



Tidings

Faithfully Friendly For All – Always
Welcome . Include . Involve

A Word from your Pastor

As we get into the Advent season, my favorite part of it is the stories. The ones passed down from family, the ones of our community, and the ones of legend. The following comes from Mexico, the legend of the poinsettia:

Maria and Pablo lived in a tiny village in Mexico. Because Christmastime at their house did not include many gifts, Maria and Pablo looked forward to the Christmas festivities at the village church with great joy and anticipation.

To honor the birth of Christ, the church displayed a beautiful manger that drew crowds of admirers. Villagers walked miles to admire the manger, bringing lovely, expensive gifts for the Baby Jesus. As Maria and Pablo watched the villagers place their gifts in the soft hay around the manger, they felt sad. They had no money to buy gifts for their family and no money to buy a gift for the Baby Jesus.

One Christmas Eve, Maria and Pablo walked to the church for that evening's services, wishing desperately that they had a gift to bring. Just then, a soft glowing light shone through the darkness, and the shadowy outline of an angel appeared above them.

Maria and Pablo were afraid, but the angel comforted them, instructing them to pick some of the short green weeds that were growing by the road. They should bring the plants to the church, the angel explained, and place them near the manger as their gift to the Baby Jesus. Then just as quickly as she had appeared, the angel was gone, leaving Maria and Pablo on the road looking up into the dark sky. Confused but excited, the children filled their arms with large bunches of the green weeds and hurried to the church.

When the children entered the church, many of the villagers turned to stare. As Maria and Pablo began placing the weeds around the manger, some of the villagers laughed at them. "Why are those children putting weeds by the manger?" they asked each other. Maria and Pablo began to feel embarrassed and ashamed of their gift to the Baby Jesus, but they stood bravely near the manger, placing the plants on the soft hay, as the angel had instructed.

Suddenly, the dull green leaves on the tops of the plants began to turn a beautiful shade of red, surrounding the Baby with beautiful blooms. The laughing villagers became silent as they watched the green plants transform into the lovely star-shaped crimson flowers we call poinsettias. As they watched the weeds bloom before their eyes, Maria and Pablo knew they had no reason to be ashamed anymore. They had given the Baby Jesus the only gift they could—and it was the most beautiful gift of all.

Today, poinsettias are a traditional symbol of Christmas, thanks to young Maria and Pablo and their special gifts to the Baby Jesus.

We get so caught up in the giving and getting of gifts at Christmas. It is my hope that as you prepare for our holiest of holidays, you remember this story. The best gifts are the ones that bring others happiness, the ones that come from God.

May this holiday bring you and your loved ones much joy and happiness and I hope that you will join us for our Christmas Eve services to see the beautiful poinsettias that adorn our altar.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Vanessa



***Prayer Concerns**

Recent: William Sheridan, Leigh Wanamaker's father; **Joyce Reaver;** broken femur; **Kevin Fitzgerald;** **Dean Speir,** Gale Seidler's brother; **Diane F. Perry,** home; **Marjorie Ridgeway,** home; **Seamus Naughton,** home; **Kimberly Rogers Murawski**

Long Term: **Ralph Downs;** **Dee Dee Brumsey** (sister of a close friend of Pete Seidler); **Phyllis Styrzo,** Hamptons Center for Rehab; **Dana Barrett,** friend of Nancy Miller; **Chelsey Carter Collins,** Hamptons Center for Rehab; **Dorothy Evans;** **Paul & Ellen Pfaff;** **Rev. John Kloepfer,** home; **Jay Sears**

"Tree of Lights Service"

East End Hospice invites you to join their annual "Tree of Lights Service" in memory of friends and loved ones. Join them at the Gazebo on the Village Green on Main Street, Sunday, December 4 at 2:30pm. Our very own Rev. Winters will be participating.

Christmas Wreath Sale Pick Up

Wreath Pick up is Friday, December 2nd at 10am at the church. Wreaths are \$40 each. Please make checks payable to **Presbyterian Women.**

Christmas Tea & Bazaar

Saturday, December 3rd, 1-3:30 pm
Wreaths, Handmade crafts, Cookie Walk, Silver Tea, jewelry and more!
Don't miss out on the perfect gift and some holiday fun!

**Community Tree & Menorah Lighting**

Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting, carols and Santa. December 10 at 5:30pm on the Village Green on Main Street. Rev. Winters will be participating in this year's service.

