



TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JANUARY 2018

From the Interim Pastor, Rev. John Kloepfer

A Clean Slate

When I was young one of my favorite Christmas gifts was a cardboard writing slate. It had a large shiny cellophane-like cover sheet over a soft black background, and came with a thin, pointed wooden stick in the shape of a pencil. I loved the idea that I could write without lead or ink (I could even write with my fingernail!). But what really fascinated me was that if I made a mistake or wanted to start over, I simply took the cover sheet and yanked it up. Everything would disappear and I could begin all over again.



Whooshhh!! And I had a clean slate. Just like that! I loved that little writing slate.

Have you ever wished you could do that with your life - just erase your errors and start over, fresh and new? I know I have.

I think there's something about the New Year that gives people a sense of being able to start over with a clean slate. Everywhere you go this time of year people ask you if you've made any New Year's resolutions. Some people take these very seriously. They write out their list and proudly show them to everyone they can. Others may refuse to even think about such a thing. But I think most people are somewhere in the middle. They may not want to commit anything to writing, or to share publicly, but inside they see the New Year as a time to initiate one or more changes in their lives.

Of course, it's not quite like a completely clean slate. The past doesn't magically disappear, and this is probably a good thing (after all, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot?"). However, it's an opportunity to free yourself from something in your past that's holding you back and hindering your ability to face the future and to be the person you know God is calling you to be.

I don't know what that might be for you this New Year. Perhaps it's a bad habit, a poor choice, a failure or an attitude. It might have to do with your job, your family, a bad relationship, finances, your health or your spiritual life. It may just be something you've become obsessed with and need to let go of. But whatever it is that you know needs changing in your personal world, this is a perfect time of year to "start over with a clean slate."

For me, it helps that the New Year comes right on the heels of Christmas. I've just been reminded that Christ, the very embodiment of God's wisdom, love and forgiveness born in Bethlehem many years ago, is also born within my own soul. Any resolution that helps me to become more loving, more compassionate, more selfless, more patient, more attentive to God, more forgiving, and more in tune with the infant Christ within me helps me to allow that tiny Christ child within to grow and mature and to become manifest in all that I think and do.

For my part, I'm glad that I have a built-in source of forgiveness of all my failures and mistakes. It's like having a clean slate not only once each year, but every day of my life.

Yes, He is in us and we are in Him. We are well off in God, the Almighty, in God's holiness, always.

- Pastor John

THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

JANUARY 7	Baptism of the Lord Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Youth Ushering
JANUARY 14	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Annual Reports are due Elect Trustee
JANUARY 21	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Rev. Ralph Wright Preaching
JANUARY 28	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Rev. Ralph Wright Preaching

*Prayer Concerns:

Recent: Joan King, Westhampton Care Center; Pat Skates (friend of Karen Derryberry); Chris Wright (Kathy Tureski's sister); Kay Kidde; John Campbell; Lily Burns; Paul Pfaff (Paul's son); Joe Pastore (friend of Vern Hackworth); Jim Bachman, Westhampton Care Center; Pat Shima, Westchester Center in Yonkers; Daniel Levitt (husband of Jennean Jessup Levitt); Jane Post; Gene Hubbard, Home

Long Term: Vernon King, Westhampton Care Center; George Payne (Kathy Tureski's father); Grace Haddad, Doris Towers, Westhampton Care Center; Chelsey Collins, Southampton Care Center; Russell Deihl; Brad Carbone; Martin Tener

Martin Luther King , Jr. Birthday Anniversary Service

Rev. Keith Harris, the new Pastor at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church in Quogue has invited us for their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Anniversary Service on Monday, January 15th at 4pm. Please contact him with any questions. Further details to follow.

Annual Reports are due

Please remember to submit your Annual Reports by January 14th to admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org. Only Word Documents will be accepted. Thank you.

Church Family News

Deaths

We expressed Christian Sympathy to Robyn Hatch and his entire family on the death of his Aunt Eleanor Staniford.

We expressed Christian sympathy to Helen Fitzsimons on the death of her husband Peter Monsarrat.

