



# TIDINGS

WESTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 2023

## A Word from your Pastor

As we enter into the New Year, that causes many of us to think about New Year resolutions, something that we're going to do this year, or do differently. Lots of people shoot for the sky with resolutions like losing weight, exercising more, working less, and having more family time. But often these resolutions don't last because life gets in the way. Maybe a good new year resolution is to be more realistic. We also live in a world where we expect immediate results. Technology lets us do so much, but we can't text in to the gym or tweet our way to the family birthday party.

So how can we set goals for the coming year that are realistic and manageable? And what should they be? Instead of just your physical being and health, I'd remind you that spiritual health is important too! Maybe your goal is to attend church more regularly, give a bit more, or even find a new way to participate in church and spiritual life. But how do we do this successfully once we've identified our goal?

One tip is to visualize a road map with our goal at the end. We need to take account of the obstacles we could face and see what we need to adjust on our road map to adapt, add or refine to make our resolution more realistic. If your goal is something new to you, don't think sudden changes are the way to go, take baby steps. If you're not regularly attending church, start by coming just once a month. Or if you head out right after coffee hour, maybe join us in the parish hall for just 10 minutes. Even though these steps may be small and seem insignificant, they are anything but. Spiritual health, like mental health is created not through one giant act, but by the small things we do every day.

Other options for improving spiritual health don't have to be church centric. Reading a devotional, a short prayer on the way to work, or even reading a short piece of scripture are all ways to engage on a deeper level with your spirituality. It's important to find something that resonates with you. Just because your friend keeps telling you about this amazing prayer a day book they read, doesn't mean that's the right fit for you. Make an effort to try different things to see what might be the most meaningful to you.

This New Year, it's not about the resolutions that have been lost in the past or how other people perceive them. It's about what you want to accomplish in your life over the coming year and what you find important. It is important that as we consider the principles of our health, that our spirituality receives some attention as well. It is my hope and prayer that you will find a new way to engage with the world around you on a spiritual level in some way in the coming year. If you need help getting started, my door is always open. If you have new ideas for how the church or other members of the congregation could participate in new ideas or activities, I would love to hear that too.

In this New Year, I wish you nothing but happiness and good health—physically, mentally, and spiritually. We will most likely encounter difficulties as well so keep in mind that none of what you are hoping to accomplish is on your own. Know that support is here for you, through the church and community and that God sees all that you do as you strive for new things in the new year.

Blessings to you all,  
Rev. Vanessa



**\*Prayer Concerns**

**Recent:** Leigh Wanamaker and family; 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:** Dottie Evans, Westhampton Care Center,; Ralph Downs, Florida; Phyllis Styrzo, Southampton Hospital; Dana Barrett, friend of Nancy Miller; Chelsey Carter Collins, Hamptons Center for Rehab; Ellen Pfaff; Rev. John Kloepfer, home; Jay Sears

**Church Family News**

**Deaths**

Dec. 1, 2022: Paul Pfaff

“I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.” –  
**Martin Luther King Jr.**



See more about our Sunday School Advent Festival Activities and Christmas pageant photos on page 3!



**Per Capita 2023**

The 2023 Per Capita is \$43.95 per church *member* which includes the \$5 Presbytery Salary Supplement.

**Fundraising: Scrap Metal**

We continue collecting throughout the year and 100% of donations collected go toward fundraising for the church. The total to date we have collected is \$6, 869.



**Annual Reports are due**

It’s that time of year to start preparing your reports for the Annual Meeting. Please **email** your reports to [admin@westhamptonpresbyterian.org](mailto: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.

\*Remember to submit your Tidings articles by the 20th each month so that it can be displayed in the next newsletter. Lets stay connected!

## Youth Group and Sunday School News

That's a wrap!

December blew in with the Advent festival on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We had wonderful turnout and all had fun. Eloise once again had the milk carton gingerbread house for the kids to decorate, and who doesn't love putting all that candy onto it! Marie had the children making an Advent candle to use at home, fresh balms and glitter glue oh what fun! Lastly, we have small Christmas crafts to put together, bookmarks with scripture to color, Santa looking dinosaur magnets, scratch Angel and lots of words puzzles!