Candlelit Christmas Concert

You are invited, Friday, December 16, 2022 at 7 PM the East End Women's Choir, will be presenting a Candlelit Christmas at Westhampton Presbyterian Church, under the direction of Kamilla Ozman. This program is roughly based on the Anglican Advent service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and is centered on both seasonal and non-seasonal classical sacred music with interspersed poetry readings. Candlelit Christmas has become a traditional seasonal favorite for East End Women's Choir audiences and the East End alike. The concert features selections by organist William Roslak, soprano Emma Ozman, a string quintet as well as a bell choir. We in-

P.W. December lunch meeting

Join us on Wednesday, December 14th at noon in the conference room. Bring a sandwich from home or your favorite deli. Salad and dessert will be served. We will discuss present and future events and enjoy fellowship together. Merry Christmas to all.

BLUE CHRISTMAS—Quogue Chapel Sunday, December 18th at 2pm

It is for everyone, but in particular those who have lost a loved one or for whom this time of year is sad, lonely, or both. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Services

5pm Candlelit Service
9pm Candlelit Service—Quogue Chapel

Board Members and Committees:

It's that time of year to start preparing your reports for the Annual Meeting. Please **email** your reports to admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org no later than Friday, January 6th. The church administrator will be on vacation in January and reports are needed to begin preparation for distribution the week before the Annual meeting is scheduled. Thank you for your attention.



Poinsettia Order Form

Red poinsettia plants may be ordered to adorn the sanctuary on December 18th at a cost of \$18 per plant. The deadline for orders is Dec. 14th. Please make your checks payable to Westhampton Presbyterian Church (memo: Poinsettias). Plants may be picked up after the service in the Sanctuary or left for Deacon delivery.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of plants: ___ @ \$18 per plant

Total: \$ _____

My plant(s) is dedicated:

- In loving memory of
- In honor of



By _____

Plant(s) will be: *(please check one)*

____ Picked up by me after service

____ Left for Deacon delivery



THE LONG ISLAND BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On December 18th, the Long Island Brass Guild will be playing once again during worship. Contributions may be made in memory or honor of a loved one to help offset the cost.

If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection plate or return it to the church office by Dec. 14th. Please note "LI Brass" in the memo portion of your check.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ for the LI Brass Concert. I dedicate this offering (please check one):

_____ in honor of

_____ in loving memory of

From _____

Adopt-a-Family

Thank you to everyone who is participating in this year's Adopt-A-Family program! Please wrap and clearly label your gifts with the recipients' name and family number. All gifts are to be delivered to the Immaculate Conception Church Parish Center DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOMS, December 3rd-13th: Mon.-Wed. 9am and 5pm; Thurs.-Fri. 9am-2pm; Sat.-Sun. 10am-12pm. Please do not drop off packages to Westhampton Presbyterian Church.

Please contact Deborah Busking if you would still like to participate or if you have any questions, 631-786-9636.

Deacons Corner

Thank you to all who generously donated food and/or gift cards to the Thanksgiving baskets this year.

We truly have an amazing congregation! We are sure that families in need were able to enjoy a nice dinner.

-Board of Deacons



*You are cordially
invited!*

Santa Brunch

When: Sunday, December 11 at 11:00am
following Children's Christmas Pageant

Where: Parish Hall

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$10 for children/seniors
\$40 for families; on sale after worship

Parents: Don't forget your cameras for pictures with Santa!



Christmas Ornaments

Don't forget to pick up your ornament of our beloved church, on sale during the Santa Brunch for \$20 each. They make excellent gifts or to adorn your tree!



Youth Group and Sunday School News

I can't believe another year is coming to a close. I finally feel that we are back to some normalcy since COVID and getting back on track. As usual the YG struggles with everyone's commitment to outside activities to get together and do our mission projects and have some fun but we're making it work!

The YG collected food and gift cards for the deacon's baskets during coffee hour. On Saturday November 19 we headed over to King Kullen and bought the remaining supplies needed to fill the baskets. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our drive.

Sunday School is filling back up again with youth football, soccer and cheerleading ending. We look forward to the Children's Advent Festival on December 4th and on December 11th the annual Christmas Pageant followed by our annual Santa Brunch! Tickets on sale: \$15 for adults, \$10 for children/seniors and \$40 for families. Don't forget your cameras for pictures with Santa!

Calling all Carolers....please join us on December 11th (approximate time 1-3) sign up at the Youth bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We'd love for you to join us!!!!

YG groups final mission project for the year, is the annual Heifer plea. They have also added the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to their plea. The youth will be collecting donations from December 4th-18th during coffee hour. Once the collection is done the youth will shop the catalogs with the money they've collected. Won't you please consider making a donation to the gift that keeps on giving? Let us be that one person, one family, one congregation to make a difference in today's world!