New Member

We welcome our newest member Dennis Kingwell through reaffirmation of faith.

Pledges

If you have not yet completed your 2017 contributions, please try and do so this last Sunday in December. We will be closing the books on 2017 and prepare for the new year.

This new year awaits us with many possibilities. We hope that you reflect back on all the wonderful things WPC has to offer and all the new things that await us! Our church family thanks you for your many contributions and friendship. This is what makes us great. May God pour out his blessings upon you and your family this new year.

USHERS

Don't forget to sign up to usher in January!

Meet and greet members, friends and visitors! It is a great way to become more involved! If you need more assistance, please contact one of our Deacons.

Session Report

Meeting of December 12, 2017:

*Approved the Plumb Line Committee's additional paragraph which was required by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry for approval. After its approval, this will pave the way for the Pastoral Nominating Committee will be elected at a congregational meeting held as soon as possible.

*Approved Dennis C. Kingwell as a new member of the church through reaffirmation of faith. Mr. Kingwell has previously attended membership classes held by Rev. Kloepfer.

Session approved the following Communion dates for 2018:

Jan. 7

Feb. 4

March 4

March 29: Maundy Thursday at the Chapel

April 8

May 6

June 3

July 1: Sanctuary & Chapel

Aug. 5: Sanctuary & Chapel

Sept. 9

Oct. 7: World Communion Sunday

Nov. 4

Dec. 2

Tentatively scheduled: Joint Session/Trustees/Deacons meeting for Tuesday, February 27th at 7pm.

Approved vacation days for Rev. Kloepfer at the end of January. Sunday January 21 & 28 services will be covered by Rev. Ralph Wright.

Session reports the Audit Committee Meeting will be held Sat., January 6th at 9am and the Budget Committee meeting at 10am.

There will be a congregational meeting to elect the PNC and to fill the vacant Trustee position on January 14 after worship. Annual Reports are due by January 14.

Session would like to thank the outgoing Session members: Andrea Chattaway, Maik Jornitz, Allison Worthington.

Pastor Update

We will update you every month as to where we are in the process of finding the next pastor. You may remember last month that the Committee on Ministry approved our Plumb Line document but made us add one new paragraph that they had not originally asked us for. Although it took only fifteen minutes to write that paragraph, we have had to wait an entire month for the COM to meet again. We hope that there are no more additions to surprise us. The next COM meeting is on January 9.

Meantime the Nominations Committee has found nine candidates to be on the Pastor Nominating Committee. This is the group that actually reads the resumes and interviews pastor candidates. These nine individuals will be presented by the Nominating Committee at the congregational meeting on January 14: Scott Campbell, Pam Chance-Herzing, John David, Mimi Johnson, Lynne Jones, Marge Qua, Corey Williams, Nancy Winters, and Stu Wood.

The next project is to fill out the Church Information Form, which tells candidates who we are and what we require in a minister. That may take a month, and then we will be online for seekers to find us and send us their resumes.

So as of this writing, January 9 is the day of reckoning.

Stu Wood for the committee.

*Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the earth.*

-Martin Luther

*Remember to submit your Tidings articles on the 15th each month so that it can be displayed in the next newsletter. Lets stay connected!

PW News

December is a month of planning, preparing and anticipation, in readiness for an important date on our calendar, the birth of Jesus. This is a time of joy and prayer.

The Christmas Tea and Bazaar is a highlight for Presbyterian Women. Old and new faces were welcomed. All was a-glow with eye catching gift items, mouth watering baked goods, hand trimmed wreaths and the tea table spread with appetizing treats. The Christmas spirit lives! Plans for the Desert Meeting was cancelled. We will gather for a special luncheon on Jan. 10, 2018. Details will be in the Sunday bulletins.

As we greet the New Year with memories of a blessed holiday let us not forget to keep the spirit and joy of Christmas in our hearts.

