



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2018

From the Interim Pastor - **Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday**

By the time you read this the city of New Orleans will have already experienced approximately eleven Mardi Gras parades. You've heard me speak of growing up in New Orleans, and one of the many things that make that city unique among American cities is Mardi Gras. Yes, I know other cities have Mardi Gras parades, but when it comes to celebrating Fat Tuesday, there really is no place like New Orleans.

My family moved there just before I entered Kindergarten, and I left after High School, only to return for brief visits. So for my 13 most formative years I lived in New Orleans, with Mardi Gras one of the yearly events I took for granted. And Mardi Gras in New Orleans means first and foremost one thing – parades. Oh, how the parades have changed since I saw my first one in 1953!

Back in the 50's, there were only a handful of parades, which are each put on by a social club called a "krewes." The two weekends before Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras in French, the day before Ash Wednesday) there would be a few parades spread all over the city and suburbs, but by far most of the parades would be on the day of Mardi Gras.

Each year I lived in New Orleans, it seemed, new krewes were formed, which meant additional parades. This year there will be at least 73 parades, and the first ones already took place as early as January 6. Then starting on the Wednesday before Ash Wednesday, there are multiple parades every day.

I know some people believe that being in New Orleans for Mardi Gras is dangerous, because of all the crime, but that's because television focuses on the crowds in the French Quarter, mostly drunk tourists. No wonder many people think all there is to New Orleans is the French Quarter, just as many people throughout the United States think that all there is to New York State is Manhattan.

I've been back to New Orleans for a few Mardi Gras celebrations in recent years, and it's still primarily a very safe and fun family celebration – one big picnic, where people are happy and helping one another to enjoy the occasion, with an emphasis on children.

I hope that if you've never witnessed a New Orleans Mardi Gras parade, you get the chance to do so at some point. But I also hope that you don't forget what Mardi Gras is all about – which is a preparation for Ash Wednesday and Lent. This year Ash Wednesday is February 14, Valentine's Day. Our church does not have an Ash Wednesday service, but that evening our Sanctuary will be open, 7 – 8 pm, for anyone who wishes to have a time of private devotion. I will be there, and can apply the Rite of Ashes to any who wish to receive it.

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

- Pastor John

***Prayer Concerns:**

Recent: Helen Piscatelli, fell & Ed Langdon, chemo (friends of Mimi Johnson); Joan King, home; Pat Skates (friend of Karen Derryberry); Kay Kidde; John Campbell; Lily Burns; Paul Pfaff (Paul's son); Joe Pastore, hospice (friend of Vern Hackworth); Jim Bachman, Westhampton Care Center; Pat Shima, Westchester Center in Yonkers; Daniel Levitt (husband of Jennean Jessup Levitt); Gene Hubbard, Home

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

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 \$36.78 per church member for per capita contribution.

Congregation Meeting

A meeting of the congregation and corporation of Westhampton Presbyterian Church is hereby called for Sunday, February 4, 2017 immediately following worship in the sanctuary. Its purpose is to receive 2017 reports and act on other business necessary for the well-being of the church.

**Church Family News****Deaths**

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

Jan. 13—Jane Post, mother of Charlotte Post

Jan. 18— Felix Glover, father of David Glover

Jan. 25— C. Marvin Raynor, father of Beatrice Marcks and Ruth Lapp

New Members

Welcome our new church member Dennis Kingwell!

He is also a new member on the Board of Trustees.

**Sunday School**

We will have the Lenten Festival on February 11 during Sunday school. We will have crafts, bagels, and juice. All children are welcomed!

****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 10, 2018 First Presbyterian Church, 44 Union Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963

REGISTRATION by Wednesday, Feb 7th

Youth Group

Woohoo for the cast of “**The Star**” they did a great job! Also, a big hand to our ushers for January; Ryan Zollweg, Mya Halsey, Cameron Hipp & Anderson Hipp.

The Winter Olympics are here! Be sure to ask your child how their Sunday School lesson relates to the Winter Olympics during February! Mark your calendar for the **Lenten Festival on February 11th** after worship. Also, we will recognize Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts as we celebrate Boy Scout Sunday too!

Souper Bowl For Caring takes place after worship (and the Congregational Meeting) on **February 4th**. Youth Group will have soups for sale, where the proceeds will benefit the local food pantry.

Calling all 5th & 6th graders... Did you know that we have extended Youth Group to include you! Make sure I have your email address so you can receive the latest info on what we're doing.

Did you know that we are re-introducing Acolytes to our church worship service? I read a great article from Building Faith by Lisa Brown I've included the article for your reading.

Acolytes = Leaders

Quick! When you think of leadership in the church, what roles do you think of? Priests and Deacons? Church staff? Choir directors? Ministry leaders? Do you ever think about acolytes?

So Let There Be Acolytes!

Acolyting is an essential ministry, and one that imbues our worship with beauty, solemnity, and pageantry. Acolytes support both clergy and laity, ensuring that the behind-the-scenes task and logistics of worship flow smoothly. Most importantly, our acolytes, whether they are 9 or 19 years old, are leaders in our communities, worthy of appreciation and respect. Next time you see a young person who is an acolyte, make sure to compliment them and thank them for their ministry!

Because He Lives,

Kathy

10 Hidden Benefits of Acolyting

1. **Acolyting** is essential Think of services where no acolytes are present. Much of the beauty and the glorious pageantry is missing. Processions without torches and crosses, and a Gospel reading without anyone to hold the book? Not as impactful. Furthermore, services without acolytes means the clergy has less support when preparing Communion, and facilitating worship.

2. **Acolyting** allows young people to be active participants in worship Everyone I spoke with echoed the same refrain. They felt much more engaged in the worship service by that their parents had at first “forced” them to acolyte, expressed a playing an active role rather than sitting in the pews. Even young people who reported newfound connection to worship and an enthusiasm for being at church.