Looking forward to 2023....."Sharing with you the Glory, the Wonder, the Miracle of the Holy Season. Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year".

Merry Christmas....Kathy



2023 Pledging

For those who don't remember what they pledged last year or don't know what they still owe for this year, consider using our online source, called Servant Keeper. Type in <https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/westhampton-presbyterian-church>

If you haven't used it before you will have to join with an email and a password. Open it up and you will see in blue "Overview" and then "pledging" and you will be amazed at all the financial information on your giving.

If you haven't sent in your pledge for 2023, please do it now. We can't make a budget until all of the pledges are in.

Deacons Ministry

The Board of Deacons are described as the helping hands of the church. Much of this ministry is to reach out to those in need. The congregation and the friend of the church are divided up into groups called vines and assigned a Deacon. Covid forced the congregation to stay home and the Deacons reached out to all on their vineyards via phone or cards. Now we have resumed our home visits sometimes bringing baked goods or a friendly dog. We celebrate members of the congregation who are over the age of 80 with cards. On occasion, the Deacons will bring meals to those who have a special need. Everyone is looking forward to the Harvest dinner. The Deacons will be bringing turkey dinners to the homebound who are unable to attend, hence the people who can't make the trip to the church are included.

The Deacons facilitate the church's Sunday services by recruiting ushers. After the service, these ushers serve coffee, tea, lemonade and delicious baked good. The alter flowers donated by members of the congregation which are not kept by the donor are distributed by the Deacons. These beautiful bouquets go to cheer those who might be ailing or lonely.

The special reception committee of the Deacons organizes receptions for special occasions including baptisms and funerals. The Deacons reach out those who have lost a loved. When requested, they will provide ushers for the funeral service and simple refreshments afterwards.

The Board of Deacons don't limit their reaching out to just the immediate church. Throughout the year they facilitate the bringing of food brought by members of the congregation to the food pantry at the Immaculate Conception Church. In November, the Deacons work with the youth group and congregation to assemble "baskets" of food and grocery cards collected especially for Thanksgiving dinners. These boxes of food provide meals for those who in the community who wouldn't otherwise have a Thanksgiving dinner. In December, the Deacons work again with the congregation to provide presents and a Christmas dinner through the Adopt a Family program for those in the community who wouldn't have a Christmas meal or gifts.

Lastly, the Deacons sponsor a closet of medical assistive devices such as walkers and commodes. These are available to the community at large for borrowing in time of need. Hopefully you will never need these items but it is good to know that they are on hand to be used.

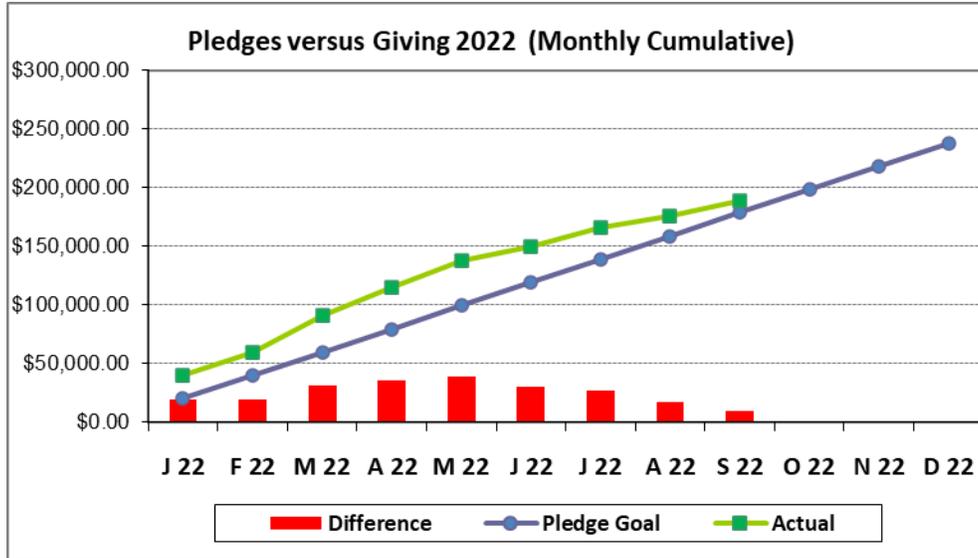
As of now, this vital ministry will be short two deacons for 2023. If you are interested in joining us, please let the nominating committee know. If you are unable to make the commitment, please help us by ushering or shopping for those in need during the holidays.