The second week was our annual Christmas Pageant! Under the direction of Kimet Speed, (also the writer!) the kids put on "It's A Game Show"! We had fourteen children participate. The kids answered questions about the birth of Jesus. I'd say it was another smashing performance by all.

Later that day, we went caroling to shut-in's of our congregation. After a shaky sign up we ended up with thirteen of us taking the bus out for a spin around the town singing away!

We finished up our Heifer & Presbyterian Gift Catalog drive, and received \$475.00 dollars. After the New Year we will roll our quarters and shop for some animals and other supplies to help out others in poverty stricken places. Thank you to all who supported us.

We look forward to a New Year with new things to do and find mission projects dear to us.

"Each day is a new beginning, the chance to do with it what should be done and not to be seen as simply another day to put time in." -Catherine Pulsifer

Happy New Year! ~Kathy



## Notes from the Session

If you noticed large digging machines at the manse this fall you probably thought that Vanessa was getting a new inground pool that we could all use next summer. Alas, it's not a pool but a whole new septic system. The old pipes were completely corroded, and the new Suffolk County code mandated putting in an extremely expensive system that prevents nitrates from getting into our waters. Fortunately a grant covered the entire \$75,000 and we paid nothing!

We have hired a new custodian named Frank Walsh. He will be working twelve hours a week and may be able to help out on Sundays. In these days when everyone is looking for help, we were pleased to have eight candidates to choose from.

The annual meeting will be held on January 29, but initial reports sound good for us. Our people have been keeping up with their pledges, fundraising has seen over \$6000 alone for metal recycling, and memorial and endowment reports that although it was a bad year in some ways, our investments are still protecting us.

At this writing we are short two deacons and two elders for the new Year. We will ask for volunteers at the annual meeting, but it is disappointing that we no longer have full slates by Christmas. Also, 84 pledge units are in for 2023, but we need 100 to meet last year's number. It isn't too late—turn in your pledge today.

## Christmas Bazaar 2022

Another Year, another Christmas Bazaar. It sounds trivial until we weren't able to have it. This year the Presbyterian Women were happy to bring back our silver tea service and the famous cookie walk.

Thank you to all who helped bring down the jewelry, Twice Nice and baked goods paraphernalia Sunday after church. We had some strong members, Janet Hann, Eloise Carter, Holly Hubbard and yours truly do the initial set up including pulling out and arranging the tables. I said at one point our deceased mothers who ran past bazaars were laughing at us but also proud that this lovely event continues. Thank you ladies for your ability to roll up your sleeves and get the job done.

Thank you to Eloise who coordinated the baked goods, procuring volunteers to bake for the tea table, cookie walk and baked goods table in general. She also coordinated the pizza, wreath making party. Thank you to Donn Larson who clipped the greens for us. Donna Williams made the bows. Thank you to all who came out and decorated the blank wreaths.

Jane Otis recruited the tea pourers. She, Margretta Anderson and Hanne Manker did a beautiful job at decorating the Parish Hall Christmas Tea. They also hosted the tea table with Meryle King. Thank you, ladies.

Thank you to Holly Hubbard who assisted Karen Andrews, Louise Smith and Sharon Conway set up the Twice Nice. She also helped me set up the jewelry, this year in the two classrooms in the new wing. The Twice Nice looked inviting and many happy shoppers found treasures there. Thank you, Twice Nice ladies.

The crafters were busy again. They decorated the foyer with their clever creations. Thank you to Donna Williams, Gini Wagner, Cheryl Van Tuyle and Janet Hann for sharing their talents with us. The crafters with Taylor Wagner made many beautiful fresh, green centerpieces.

We had a snafu when the wreath supplier called the Monday before the bazaar at 7 am and informed me that the wreaths had not arrived and might be here by Wednesday, the day after we are scheduled to decorate them. The first thing I did was call Janet Hann aka Janet to the Rescue. We put our heads together and eventually she went and procured the wreaths from an alternate supplier. She was instrumental in helping with the new logistics for the jewelry and helped in the purchase of the new Christmas Tree. Janet came up with a plan B for the wreaths when rain was in the forecast. She and Betsy Doyle, who would ask over and over "what can I do? ", hung the beautiful big wreaths that were decorated by Marge Beckwith in the Parish Hall and a new clock. They cleaned up the kitchen and Bailey Hall and many other small tasks. I can't thank them enough

The Bazaar did fairly well in spite of the inclement weather which I am sure was a deterrent for some. After it was over, I was happy to see Ralph Hubbard Corey Williams and Matt Hoge join the ladies in the clean-up. Thank you to all who cleaned up.