3. **Acolyting** is intergenerational A young person who acolytes is more likely to feel a connection to adults serving in other worship-related ministries: clergy, altar guild members, greeters, ushers, lecturers, lay Eucharistic ministers, and choir members.

This is truly important! Young people who connect to generations of adults in the congregation – rather than only forming relationships with youth peers – are more likely to feel a deep connection to their church community. Faith formation is strengthened by these intergenerational relationships.

4. **Acolyting** is relational Acolyting helps young people form bonds with their peers, and with older and younger teens at church. Faith is meant to be practiced in community, and when a young person finds community for themselves, they are more likely to grow in faith. Young acolytes spoke proudly of having older teen friends who they knew through acolyting; older teens spoke proudly of acting as role models to the younger teens on their acolyte teams.

5. **Acolyting** is a family affair Many young people recalled that they began to acolyte as a way of emulating older siblings. Families are more likely to attend and be connected to a church community when their children acolyte.

6. **Acolyting** allows kids to play with fire admit it, everybody likes to help with fire. But more importantly, when we trust young people with significant and potentially dangerous tasks, we show them that we see them as capable and competent. Inevitably they then live up to our expectations.

7. **Acolyting** makes a young person the center of attention This surprised me. Many young people commented on how they enjoyed the feeling of having all eyes on them as they walked down the aisle with the cross. But isn't it supposed to be about God? Yes. So are we raising a generation of egomaniacs? I don't think so. Everyone's deepest desire is to be known, accepted, and loved. We want to have value in the eyes of others. Consider scripture and the many instances where Jesus paused to truly see and engage people who were otherwise invisible in society.

Often our young people feel unseen and unimportant in our faith communities. Acolyting allows them to be seen, to be important, and to make a difference in our communal worship.

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10 Hidden Benefits of Acolyting *(Continued from page 3)*

8. **Acolyting** makes young people nervous When asked what they wished other people knew about being an acolyte, many young people said they wished others knew how seriously they take their role. They try very hard not to make mistakes, and when they do, it weighs heavily on them. Yet in talking about lessons learned as an acolyte, one young person told me the following: “Whatever I do, even if I’m not sure of what I’m doing, as long as I do it with confidence, it will be ok.” Or as Julian of Norwich wrote, “All shall be well.”

9. **Acolyting** is formational, and teaches liturgy In conversations replete with teenage slang, I also heard vocabulary that reflected a deep knowledge of liturgy and church tradition. In fact, one of the many reasons youth enjoyed being acolytes is that they learned more about the shape, structure, and flow of liturgy and worship traditions. Young people even mentioned some of their favorite services: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – services often under-attended, especially by young people.

10. **Acolyting** is leadership A component of good church leadership is being able to grow more fully into a ministerial role. The young people I spoke with reflected on their evolving acolyte responsibilities, and how their moves from torch to Eucharistic server were “...a big leap.” One young person explained how managing her acolyte team was an opportunity for her to demonstrate maturity and responsibility. Some young people spoke proudly of how acolyting encouraged them to seek out other roles in the church – as vergers, altar guild members, lay Eucharistic ministers, and as members of the church’s worship commission.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women met Jan. 10, 2018 for a brief but productive lunch meeting.

Calendars were accessible in order to avoid conflicting or overlapping dates. The 2018 dates for our annual sales and monthly meetings are as follows:

Feb. 14th—Luncheon/meeting at noon
(soup & sandwich)

March 14th– Luncheon/meeting at noon
(Covered Dish)

April 11th– Luncheon/meeting at noon
(sandwich & salad)

April 20th—Spring Rummage Sale 9am-3pm

April 21st– Bag Sale 9am-12:30pm

May 9th- “Ladies Who Lunch”- noon
(*Restaurant to be announced*)

June 13th– Strawberry Shortcake at 1pm

July 14th-Summer Treasure Sale 10am-2pm

August– We look forward to seeing you in Sept.-
Enjoy!

Sept. 12th– Luncheon/meeting at noon
(Covered Dish)

Oct. 10th– Luncheon/meeting at noon
(sandwich & salad)

Oct. 26th– Fall Rummage Sale 9am-3pm

Oct. 27th– Bag Sale 9am-12:30pm

Nov. 14th– Luncheon/meeting at noon
(Covered Dish)

Nov. 27th—Wreath Making/Pizza party 6pm

Dec. 1st– Christmas Tea & Bazaar 1-3:30pm

Dec. 12th– Dessert Meeting at 1pm

2018 will bring changes and challenges the way any New Year has in past years. As written in the 2017 annual report, “we are confident”, with your cooperation and encouragement we look forward to fulfilling our goals.

When you see a beautiful sunset please think of Lise Frielinghaus who left us too soon on Jan. 4th, 2018. She may be lending her talents to help God’s colorful evening sunsets.





- 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 Vigoroux
- 14 Taylor Wagner
- 15 Mary Brennan
- 16 Matt Ravenhall
- 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 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	2 12pm Bridge	3
4 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Communion Souper Bowl of Caring	5 12pm Bridge	6 7pm Deacons	7	8 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	9 12pm Bridge	10
11 Transfiguration of the Lord 11am Lenten Festival	12 5pm Maureen's Haven	13 6pm Session	14 Ash Wed. Valentines Day 9:15am Mission 11 am Staff 12pm PW Covered Dish Luncheon	15 Tidings Dead- line 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	16 12pm Bridge	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent OGHS	19 President's Day 5pm Maureen's Haven	20 7pm Trustees	21	22 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	23 12pm Bridge	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent	26 12pm Bridge	27 7pm All Boards meeting—Parish Hall	28	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