Thank you to all to those who have assisted in our endeavors over the years.

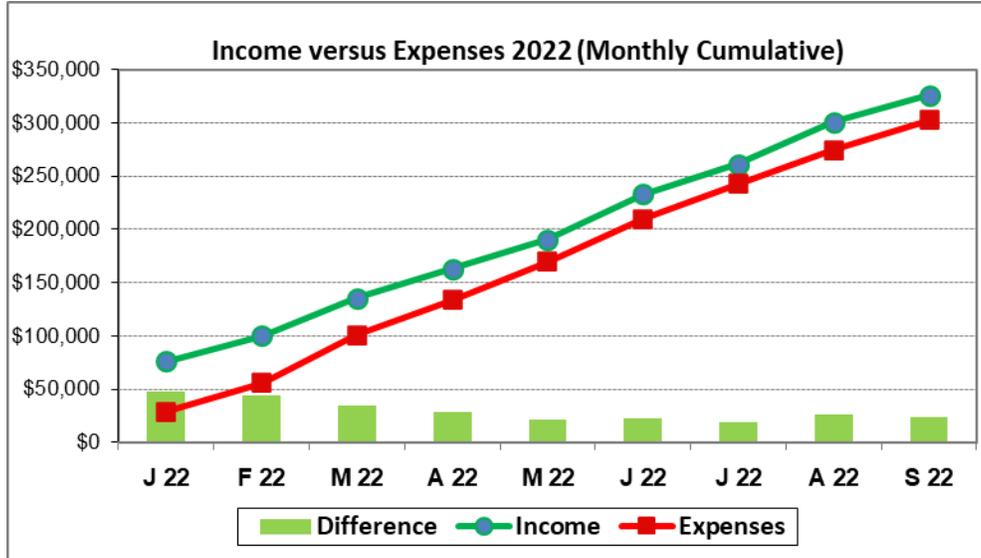


3rd QUARTER 2022 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The 3rd quarter 2022 ended on a positive note for the financial health of our church. The year-to-date pledge goal is \$178,632 and the year-to-date actual giving is \$188,469, which means we have a still a positive difference between goal and actual of \$9,837, but rapidly diminishing.