-Marge Beckwith

I would like to thank all those who helped make our annual Christmas Tea and Bazaar a success. The fun began at the wreath party where a group of parishioners enjoyed pizza and decorated the wreaths. Donn Larson donated the greens for the wreaths in memory of his father Ben. The preparations continued all week until the final event on Saturday. I may be prejudice but I think everything looked great. One woman commented that she had been to four bazaars and we had the best hand crafted ornaments. The crafters meet throughout the year and welcome all who would like to try their hand whether with a big or small talent. Everything went fairly well thanks to the hard work of all those who participated whether helping to set up, baking, pouring tea or cleaning up. Along with the work however is much camaraderie and laughter. Makes me want to say "hey let's do it again next year".

-Christine Haddad, Chair

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



YOUTH GROUP

As I write this, the youth having been busy with last minute preparations which come with this time of year.

They have been busy with the Heifer campaign collection throughout the month of December. They look forward to "shopping" in January. They also adopted a young girl through the adopt-a-family our church sponsors, and were busy wrapping packages to help brighten her Christmas this year. Lastly, some were busy little Elves and baked cookies for the bake sale during the Santa brunch.

As the New Year approaches, we will be talking about activities for the New Year, and look forward to what the kids bring to the table.

Starting January, you will see the youth participating during worship. We are bringing back acolytes, and since the children stay in church during communion Sundays they will serve as ushers. It's a great way for them to be involved in the church.

As for our Sunday School, we said good-bye to our long standing Superintendent Ellen Campbell. We truly thank her for her time and talents that she shared with us for so many years and look forward to new beginnings and ideas to continue to grow our program.

Reflecting on 2017, I read the following words from Mark D. Roberts and thought it appropriate to pass along for 2018....

"Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives" (Psalm 90:14). "I can't think of a better thought with which to end the year and begin a new one. If we live each day in the satisfaction of God's love, we will be empowered to live for him, to love him through serving our neighbors. We won't fret about the passing of the years, but will accept the gift of each day as a new opportunity for love and service."

Happy New Year....Kathy



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

1	Scott Campbell	15	Claire Berry
2	Paul Pfaff	15	Suzanne Jessup
2	Oliver Bradley	18	Steve Ravenhall
2	Crawford Jackson IV	20	Christian Carter
3	Mia Victoria Tortorella	23	Brian Mosher
5	Lilly Wagner	23	Tabitha Heath
5	Marjorie Ridgway	23	Jenn Greiner
6	Diane Perry	24	Benjamin Otis Miller
7	Jared Jessup	25	Cathy Holliday
9	Mason Gragg	26	Eric Wootten
11	Ralph Hubbard	26	Kearney Staniford
11	George Burns	29	Lynda Confessore
12	Jessie Deihl	30	Maik Jornitz
13	Karen Neubauer	30	David Rowe
14	Seamus Naughton	31	Ralph Downs
15	Bob Busking	31	Sophie Rouhandeh
15	Derik Herzing	31	Josephine Levitt

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day -Office Closed	2 7pm Deacons	3	4 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	5 12pm Bridge	6 9am Audit Comm. Meeting 10am Budget Comm. Meeting
7 Baptism of the Lord Communion Youth Ushering	8 5pm Maureen's Haven	9 5:15pm Music & Worship 6pm Session	10 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff 12pm PW Luncheon 4pm Hamptons Interfaith Council, St. Marks	11 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	12 12pm Bridge	13
14 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Congregational meeting to elect PNC & Trustee Annual Reports Due	15 4pm Martin Luther King Day Service AME Zion Quogue Office closed Tidings Deadline 5pm Maureen's Haven	16 7pm Trustees	17	18 Week of Prayer Begins 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	19 12pm Bridge	20
21 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Rev. Wright preaching	22	23	24	25 7:30pm Spanish Ministry	26 12pm Bridge	27
28 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Rev. Wright preaching	29 5pm Maureen's Haven	30	31		WEEKLY: Worship: Sunday 10am Sanctuary Choir: Sunday 9:30 and 11:15am AA: Sunday 12 and 7:30pm, Wednesday 7pm, Saturday 10am Maureen's Haven: 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Mondays, 5pm until March	

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Your issue of the January Tidings



*Happy New
Year!*

