be with you now and always.

Music & Worship Committee

We would like to invite anyone who's interested to join the committee! Non-member friends are welcome. Music & Worship is a very fulfilling committee on which to serve. Please see Jessica Howard or Karen Neubauer with any questions of just to say you'd like to join us! Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12th at 5:15pm.



Practice What You Preach, Diane

I work for the Orient Congregational Church part-time as their Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. In my position as Bookkeeper, I was asked last year to prepare an article for their bi-monthly church newsletter *The Harbor Light*. After composing it, I decided to offer it to the *Tidings*, and it was so included last April, under a silly title. It was about one of the few advantages still being granted us by the IRS.

For those of you attending church a few weeks ago, you learned that I am an Epiphany baby, having been born on January 6. What was not publicly stated is that I turned 70 years old that day. This is a significant age to the IRS. Once one turns 70, one must immediately make plans for drawing down on any IRAs one has set up. And one must declare the distributions as taxable income.

There is no getting around it, for me it is time to pay the piper. Although I am still working, as well as collecting Social Security benefits, I must take the Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) this year, and I must declare them as taxable income.

Despite my having written the afore-mentioned article nine months ago, it never crossed my mind. Fortunately, when I was speaking of having made an appointment with my financial advisor to sign the paperwork for the RMDs, my friend and boss, Ann Van Cleef, reminded me of the charitable deductions from IRAs loophole.

To quote from my article **Can Love be Equated with Taxes?**

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.

There is no way on earth that I can withdraw \$100,000, but I can say that paying my 2019 pledge to the Westhampton Presbyterian Church directly from my hard-earned IRA funds is extremely satisfying. I was delighted to sign that new form at the brokerage firm, and I look forward to not declaring that money as taxable income to WPC come April 15, 2020.

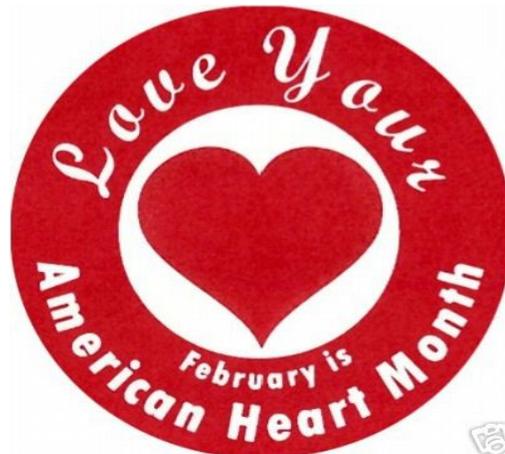
Diane F. Perry, Financial Secretary





- 1 Joanna Howard
- 1 Madeline, Michael, and Mac Gillooley
- 1 John Campbell
- 3 Deborah and Bob Busking
- 4 Nancy Winters
- 5 Zachary Downs
- 7 Miles Tamis
- 9 Michael Baird
- 9 Jonn Larson
- 9 Donn Larson
- 9 Carter Cline
- 12 Phyllis Styrzo
- 12 Cassie Dayton Vigouroux
- 14 Taylor Wagner
- 15 Mary Brennan

- 16 Matt Ravenhall
- 17 Max Quinlan
- 18 Louise Smith
- 18 Sean Doyle
- 22 Casandra and Joshua Carrick
- 23 Sandy Surgan
- 24 Geoffrey Strong
- 24 Frances Burgess
- 25 Kimberly Rogers
- 27 Sally Hoge
- 27 Marissa Schultze
- 28 Laurie Pitcher
- 28 Alison Strong
- 28 Patricia Kottl-Bebon



February 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 *9:30am Senior Fitness 12:30pm Bridge | 2 *9:30am Zumba 7:30pm Spanish Ministry |
| 3 4th Sunday after Epiphany Souper Bowl of Caring Scout Sunday | 4 *9:30am Yoga | 5 *9:30am Zumba Gold *12:30pm Bridge *6pm Writers Group *6:30pm Basic English | 6 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff *12pm Tai Chi *6pm meditation *6pm Writers Kitchen | 7 *6pm Basic Spanish | 8 *9:30am Senior Fitness 12:30pm Bridge | 9 *9:30am Zumba 7:30pm Spanish Ministry |
| 10 Communion 5th Sunday after Epiphany | 11 *9:30am Yoga 5pm Maureen's Haven | 12 *9:30am Zumba Gold *12:30pm Bridge *6pm Writers Group 6pm Session *6:30pm Basic | 13 12pm PW Luncheon Mtg. 5:15pm Jr. Choir *6pm meditation | 14 Valentine's Day 6-8pm Dessert & refreshments at the Manse *6pm Basic Spanish | 15 *9:30am Senior Fitness 12:30pm Bridge Tidings Dead- line | 16 *9:30am Zumba 7:30pm Spanish Ministry |
| 17 6th Sunday after Epiphany Blanket Sunday | 18 *9:30am Yoga Presidents Day Office Closed | 19 *9:30am Zumba Gold *12:30pm Bridge *6pm Writers Group *6:30pm Basic English | 20 *12pm Tai Chi *6pm meditation *6pm Writers Kitchen | 21 *6pm Basic Spanish | 22 *9:30am Senior Fitness 12:30pm Bridge | 23 *9:30am Zumba 7:30pm Spanish Ministry |
| 24 7th Sunday after Epiphany Youth Sunday | 25 *9:30am Yoga | 26 *9:30am Zumba Gold *12:30pm Bridge *6pm Writers Group *6:30pm Basic English | 27 *12pm Tai Chi *1pm Think Out- side the Book Club 5:15pm Jr. Choir *6pm meditation | 28 *6pm Basic Spanish | AA: Sat. 10am (Bailey Hall) Sun. 12pm (conference room) Sun. 6pm, Wed. 7:30pm (Bailey Hall) Boy Scouts: Tues. 6pm | |

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Your issue of the February Tidings