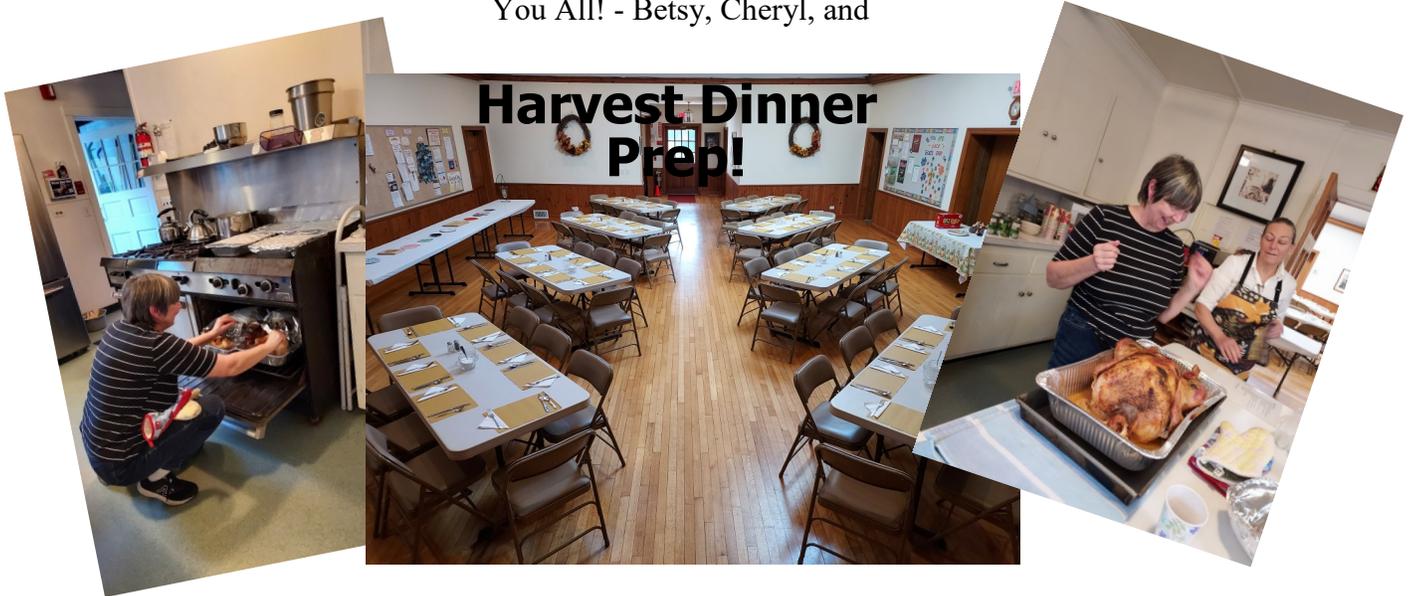


The 3rd quarter income is \$326,137 and expenses \$302,875, which puts our year-to-date difference between income and expense at \$23,262.



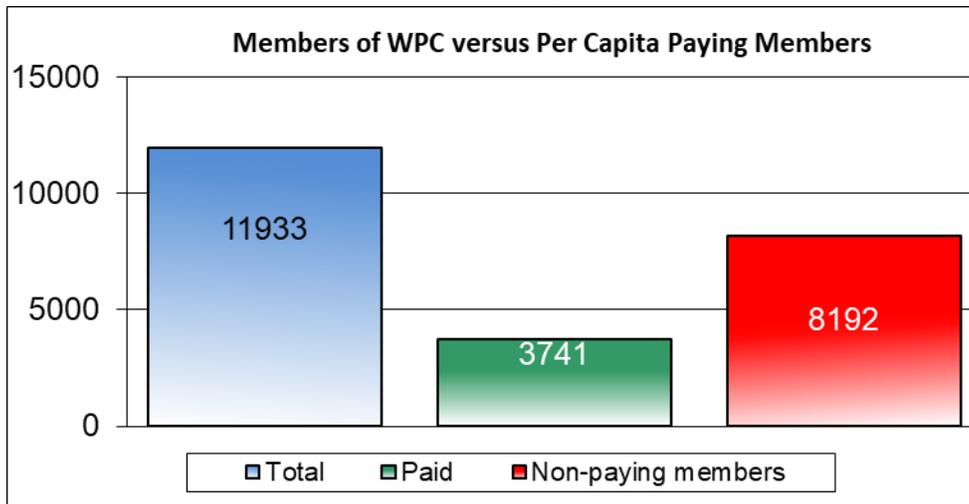
Thank you!

An enormous thank you to everyone who helped out with the Harvest Dinner. It was wonderful to see the Parish Hall filled with friends and families. Thanks to those who helped set up tables and chairs, thanks to Marge Beckwith for sorting silverware, peeling 5 pounds of potatoes (and being that calm voice of reason in the kitchen), thanks to Erika for sign-up sheets and quality control on the cider, thanks to Eloise Carter and the Sunday School kids for making cards to include with the dinners for the shut-ins, thanks to Christine and Nancy for delivering those meals, thanks to Bruce Qua for the sound system and disco lights, thanks for the amazing food donations, but most especially thanks to John and Meryle King for being the best mentors any new cooks could hope for. Your guidance on every step of the process made it so easy for us to do for the first time what you have done so effortlessly in the past. It might take a village to raise a child, but it takes a (Presbyterian) church to have a successful Harvest Dinner! - God Bless
 You All! - Betsy, Cheryl, and



(Continued from page 7)

Our budgeted payment to the Presbytery for 2022 is a total of \$11,933. The 3rd quarter Per Capita income was \$3,741, which means our church right now would need to compensate \$8,192 for members who have not yet contributed their Per Capita. We would like to ask you for your Per Capita contribution of \$43.08, as it will greatly help our church to finance other activities. We thank you in advance !



Our church is blessed by your contributions, your support and all the volunteers who add to our financial stability. Hereby, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all you !
 Respectfully submitted, Your Finance Committee

Presbyterian Women News

Thanksgiving 2022 will be a memory when this issue of Tidings finds it's way to you. We have many things to be grateful for. One of the first things that comes to mind is the return of the Harvest Dinner. The aroma coming from the roasting turkeys was enough to wake anyone's appetite! The tables were an open invitation to come join us and reflect on the meaning of this holiday.

We were 12 in number on Nov. 9th to have lunch before conducting the monthly business meeting. Erika made a delicious tortellini soup for all to enjoy and we did enjoy it! Plans are progressing smoothly for the busy weeks ahead. The Harvest Dinner is in good hands with assurance of experienced mentors ready to answer questions. John and Meryle, you will always be a part of the Harvest Dinner. Thank you again and again.