A big thanks to all who baked, poured tea, help sell and also who enjoyed some tea and shopping. Many hands make this a successful event.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Haddad

## A Note from the Presbyterian Women

Nine of us met for a Sandwich and Salad lunch before discussing the events leading up to and including the Christmas Tea and Bazaar. The weather was not the highlight of the day, however, it was brilliantly out shown by the beauty of the items for sale. The Baked Goods were delicious. I have not baked Jan Hagel cookies for years. What a treat for me to be able to buy some. Thank you bakers! There were treasures to be found at the Twice Nice tables. Jewels sparkled in two classrooms. So much to see, many decisions to make. To all who made this memorable event, seen and unseen many thanks to you. We look forward to December 2, 2023 the next Christmas Tea & Bazaar.

Gale Seidler, our Treasurer told us the net proceeds from the Christmas Tea & Bazaar, to date, is \$3, 678.02. There was one glitch to overcome bad weather, no one could remedy. All went smoothly. Sincere thank you to each and everyone who contributed to make this a success.

Our adopted children sent letters with brief biographies of their life, some with pictures. Diany of Honduras, Dannia lives in Texas as does Rolando and Dao Ashe from Ethiopia, all sent thank you notes for the monetary gifts we send to them through Child Fund.

We can not go further without sending prayers and thoughts to Eric Wootten. Your smile is missing from the choir loft. It will truly be a happier New Year when we know you are improving. Thinking of the Busking family, we can not go without including Jane Busking as she adjusts her life without Bob Sr. at her side.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Ellen Pfaff and family, remembering Paul who died Dec. 1, 2022. Paul was another who always had a smile from his seat in the choir.

We plan to meet for a Potluck lunch at noon, Wednesday, January 11, 2023. It is important to set the dates for P.W. events as early as possible. The Annual Report for 2022 is in the works, the 1st draft.

Respectfully submitted for the Presbyterian Women,

Marjorie Beckwith





# Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

1 Scott Campbell  
 2 Oliver Bradley  
 2 Crawford Jackson IV  
 3 Mia Victoria Tortorella  
 5 Lilly Wagner  
 5 Marjorie Ridgway  
 6 Diane F. Perry  
 7 Jared Jessup  
 7 Mary Hull  
 9 Mason Gragg  
 11 Ralph Hubbard  
 11 George Burns  
 12 Jesse Deihl  
 13 Karen Neubauer  
 14 Seamus Naughton  
 15 Derik Herzing  
 15 SuzAnne Jessup  
 17 Allison Hoch  
 18 Steve Ravenhall  
 20 Christian Carter

23 Brian Mosher  
 23 Tabitha Heath  
 23 Jenn Greiner  
 24 Benjamin Otis Miller  
 25 Cathy Holliday  
 26 Eric Wootten  
 26 Kearney Staniford  
 28 Chic Hedberg  
 29 Lynda Confessore  
 30 Maik Jornitz  
 30 David Rowe  
 31 Ralph Downs  
 31 Sophie Rouhandeh  
 31 Josephine Levitt

# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 New Year's Day 1st Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>10am Worship</p> 	2	<p>3 7pm Deacons</p>	4	5	<p>6 Epiphany of the Lord</p>	<p>7 9am Budget meeting</p>
<p>8 Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>10am Worship</p>	9	<p>10 5:15pm M&amp;W 6pm Session</p>	<p>11 9:15am Mission 10:30am Staff 12pm PW Luncheon Ginger's Birthday!</p>	12	13	14
<p>15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>10am Worship</p>	<p>16 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed</p>	<p>17 7pm Trustees</p>	18	19	20	21
<p>22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Per Capita</p> <p>10am Worship</p>	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>29 4th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>10am Worship Annual Meeting</p>	30	31			<p><u>AA:</u> Sat. 10am –Choir Rm Sun. 12pm—Classroom Sun. 6:30pm– Choir Rm Wed. 6:30pm– Choir Rm Boy Scouts meet each Fri. 5pm</p>	

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*We're on the web:*

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***Your issue of the January Tidings***