Plans are in place for the Wreath Making Pizza Party, the Christmas Tea and Bazaar, the Santa Brunch, Adopt A Family. All of these things are an important part of our life here at WPC. All of these need our cooperation, time, energy and presence. This brings me to the next P.W. meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at noon. I suggest an east Sandwich and salad luncheon-homemade or store bought sandwich to go with salad, desserts and beverage waiting to be enjoyed. Lets welcome the New Year with a "Covered Dish/Potluck" luncheon at noon in the conference room on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Prayers and comforting words have been offered to the families and friends of Gene May, Stu Wood on the passing of his brother, Nancy & Harry Miller on the passing of his father, and Ruth Duvall on the passing of her granddaughter.

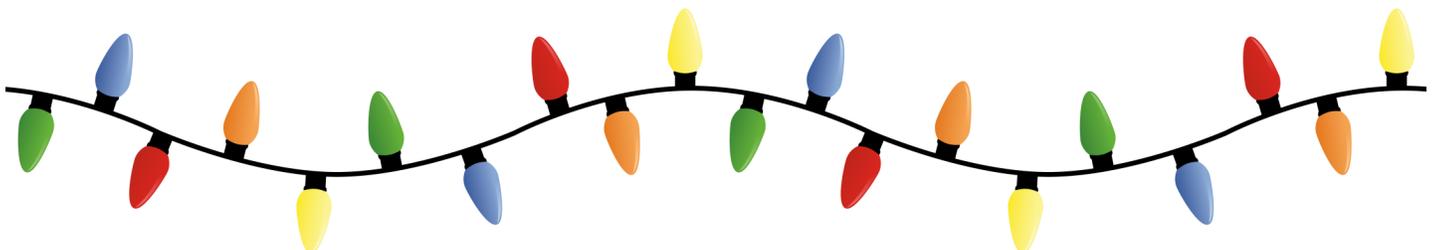
A thank you has been offered to an anonymous donor for a generous gift to P.W. We purchased additional coffee butlers and a large stock pot for the kitchen. Alix McKenzie sent greetings from Denver wishing she could be with us. She included a gift that will be used to replace the clock in the Parish Hall.—More news to come in the January 2023 Tidings.

Marjorie Beckwith for the Presbyterian Women



Joy to the World!

**O, a caroling we go!
Join us for caroling Sunday, Dec. 11th after the
Santa Brunch at 2pm!**



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to:



2	Betsy Rowe	19	Andrea Chattaway
2	Pat and Bob Bebon	20	Dorette Jornitz
3	Lisa Jornitz	21	Amy Mosher
3	Meredith and Gregory Imber	21	Carol Lee & Jim Nespole
6	Kristin Miller	22	Casandra Carrick
6	Gabriella and Mario Ortiz	24	Christine Haddad
7	Cindy Drayton and Jim Rowbotham	24	Desider Rothe
8	Tracy and Gary Martin	26	Jennifer Tamis
10	Brian Hansen	26	Victoria Carrick
12	Bonnie Wootten	28	Marie Yervasi
12	Bob Niebanck	28	Anne and Christian Charles
13	Erin Lynch	29	Tom DeMayo
14	John Hoch	29	Victoria Hedberg
14	John David		
15	Pat Schultz		
16	Jeff Munn		
16	Robert Staniford		
17	Gigi Ravenhall		
18	Janet and Rich Schneider		
19	Gabriella Yervasi		





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 1-3:30pm Christmas Tea & Bazaar
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 10am Worship Children's Advent Festival "Tree of Lights"	5	6 11am EEH Adult Bereavement Group 7pm Deacons	7	8	9	10 5:30pm Tree & Menorah Lighting
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 10am Worship Children's Christmas pageant Santa Brunch 1-3pm Caroling	12 6:30-8:30pm Choir rehearsal	13 11am EEH Adult Bereavement Group 5:15pm M&W 6pm Session	14 9:30am Mission 10:30am Staff 12pm PW: "Soup, Sandwich & Dessert"	15	16 7pm East End Women's Choir Candlelit Christmas Concert	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 10am Worship Poinsettias 2pm Blue Christmas LI Brass Guild	19 5pm Maureen's Haven	20 11am EEH Adult Bereavement Group 7pm Trustees	21	22	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve 5pm Sanctuary-Candlelit Service 9pm Quogue Chapel-Candlelit Service
25 Christmas Day 10am Christmas Service 	26 Office Closed	27 11am EEH Adult Bereavement Group	28	29	30	31

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Your issue of the December Tidings

